

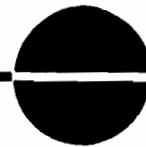


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objects (UFO) phenomena through-
out the United Kingdom. 2. To
collect and disseminate evidence
and data relating to unidentified
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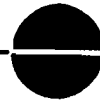
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NEWS

There was a large turnout at the London Business School on Saturday, November 10th, 1983 when Timothy Good spoke on "US INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES AND UFOs". Mr Good is a professional musician, and a widely-travelled and prolific lecturer, broadcaster and writer on UFOs. He is Adviser to the House of Lords All Party UFO Study Group and specialises in CE3 cases. His first book, co-authored with Lou Zinsstag - "George Adamski: The Untold Story" was published in 1983.

He began with a quote from a letter received from journalist Chapman Pincher, a writer on espionage affairs, in which Mr Pincher refuted the claim that world governments were interested in UFOs. Governments, he said, were convinced that UFOs were entirely "mythical." This, replied Mr Good, was totally untrue, governments believed no such thing. As far back as 1942, when there had been a sighting over Los Angeles, the US government had taken an active interest in the phenomena. This incident had occurred shortly after Pearl Harbour and American intelligence had, initially, assumed that a Japanese air attack was underway. The UFOs, travelling at up to 200mph, had been fired on. The release of military papers by Japan in 1945 had clearly shown that they had not possessed aircraft capable of such speeds, nor, indeed, had they overflown Los Angeles on the date in question.

With the advent of foo fighters and ghost rockets in the mid and late 1940s both the American and German governments had set up special committees to investigate foo fighters. Later in that decade scientists from the Pentagon had halted a Greek investigation headed by Dr. Paul Santarini into objects seen over Greece which it had been established were not military missiles.

The Head of the FBI, J. Edgar Hoover, demanded, via a secret memo (now available, as was much of Mr Good's source material, under the Freedom of Information Act) to be given all information regarding UFOs. This memo had been circulated in the summer of 1947 at about the time of the alleged crash of a UFO at Roswell, New Mexico, the debris from which, if the story is true, was later taken by the US military to the Wright Patterson air force base. Subsequently the military refused FBI access to it, or to pass over to the Bureau the results of its investigations. Mr Good said that some ambiguity existed about the memo however, and it could, in fact, refer to a second retrieval for the memo identified the location simply as "L.A." (Los Angeles or Louisiana?).

Many of the intelligence documents shown by Mr Good on aspects of ufology or UFO sightings often revealed pages and pages of erasures with the exception of the odd "and", or "but" or "that". Perhaps that it itself is a significant point.

It was the opinion of US military intelligence, post the Arnold sighting (June, 1947) that UFOs existed. This belief was reinforced when, in January, 1948, an experienced former war-time pilot, Thomas Mantell, was killed whilst chasing what he believed to be a UFO. This incident was investigated by Air Technical Services who submitted a report to General Vandenberg - the report was eventually declassified and destroyed.

The early 1950s were, in retrospect, the golden age of UFO sightings, with 1952 as the annus mirabilis. Throughout the decade there was a constant monitoring by the CIA and other intelligence agencies (of which, said Mr Good, there are at least another 10). In May, 1950 there were reports of another crashed UFO in New Mexico, and in July of that year there was a rash of sightings over atomic plants. Fighter jets had been sent up to investigate radar-detected objects seen above Oak Ridge - although here, strangely enough, one pilot could see none of the anomalies once he was airborne.

Following the July, 1952 "flap" above Washington DC the American air force held the longest press conference in its entire history and admitted that "20 per cent of the sightings could not be explained."

A manual published by the US Air Force Academy, Department of Physics, and issued on a limited, strictly confidential basis, contained a substantial chapter on UFOs in which it was admitted that, in the summer of 1952, US Sabre jets had fired on one. The encounter had taken place at an altitude of 3000ft and the intercepting jet had been within 500 yards of a classic, saucer-shaped object it then pulled away to a 1000 yards. As the plane fired the object vanished.

Mr Good also drew attention to the UFO group NICAP founded by Major Donald Keyhoe in the early 1950s. There was very strong evidence to suggest that the organisation had been subjected to steady infiltration by the CIA since its inception, with many of its leading personalities on committee having both direct and indirect links with the Agency.

Returning to retrievals Mr Good said that, bizarre though it sounded, there was increasing evidence that a number of such events had occurred - not only at Roswell and New Mexico but also, in May, 1953, at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey.

In an update on the Cash/Landrum encounter in December, 1980, Mr Good said that Betty Cash was currently suing the US government for the injuries she had received as a result of her encounter with the huge fiery object which hovered above the highway in Dayton, Texas. She was filing her suit on the completely rational grounds that, since the US government, denied the existence of UFOs, the object sighted must, of necessity, have been terrestrial (i.e. of American origin) and therefore their responsibility.

Recently declassified documents from the CIA revealed a massive wave of UFO sightings over nuclear sites in Michigan, Dakota, Wyoming and Nebraska during the 1970s. Further details had also been released on the UFO/F-4 jet fighter encounter over Teheran in September, 1976, a report on which had gone direct to the White House itself. Nevertheless, of the 10,000 classified UFO documents held by the CIA at Langley, Virginia, only 1000 had so far been released for public inspection - a pitifully

small amount given the huge volume of material available.

The lecture ended with a description of the little known but formidable National Security Agency founded in 1952 (that year again!) and described in James Bamford's recent book "Puzzle Palace." The Agency occupied 1000 acres at Fort George, Mead, Maryland, and was virtually a state in its own right with an autonomous police force, a television network, a training college for 18,000 students, a power station and some 50,000 employees. The Central Security Service, created by President Nixon, was virtually a fourth branch of the armed services with interests in signals, coding, cryptology, satellite communications and bugging devices. It also held 137 documents on UFOs but would not reveal their contents or explain its reasons for retaining them.

A recent US court ruling had upheld the Service's right to withhold such documents.

An eye-opener of a talk which left me with the feeling that, in comparison, the British Secret Service is positively garrulous.

DECEMBER COUNCIL MEETING AND AGM

Council met again on the afternoon of December 10th at what was the beginning of a very long day for its members. A number of items were discussed of which one was the proposal to set up small ad hoc committees to deal with the day-to-day running of the Association's affairs. It was felt that the bi-monthly meetings of Council were not frequent enough to deal adequately with all the decisions which needed to be taken, but that it was not practical to convene more regular Council meetings since these would involve some members in substantial travelling expenses. The ad hoc committees would comprise the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and, either, a member of Council by rote or one of the Association's Directors most closely involved with the matter under discussion.

It was proposed and seconded that following the February, 1984 Council meeting Ken Phillips, formerly BUFORA's RIC for Central and Home Counties, would be co-opted onto Council with responsibility for training. Ken was present for part of the meeting and outlined his plans which he hoped to deal with in more detail when his work begins in early 1984. Initially he would deal with the teaching of basic skills in UFO research but hoped to enlarge on this as the scheme developed.

TREASURER RESIGNS

Hans Streuli, the Association's Treasurer for just a year, resigned from the post on December 10th. His successor has been chosen and will be officially appointed at the February, 1984 Council meeting. Hans's resignation resulted mainly from a clash of personalities and interests on Council and these, despite much to-ing and fro-ing and late-night talking, proved incapable of resolution. However the Association is retaining his services and talents in another form. He will be actively involved in inviting speakers and suggesting topics for the Association's 1984-85 evening lectures. He will also help plan the next BUFORA Congress.

AGM

There was a good, but not over-large attendance, for the AGM held on Saturday evening. Copies of the relevant papers were

circulated and members will have had the opportunity to study the Association's state of financial and administrative affairs. The Association is weathering the loss of membership and the resultant fall in subscriptions and interest. It is not alone in suffering from the current dearth of UFO reports, but the pattern is a not unfamiliar one - the Association has survived similar declines and will doubtless survive this one also. The loyal supporters remain, the Association is very grateful to them for their continuing interest and hopefully, in the future, it will find others.

NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS

Two new members were elected to Council, Diane Rollison, the Association's Secretary and Librarian Robin Lindsey who tape records all of the lectures, mails the journals and does countless other tasks besides. Both have given loyal service to the Association and, in Robin's case, long service also. Their respective elections were unanimous and well-deserved.

The 1982 accounts, as members will have seen, were unaudited; in order to pass an audited set a special EGM will be called later this year.

Towards the close of the AGM more members and non-members drifted in to the Lecture Theatre until there were well over 100 persons present eagerly anticipating the evening lecture by Jenny Randles et al on the Rendlesham Forest mystery.

THE SUFFOLK UFO LANDING

The events in Rendlesham Forest in December, 1980 have been on ufologists' minds for some months now, so it was not surprising to find a large turn-out to hear the lecture. Jenny was joined on the platform by the two investigators, Mrs Dot Street and Mrs Brenda Butler and by Ian Ridpath, the science correspondent who put the opposing argument. Manchester solicitor Harry Harris, who was also closely involved in the case added his, at times voluble, comments from the floor.

Jenny outlined the events and her own involvement in them. The original story, which had been published in the BULLETIN (May, 1982), concerned a US Air Force officer who had admitted that a structured craft, detected on radar, had come down in Rendlesham Forest, 10 miles from Ipswich, Suffolk on December 29th, 1980. Entities had been seen repairing the craft and there had been conversations between them and US Air Force officers. The radar tapes had later been confiscated by US military personnel. This totally uncorroborated, and seemingly fantastic story had, within a few days of its telling, found an independent witness in America who confirmed that there had been a number of radar detected UFOs over the period. He mentioned eight.

The investigation by Mrs Street and Mrs Butler, undertaken within a few days of the event, unearthed a reliable contact on the air force base. He also confirmed the earlier story that an object had landed, that it had been radar tracked and that military personnel had been called out to it. From there Dot and Brenda moved on to question the British commander of the air force base (it is a joint Anglo/American venture), Squadron-Leader Morland. He neither confirmed nor denied the events; from

the Ministry of Defence they received a complete denial. The researchers at this point virtually came to a halt and it was clear from the lecture that only the tenacity of Dot and Brenda ferreted out the other amazing details.

Further researches revealed conflicting testimony. Jenny, from her early delving into the case, understood that something had been seen to come down in the forest, not only by the US Air Force personnel, but also by a local farmer. The events then become more confused. One story said that the craft had been damaged and required repair (hence the presence of the aliens) the contrary story was that the object merely hovered around and then flew away. Early investigation revealed physical evidence of damaged tree tops and radiation traces.

Jenny Randles tackled the case from the official point of view since whatever had happened clearly had defence implications. Dot and Brenda concentrated on the local angle. It was now the end of 1982 (almost two years after the event) and the protagonists were really no further on. This point is worth remembering when people criticise researchers for not producing instant answers to sightings and CE3 cases. The stonewalling, up against which investigators find themselves, is formidable!

SCUFORI INVESTIGATE

Early in 1983 the Ministry of Defence released some UFO material. There was, of course, nothing on so recent a case as Rendlesham, but Jenny capitalised on the event to write again to the Ministry about the happenings in December, 1980. A reply to her in April, 1983 from the Ministry admitted that unusual lights had been seen outside the base perimeter on the evening of December 27th. The Ministry said that they had been seen by military personnel but they had no explanation for them.

In late September, 1982 SCUFORI (Swindon Centre for UFO Research and Study) undertook a limited investigation into the case at Jenny Randles request. There was no witness contact, merely a visit to the site and long and detailed conversations with Dot and Brenda on aspects of their claims. The project was published in PROBE REPORT in April, 1983, and seems to have confused rather than clarified the issues. SCUFORI came out in favour of a complete non-event, certainly a distressing verdict for Dot and Brenda, and one which many people had since accepted at face value. There was much to the story which SCUFORI's remit did not include and which, even if it had, was not to be known until much later. It was a useful look at the Rendlesham case as the facts were then known - it was not the last word - and that must be borne in mind.

Dot and Brenda were still beavering away and had, by summer 1983, found more people willing to talk, perhaps as a result of material published in the UFO press both here and abroad. The major witness to emerge was one "Art Wallace" (a pseudonym) on whose testimony much more about the case was revealed. His evidence is, however, regarded by some of those investigating the case as distinctly suspect and contains a number of inconsistencies. Wallace had been a security guard at the nearby RAF Bentwaters base and claims to have been called out on the evening of December 27th to drive to Woodbridge air base to investigate the landing along with other air force personnel.

COLONEL HOLT'S STATEMENT

CAUS (CITIZENS AGAINST UFO SECRECY) forced the US Air Force to confirm what had happened at Rendlesham under the Freedom of Information Act. The US Government released a letter from Lt. Colonel Charles Holt, Deputy Commander of the USAF 81st Tactical Fighter Wing at Woodbridge. This was the lever which opened up a large part of the case and formed the basis of the "NEWS OF THE WORLD" report on Sunday, October 2nd, 1983. Holt's close involvement in the case had not been known until then, and although the "NEWS OF THE WORLD" might be regarded by many as a sensationalist "rag" its investigative reporting is of a very high standard indeed.

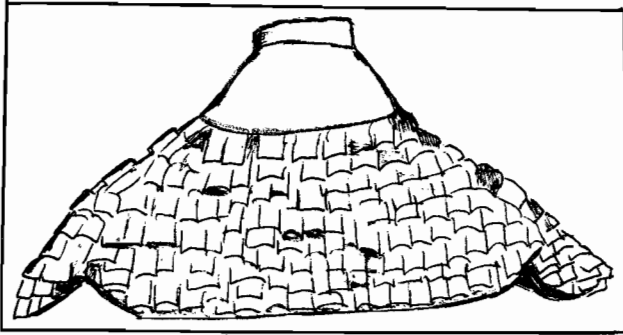
Holt's testimony revealed not one but two separate sightings, and a discrepancy in the dates. From the Freedom of Information Act revelations it is now known also that both a movie film and recordings of the event exist, although this has been denied by the base commander at Woodbridge.

Holt, in his letter ("NEWS OF THE WORLD" October 2nd, 1983) states:

"3. Later in the night a red sun-like light was seen through the trees, It moved about and pulsed. At one point it appeared to throw off glowing particles and then broke into five separate white objects and then disappeared. Immediately thereafter, three star-like objects were noticed in the sky. Two objects to the north and one to the south, all of which were about 10⁰ off the horizon. The objects moved rapidly in sharply angular movements and displayed red, green and blue lights. The objects to the north appeared elliptical through a 8-12 power lens. They then turned to full circles. The objects to the north remained in the sky for an hour or more. The object to the south was visible for two or three hours and beamed down a stream of light from time to time. Numerous individuals, including the undersigned, witnessed the activities

The case, given this clarification, should become easier to understand - it doesn't, it becomes harder. There is for instance the confusion over the dates. I have assumed in this report that all the events took place on December 27th, 1980, but later, confirmatory reports (Holt's included) cite December 30th. Was there only one sighting, on whose precise date no one can agree, or were there three (but up to eight) possible visitations witnessed by different individuals on different dates all of whom were unaware of the others which had happened? That sounds most unlikely. The UFO phenomenon, if nothing else, has an alarming ability to confuse and this lends weight to the arguments of anti-ufologists who reason (not without justification) that if something as simple and verifiable as a date is in dispute the phenomenon itself, complex and completely unverifiable, must be suspect.

"Art Wallace's" story also contradicts, in part, those of the other witnesses (he cites the relevant date as December 27th)



"Art Wallace's" drawing of the object which allegedly came down in Rendlesham Forest. It was about 20ft across at the base.

(Drawing taken from that originally published in the "NEWS OF THE WORLD" Sunday, October 2nd, 1983)

and that makes the investigative work of Jenny, Dot and Brenda very difficult indeed. The lecture and discussion did produce one very important point. The unusual story (crashed UFO and aliens engaged in conversation) was given much more prominence than that of a crashed missile or aircraft. Therefore one has to question, very seriously, the reason for this. Was what came down (and certainly something did) a missile being tested in secret? The Ministry of Defence would no doubt much rather play along with, and perhaps overtly support, a ufological story - which the majority of people would not believe anyway - than admit it had been up to something mysterious with a secret missile which almost everyone would have no difficulty in believing. We have only to think back to the Cash/Landrum encounter (which took place in Dayton, Texas also in December, 1980!) and the strange fiery object allegedly seen being escorted across the state highway by a fleet of US helicopters, to realise that there might well be a military involvement (if not direct connection) with objects which, at first sight, are categorised as UFOs. It makes much more sense to believe that the object at Rendlesham was of a military rather than an alien nature.

Dot and Brenda showed a short film which illustrated a number of interesting anomalies. The alleged landing site had, by the summer of 1983, been dug up and all the older trees removed. The area, says "Art Wallace" has an underground site which actually houses a retrieved UFO. Unbelievable? Well, yes, it would seem so, but can anyone be certain that he is lying?

DISCUSSION

The discussion which followed, a very long and lively one, did full justice to the wealth of information which had gone before.

HARRY HARRIS did not subscribe to a paranormal theory. The evidence given by the witnesses might be the truth or it might be lies - there was no way of testing it. As a solicitor he could only evaluate it and, having done so, he concluded that a UFO had landed in Rendlesham Forest. If the story was bogus a great many people had gone to endless trouble to fabricate it - and to what purpose? He had made contact with two witnesses who had confirmed Holt's story, but for various reasons he could not divulge their identities or their information. This revelation bought a certain amount of disbelief from his audience who (reasonably enough) felt that having teased this tantalising titbit more should have been forthcoming. Mr Harris, despite a great deal of badgering refused to divulge his source.

The "NEWS OF THE WORLD" reporter, KEITH BEEBEY, who did much of the investigation into Dot and Brenda's story said that he had started his researches with a completely open mind. Having completed them he was now totally convinced that the facts were true, that Holt's letter was genuine and that much of the story had still to be revealed. Colonel Holt himself had admitted as much. Mr Beebey was also convinced by the testimony of "Art Wallace."

IAN RIDPATH said that the case was very controversial and contained much dubious material. He had visited the site and had talked to one of the local foresters, Vincent Thirkettle. It was Thirkettle's belief that the pulsating light, far from being a UFO, had a much more mundane origin in that it came from Orford Ness lighthouse. It was a common local phenomena and did appear, as a result of the rake of the surrounding countryside, to hover above the horizon. It had been witnessed by many people in the area.

There was also, said Mr Ridpath, a second and even more likely explanation. A meteor had overflowed the area on the night of December 26th-27th a fact confirmed by John Mason, Assistant Director, Meteor Section, British Astronomical Society. Described as "bright as the moon, white or yellow" it had been visible for six seconds exactly over the location in question.

According to Mr Ridpath the area had also been examined by Mr Thirkettle and the Suffolk constabulary for physical or landing traces. Some anomalies had been discovered but these had not impressed the forester. The vaguely elliptical marks he attributed to old rabbit scrapings and the scoring marks on the trees were, he said, "blazes" - a local identifying tag for timber due for demolition. All were small, easily recognisable signs, that had nothing whatsoever to do with a UFO landing.

Mr Ridpath went on to list a number of other points which he felt served to demolish the case.

FOUR POINTS

1. Whilst the depression which was said to have resulted from the alleged landing gave a high radiation count, no control sample had been taken, thus making it impossible to judge the significance of the radiation.
2. Colonel Holt had mentioned in his letter a bright white light seen among the trees which later broke into five white objects resembling stars. They resembled stars, said Mr Ridpath, because that's what they were.
3. If Colonel Holt believed that what he saw was a space craft, or even an unidentifiable aerial object, why had he not sent up planes to intercept it?
4. The object witnessed at 3 am on December 27th was the meteor. The airmen saw it in conjunction with the light from Orford Ness and misinterpreted both. The UFO was nothing more than a misidentification of explicable lights coupled with human error.

Harry Harris said that Mr Ridpath's explanation had about it a ring of rationality. Or least it had if, unlike him, one had not spoken to Colonel Holt himself. Holt was adamant that what had been sighted was not a reflection from a lighthouse. He knew it, said Mr Harris, and the airmen knew it. The light was so well known a local phenomena that people totally disregarded it.

Colonel Holt, said Mr Harris, was insistent that nothing came down on the first sighting. All that had been seen were lights through the trees and these had not been reported to the police.

The point was again raised that the whole story was a nonsense and could well have been contrived in order to cover up something secret and possibly sinister.

Questioned on his field investigation Mr Ridpath said that he had not spoken to either of the base commanders but only to the witnesses.

CONCLUSIONS (OR LACK OF THEM!)

The meeting resolved nothing in the way of confirming or denying the Suffolk UFO landing and that is not surprising. What it did do was to present the evidence so far and allowed those most closely involved to state their case. Clearly something did happen at Rendlesham.

That an intelligent, high-ranking air force officer, not to mention scores of qualified airmen, could, individually and collectively, mistake the lights from Orford Ness for a landing object (whatever its nature) is ludicrous as a solution and must be dismissed.

The meteor is clearly a possible explanation for at least some of the events, although the duration of its sighting (six seconds) would not account for the time factor quoted by Colonel Holt of several hours. But, no doubt, we shall be told officially one of these days that the case is solved and the meteor, coupled of course with the wintery, atmospheric conditions prevailing in East Anglia on that late December evening, confused everyone.

I am sure something did happen at Rendlesham and I am equally convinced that we have not yet been given all the salient facts. But what happened? A UFO landing? A missile out of control? A new weapon being tested and possibly malfunctioning? The choice is as much yours as it is mine.

BUFORA will, however, continue with its researches and I am sure the case is one of which we shall hear a great deal more in the coming months.

JB

UFO CONGRESS

JULY 21st - 27th, 1984

To be held at Mellerup Centre, Mellerup, Denmark, a city 30 km north of the German border.

Amongst the speakers will be:

- Bertil Kuhlemann of UFO Sweden
- Hans Jurgen Köhler of Germany
- Robin Lindsey of UK who will look at the British UFO scene.

Details from: LARS K. LASSEN,
Lyshøjgårdsvej 97, St.tv 2500,
VValby, DENMARK.

Delegates' fees for the Congress and accommodation are likely to be very reasonable. Why not combine a Scandinavian holiday and the Congress?

THIS TWO PART PAPER DETAILS THE WIDESPREAD UFO ACTIVITY OVER TWO SMALL NORWEGIAN TOWNS - ARENDAL AND HESSDALEN - WHICH BEGAN IN NOVEMBER, 1981 AND IS STILL CONTINUING. THE PAPER IS BASED PARTLY ON THE TALK GIVEN BY JAN FJELLANDER OF UFO NORWAY AT THE BUFORA CONGRESS IN AUGUST, 1983 AND ON EDITED VERSIONS OF "EXCEPTIONAL UFO PICTURES FROM NORWAY" BY ARNE THOMMASSON AND "UFOS IN HESSDALEN, NORWAY" BY LEIF HAVIK, BOTH OF UFO NORWAY.

A PROJECT HAS RECENTLY BEEN STARTED TO INVESTIGATE THIS VERY INTERESTING PHENOMENON AND THE GROUP WHO ARE UNDERTAKING THE WORK ARE IN URGENT NEED OF VOLUNTARY HELP AND FINANCIAL AID. FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROJECT AND HOW YOU CAN HELP CAN BE OBTAINED FROM:

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UFOS AT ARENDAL

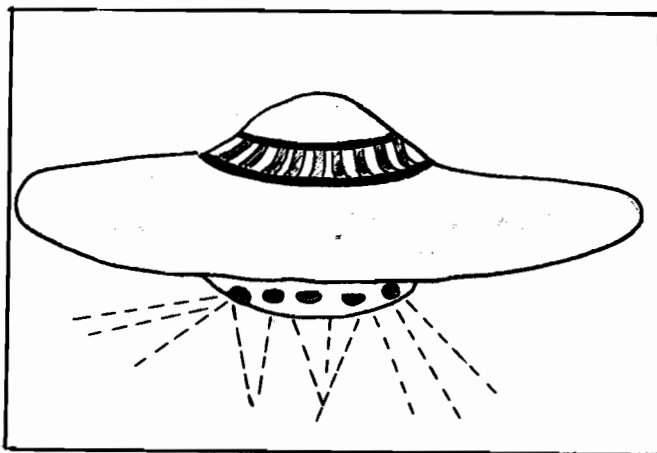
In early November, 1981 a Norwegian family (a man, his wife, brother and niece) sighted UFOs night after night at Strømmen on the west side of Arendal, and they called Hans Aass a member of UFO Norway who lives in Arendal.

On the evening of their call - November 8th, the family were on the veranda looking towards the south-west where the UFOs appeared from the sea moving northwards. The lights in the apartment were turned off. Venus was low in south-west and the first UFO was seen a little to the right of the planet, it flew up and down and in various other directions, as if performing some sort of irregular dance and flashing with a bluish, quivering light which varied both in intensity and colour, sometimes it was blue/green at others yellow/red.

The light was mostly weaker than that from an aeroplane, but sometimes, after a series of small blinks, the light would become strong enough to illuminate the clouds above it and the ground below. The UFO then went towards the south and disappeared.

It later returned from the south-east and showed an unusually strong light which came towards the veranda. The object passed at a distance of approximately 500-800 metres and was clearly visible. Above the object was a dome which seemed to be lit from the inside by a yellow/white light. Beneath the dome was a row of squares as high as they were broad that looked like windows since they showed light although nothing could be seen inside the windows.

Beneath the squares there was a circular or oval body, and below that a ring of red, green and blue lights which seemed to be rotating. During the few seconds when the object was at its closest the family could see a cone of light coming from the underside and tapering down and backwards in a curve.



The object as seen by the witnesses

Mr Aass had left his house to take up a view on a hill about 8km east of the observers, he could see the UFO with his naked eye and through 7 x 50 binoculars. There were several other sightings that evening, mainly small points of light dancing on the sky, and sending out violent bursts of different coloured lights. This was Aass's first UFO sighting and he called some people living west of Arendal to ascertain the position of the object which seemed to be a few kilometres west of the city.

On 9th November, 1981 Harald Faernes and his wife observed a UFO from their farm at Vegaarshei, north-east of Arendal. The object was at a distance of about 300 metres; it emitted a powerful white light and travelled in jumping motions and at sharp (90°) angles.

Three days later four young men at Blakstad, north of Arendal saw a UFO hovering silently about 100 metres above a nearby hill. On its underside were four lights in a square, two big lights at the back, two smaller ones at the front. That evening three UFO Norway members (Hans Aass, Alf Thommasson and Arne Thommasson) drove to Strømmen equipped with binoculars and a good camera and shot 15 UFO pictures.



The lights seen at Blakstad.

When the photographs were developed they showed clearly visible UFOs. Because of business commitments at that time the team instructed the father at Strømmen on how to take good night-time photographs and left the camera and the equipment in his charge.

During the following days he took 63 UFO photographs. All were shot with long-time exposure (5-10 seconds) with a solid tripod and triggered with a cord. The photographs were not shot at random but deliberately aimed at lights dancing in the sky and that had first been seen with the naked eye. A third of the photographs were quite good, a third had a wrong aperture and the remainder missed entirely since the UFOs moved out of frame just as the photographer squeezed the trigger.

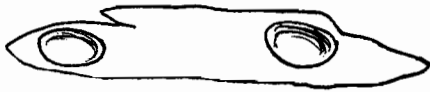
Some of the photographs were excellent and contained a number of interesting details. Clearly visible, and surrounding some of the weaker blue, orange and green blinks, were a number of cylindrical-shaped clouds. This could have been a cloud emitted from the top of a disc-like object consisting of charged particles (electrons/positrons) but there are other possibilities. The emission of such particles could be a way of pumping up the UFO's electromagnetic fields.

(A technical description of the next series of photographs will appear in the next issue of the Bulletin).

The initial enlargements proved difficult since the interesting data were only small points of light in a large, dark sky. Little by little more details were discovered, and the series of photographs grew bigger. To avoid it getting out of hand some of the less interesting pictures were weeded out. There may yet be some unknown features awaiting discovery.

On 19th November, 1961 at 18.20 hours at a small farm 4km north-west of Arendel on the south coast of Norway, Mr and Mrs Bjoernsen and their daughter sighted a huge cigar-shaped object which has been captured on film. Mr Bjoernsen went outside to check the water-supply and became aware of a blue light in the eastern sky blinking and pulsating fast and irregularly. The light moved up and down sometimes weak and sometimes very strong, after a while it disappeared towards the east. The lights, when powerful, illuminated the ground around the house and the nearby woods. They did not resemble the special kind of autumn lightning sometimes found in the area. The Bjoernsen's house is on high ground surrounded by small hills and forests. In front of the house grassy fields lead down towards Lake Blaaagsted. In the background, towards the north-east, there are small islands and hills with low pine trees. The family turned off the house lights and waited behind the windows. After an hour the UFO returned. A shivering yellow light which rose and fell appeared over the southern hills, and shifted from yellow to blue. After a little while it rose rapidly to 45° degrees and at the same time another object came in from the north-east and stopped at the same height.

A huge greyish object then moved in from the south, passed within 50 metres of the house and glided silently towards the lake along the edge of the fields. Over the lake it fell so that it could be seen with the island and the pine trees as background. Its distance from the house was about 200-300 metres. At both ends the object carried a very big red light, on top of the object the family claimed that there was something resembling a bridge.



Herr Bjoernsen's impression of the object.

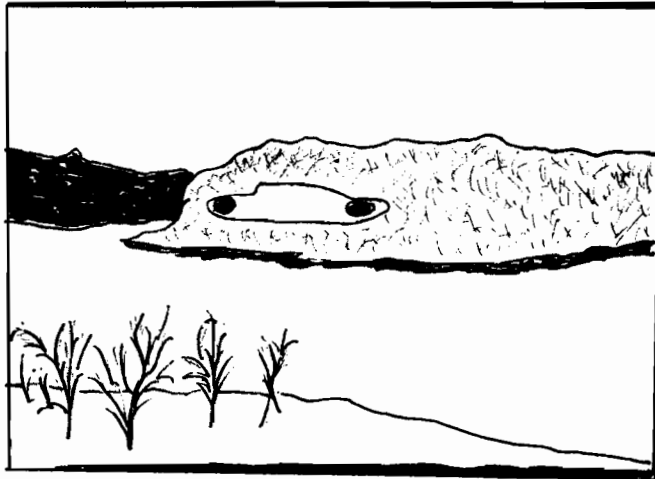
The two red lights were unfamiliar, and the Bjoernsen family had difficulty in describing them. In south-eastern Norway a similar cigar-shaped object was seen a few years ago and witnesses noticed a very odd red light in which something seemed to rotate.

Once over the water the object changed course and headed slowly towards the north-west. The two smaller UFOs at each side of the house also moved and flew side by side over the lake and disappeared behind the islands in the north-east; leading to the conclusion that the three objects were in contact since they moved off in formation.

Herr Bjoernsen had not believed in UFO stories that had been reported earlier, but he had an open mind about the subject. His wife was much more sceptical. Both now said that their lives would not be the same again.

That same evening, at about 20.00 hours, a huge cigar-shaped object, identical with that seen by the Bjoernsen's, was sighted near to the centre of Arendal. A car driver saw

The object as
seen above
Lake
Blaagested.



the object move over a factory and registered the fact that it was the same length as the factory itself. A woman in the city also saw the object coming towards her veranda.

UFOs AT HESSDALEN

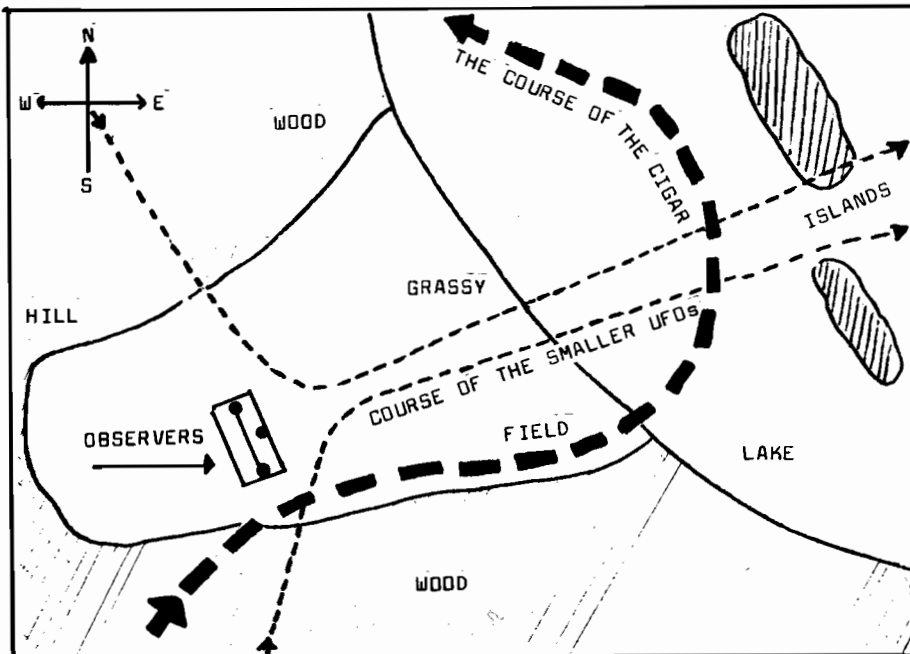
The Hessdalen Valley lies 130km from Trondheim and some 700km from Arendal.

The Arendal observations began in November, 1981 and ended in December, the UFOs then appeared in Hessdalen and exhibited many similar characteristics to those which had been seen earlier. In both cases the UFOs appeared between 19.30-20.00 hours, moved in up and down gyrations above the tops of the mountains, flew at enormous speeds, or very slowly, remained stationery, shining brighter than a star, and moved in an east/west direction.

Since 1st, December, 1981 a great many bright lights - egg- or cigar-shaped - have been seen, as has a projectile-shaped craft. To-date there are very many hundreds of witnesses and one of the first tasks of Project Hessdalen will be to interview as many as possible. One of the most important is Jon Aspaa who had a daylight sighting of a UFO as long ago as 1943.

In 1967 he had a further daylight sighting and since then has seen the objects very many times, both during the day and at night. Members of UFO Norway have interviewed Mr Aspaa and

The Route of the UFOs. (Not to scale).



do not believe that he has lied. His information duplicates that from other witnesses. Many theories have been put forward as to the nature of the phenomenon:

1. The lights are reflections in the sky caused by inversion of cold and warm air, something likely to occur in valleys.
2. Reflections from cars 80km away.
3. They are the planet Mars.
4. They are all lies and hallucinations.

UFO Norway has done some research into these theories.

1. There is no firm evidence to link the reflections to cold and warm air inversion. Sightings have taken place in weather conditions from +29°C to -5°C and even in snow-storms. The objects move as if controlled by intelligences and the same phenomenon has persisted over a period of more than a year in this valley and no other.
2. UFO Norway doubts if car-lights can make cloud reflections over a distance of 80km. If they could then the phenomenon would surely occur elsewhere.
3. UFO Norway members have, themselves, photographed the lights - they bear no resemblance to Mars unless the planet has taken to moving up and down the sides of valleys. Further evidence to discount the Mars theory comes from those witnesses who, viewing from the top of Finnsaashoegda (The Finnsa Hill) 1068m, have looked down on the objects.
4. Psychological effects and hallucinations can never be entirely ruled out, but photographs of an hallucination probably can! The "liars", if that is what they are, include the Norwegian State Television(NRK) and the Norwegian Air Force

These theories have been taken up by many "experts" and well-educated people who have made no attempt to visit Hessdalen, although they have been invited, to see and study the situation first hand.

The UFOs have been seen under all weather conditions, even when neither the sun nor the moon were visible. Records show that there have also been sightings in the surrounding area. At Råros, a mining town 60km from Hessdalen, at Oppdal 80km away and in Trondheim Norway's third largest town with a population of over 400,000. There has been one daylight sighting in Hessdalen - September, 1980 - when a hunter saw three discs that took off so fast that he could not even make out in which direction they disappeared. All these sightings have been of disc- egg- or cigar-shaped objects. In Trondheim a woman saw an egg-shaped object above a Norwegian Defence Force camp.

One witness, Lars Lillevold said: "I went out of my house in the evening of 18th January, 1982, and about 19.30 o'clock, I saw an egg-shaped or an oblong object above a telephone line about 30 metres from my house. It had a metallic centre, with an orange bright light. It was a soft wool like field around the object which I could not identify, it was something I could compare to a physical object. I am sure it was made from metal. It stood stable before it began to move slowly down through the valley. I did not see any details like windows or something, no signs and there was no sound."

At Arendal the UFOs gave out a blue flash, in Hessdalen the flash was white. One witness commented: "When you see the flash, the UFOs are nearby. Often one can see a red pulsating light like globes, othertimes it is stable and othertimes it is shining like the stars." (The earlier sightings resembled stars but when the UFOs came nearer, they became whiter and then turned a warm-yellow-red colour).

Sometimes sightings are accompanied by interference with television pictures, and in one case a dog laid down and remained completely motionless until the object passed.

The sightings have attracted the curious and the sensationalist and often a 100 cars will be parked in Hessdalen filled with visitors and sightseers.

Members of UFO Norway have camped out in the mountains and have looked in vain for tracks or physical traces. A field detector with a frequency range of 1-10 Hrzs has been used but has not recorded anything, although one of the objects passed within 2.5-3.0km. Records from Norway's Geological Institute show a very strong earth-magnetic field exactly where the UFOs have been sighted. Some of the UFOs seemed to disappear just where the strongest field is. The mountains contain a large mining area, including a disused diamond mine.

A phenomenon of the UFOs is the way in which they suddenly become visible, move to the north at enormous speeds and then suddenly disappear. They also move slowly matching the speed of a helicopter.

On 26th March, 1983, at a meeting in Alen, two miles from Hessdalen, UFO Norway asked the 130 people present questions on their sightings. These are given below:

3 had seen a red pulsating light.	1 had seen effects on a dog.
17 had seen a globe of yellow light	3 had seen television disturbances.
12 had seen a cigar-shaped object	4 had seen meteorological phenomena earlier, like globe lightning.
8 had seen an egg-shaped object	6 had seen an oblong object with a red light in the front, then a white-yellow light and then a white-yellow light at the rear.
19 had seen a UFO in Hessdalen	0 had witnessed any psychological effects.
14 among the 130 people were from Hessdalen	
3 had seen daylight objects	
30 had had sightings since December, 1981	

This "test" was voluntary and not all of those present at the meeting replied.

This article will be continued in the next issue of the BULLETIN and will look at some of the photographs which have been taken by UFO Norway.

Humanoids and similar entities associated with UFOs are frequently described in the literature of the subject as conversing with contactees by means of "thought-transference" (an out-moded Victorian term) "telepathy" or "mental telepathy." (1) However, this terminology, so far from being acceptable at a scientific level, reveals a fundamentally erroneous conceptualisation of the functions and limitations of ExtraSensory Perception (ESP).

"Telepathic extraterrestrials" originated with George Adamski whose writings abound in occult pretensions. Notorious as the first of a long line of self-advertising contactees (2) he acquired his education on hamburger-frying stands in the USA. A journalist who knew him says that he was "a man of meagre scholastic achievements" endowed with a powerful imagination. (3) While it may well be true that ESP is a form of communication, it is still truer that no message of more than a single word has ever been thus conveyed under the test conditions of the laboratory. Even at this low level of achievement the evidence is precarious. Writing in "Parapsychology Review" Dr. C.B. Nash explains that "to be effective, psi communication (i.e. ESP) must impart a message, i.e. convey meaningful information." (4) Yet he only knew of two instances, in one of which the single word "peace" was transmitted. A far from impressive record, and a long way from alleged humanoid volubility!

The sobering facts are that this notoriously unreliable process works, if at all, then only at a subconscious level (5). The idea propagated by pulp writers and would-be instructors (at a price) that ESP is a viable alternative to conventional communication transcending the limits of the lingual is unfounded. Perhaps the nearest one can come to the mythical concept of humanoid mastery of psi processes to impress messages on humans - allowing for reservations as to length and accuracy - is the "supralingual" telepathy reported by Professor Ian Stevenson of Virginia (6). He admits that "instances providing evidence of the telepathic communication of foreign languages are extremely rare" and, it might be added, evidentially weak.

According to Dr. Louisa Rhine mothers are in telepathic rapport with their offspring, but only during the first few years of the child's life (when, following Stevenson, past incarnations are also remembered) (7). To invoke "telepathy" as a vade mecum without any awareness of its limitations as a practical tool is a futile undertaking. The absurdities to which this is likely to give rise are illustrated by an article in "Paris Soir" (8) in which it is claimed that the "Soviets outstrip the USA in the field of establishing contacts with extraterrestrial civilisations by means of transmitting thoughts into space, which work is facilitated by telepathic test transmissions to Russian cosmonauts in orbit." In spite of "Pravda's" denunciation of this particular piece of nonsense as "stupid and disgusting" (1) telepathic communication with inhabitants of other planets continues to be a popular topic of the Soviet press.

There are some who feel justified in assuming, on the strength of their ignorance of matters parapsychological, that alien beings might be endowed with such superior knowledge and technology as to

have mastered the art of extrasensory perception to the point of being able to supercede ordinary modes of communication. Such speculation is entirely unfounded, except in the belief in Masters from Outer Space, of which, happily, science knows nothing. On the other hand, there is a considerable corpus of evidence that percipients in Close Encounter experiences have felt that they were being spoken to by a process that did not involve articulation (9). Apparitions and poltergeists which have been the subject of intensive study for a century, show similarities with humanoids in this and many other respects (10). The former are rather averse to holding discourses and are of a decidedly taciturn disposition. Though occasionally persuaded to speak or even, under extreme provocation, to reply, they do not care for conversation or argument (11). In Celia Green's collection only 14 per cent articulate, and even among that small number few will speak at length and, if realism is the criterion of success, do not always make a good job of it. "Apparitions," she says (12) "seem to have a certain reluctance to speak freely and realistically" their lips may fail to move; nor are they necessarily visible at the same time. Miss Green adds to her list of alleged ghostly misdemeanour that they occasionally communicate "as if by telepathy" in other words, as if they were humanoids. Green disagreed with Tyrrell in her conclusion that apparitions avoid a high degree of realism by not involving more than one sense of the percipient at a time. It is interesting to note in passing that in lucid dreams, by contrast, long conversations, even involving analytical thought, are surprisingly not ruled out (13).

Still on the same subject, Dr Walter F. Prince quoted a scientifically inclined percipient whose spectral figure "seemed to speak, yet the message conveyed was not audible, though clearly understood" (14) while another phantom is on record as having failed to produce audible sounds in spite of apparent efforts, and yet succeeded in "conveying" intermingled sentiments of "reproach and pain."

Extraordinary feats of psychic communication have sometimes been reported in poltergeist cases e.g. at Bristol, where mentally-directed questions are said to have been correctly answered. Others couched in languages not normally understood were also apparently replied to (15). Like ufonauts, poltergeists have "messages", which of course, do not necessarily imply genuine communication; what either party has to say is, more often than not, hardly worth one's undivided attention. At their best, they are banal: at Vlojarvi (Finland) a voice of unknown origin revealed that something had been poured out of a barrel - and all the world wondered (16) while the obliging entity at Saragossa gave the exact measurements of a chimney-pipe to an investigator (17). Most commonly though, poltergeists combine rudeness and deception with invisibility (18). Humanoids habitually make absurd claims or talk rubbish, and are clearly not to be taken at face-value; they are, according to Jaques Vallee, Messengers of Deception. They fail to establish true communication at a significant level, if any, let alone ESP.



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I am sure that the above news - featured in the "Waltham Forest Guardian" 27th May, 1983 - will come as quite a shock to readers, not least BUFORA council members who are unaware that our Association has been disbanded. But those of you who have lived under the apparent hypnagogic hallucination that you were a member of the BRITISH UFO RESEARCH ASSOCIATION should spare a thought for Eastern Regional Co-ordinator Mike Wootton, on whom the blow falls hardest. For he, poor man, has also been spirited out of existence! Perhaps we should transfer him to ASSAP, for who better to investigate phantoms, as they do, than a phantom investigator?

This strange (and totally unfounded) tale began innocently enough. Mike Wootton (who does exist...or at least he did the last time I met him) decided to follow up a letter in the "Guardian", which is his local newspaper. This was dated 22nd April, 1983. Under the heading "DID YOU SEE A UFO IN THE SKY?" it referred to a Mr Arthur Noble (address given) who had seen three "objects", two white car headlamps with an intensely blue light in between, whilst walking home with his girlfriend at 23.50 hours on 8th April.

Mike called Mr Noble but was somewhat bemused to find the "witness" denying the letter and claiming not to have written it, although there it was in black and white in the newspaper.

Supposing that either a trickster had taken Mr Noble's name in vain or that by some chance there were two Arthur Noble's living in the same road, Mike published a letter in the "Guardian" 29th April explaining the situation and asking the real Mr Noble, whoever he was, to contact him. He never did.

However one lady - a Mrs J. Mould (pseudonym) did write to Mike and described her own sighting at 23.45 hours on 8th April. She saw what appears to have been the same phenomenon described by the missing Mr Noble (although in her view the two end lights and the fluorescent blue central light were joined by a cylindrical shape that moved across her view from east to west). Mrs Mould was sitting on the edge of her bed at the time and the duration (10 seconds) was sufficient for her to get up, walk to the window and see the object vanish behind trees. There was no sound but the object was "dazzling bright" and Mrs Mould said that anybody inside it would have had to wear dark glasses in order to see!

Mike investigated the case by phone, sending and receiving back an R1 form, and then with an on-site interview. Mrs Mould turned out to be a most articulate 71 year old, living on the first floor of a building for retired people. She wears spectacles for long vision but had taken them off prior to going to bed. Her hobby used to be photography. Mike was impressed with her sincerity enhanced by her request for anonymity.

Meanwhile a new factor arose, care of the "Guardian." Its issue of 27th May carried an item headed "UFO BOSS SLAMS CRITIC." This was the piece in which both Mike and BUFORA were dematerialised.

The writer was one C.J. Sneed, BSc, Chairman of the Woodford UFO Club (at 47 Exeter Street, Walthamstow). In this it was claimed that the group had substantiated Mr Noble's sighting and found seven independent witnesses! It went on to accuse Mike (for no obvious reason) of "dirty tricks" and seeking "to cover up the truth." All thanks to Mike's request for the real Mr Noble, as opposed to the one whose address was apparently wrongly given, to contact him! Mr Sneed added, "the sighting and Mr Noble do exist ...and no doubt other alien life forms." ButM.R. Wootton (sic) and "his UFO investigation organisation" (i.e. Us!) do not. Paradoxically the strange Mr Sneed then invited the "non-existent" BUFORA co-ordinator to contact him to learn more about the case.

Intrigued, and no doubt suffering from a minor identity crisis, Mike searched for Mr Sneed and his Woodford UFO Club. No trace of either emerged. Said "UFO Boss" was not on the phone (nor ex-Directory) nor did an Exeter Street exist.

LOST WITHOUT TRACE

Nothing daunted the "Guardian" continued to perpetuate this great mystery. Its 10th June edition carried the item - "NOW YOU SEE'EM - NOW YOU DON'T" in which a Mr Bowie (not - we think - the one responsible for "Starman") queried the whole matter and suggested that the newspaper editor might not exist either! He further added: "What folk think they saw on a dark night most certainly does not constitute proof." In the same issue Mike Wootton (alias the invisible man) made the poignant plea "I'm here - where are you?" assuring readers that BUFORA did exist, and that he was a real co-ordinator, but that Mr Noble, Mr Sneed and the Woodford UFO Club had apparently been lost without trace (presumably into the mysterious Waltham Forest Rectangle).

Meanwhile this story moves back to Mrs Mould. At 2am on the very day these latest challenges to reality were issued by the "Waltham Forest Guardian" (10th June) she saw the UFO (seen further away as a floating white tube) passing by her window once again.

Bravely Mike persisted with his investigation, suggesting that a police helicopter from a nearby base might have been the culprit for both sightings. The base concerned (Lippets Hill) told Mike it was unlikely they were airborne at the time but referred him to the operations room at Scotland Yard. Here Mike was told it was quite likely that the helicopter was airborne! Neither source had records to confirm that one way or the other.

Following this, Mike decided enough was enough. Who can blame him? After all he was waking up in the morning reciting to himself over and over again "My name is Mike Wootton ... investigations co-ordinator for BUFORA ...I do exist. Don't I?"



When I suggested to my publishers, "Hey, you know there is a great deal I could do for the new book if only I could afford to go to America", the last thing I expected was what actually happened. They said: "Here's the air fare, off you go"; which rather left me frantically wondering where all the rest of the money for the trip was going to come from!

Of course I could have gone straight there and back and, with the various kind offers of hospitality I had received from our American colleagues, spent little more than I had been given. But the prospect of the USA, a country I had always wanted to visit, loomed too large over me. The time when I might get back there as distant as the west coast itself, so I could not resist making a few extra arrangements.

From the start though it looked as if I would have to face the immense country all alone; Paul (my fiance) more or less said: "America - so what?" and then, more logically, pointed out that he could not afford a month off work anyhow. So, I prepared to set out like a lone adventurer, feeling a bit like Amy Johnson as she tackled the Atlantic in her tiny plane, and probably much more frightened!

But luck was on my side quite a few times in this journey. Shortly before all the plans were finally made one of our AIs (Dot Street) asked if she could come along with me. The prospect of company was certainly inviting and certain developments in the investigation of the Rendlesham Forest UFO case had made it both desirable and possible that Dot should continue her research in the States.

We had several other strokes of good fortune on our trip. For instance, a delay to the launch of the European Space Laboratory on the Shuttle Flight STS-9, meant that Dot and I had, quite coincidentally, six days "rest" at the end of the visit to Florida, just 70 miles from Cape Canaveral. Also, upon arrival at Chicago's O'Hare airport, we learnt from Allen and Mim Hynek (who most kindly put up with us for a few days) that we were in time to have dinner at their home with one of NASA's shuttle astronauts.

But, most interesting of all, was the fact that a major conference was planned for the time we were in America, which had as its theme "THE COSMIC WATERGATE" or the USA government and the UFO cover-up. Allen Hynek was addressing this, as was Larry Fawcett, US police officer, and one of the chief protagonists of the fight for document release under the Freedom of Information Act. Larry had obtained the Colonel Holt memorandum to the British Ministry of Defence which had elevated the Rendlesham Forest affair into greater importance. Since Dot (along with Brenda Butler) was writing a book on the case, a project with which I had agreed to collaborate, attendance at this conference was mandatory. Once more, thanks to good fortune and great kindness, we found ourselves invited to the Conference free, expenses paid, with the only proviso that I give a short, off-the-cuff paper to the conference and take part in media interviews and a planned press conference. Dot and I will forever be thankful to Ray Boeche, and his MUFON colleagues, who organised the weekend, and to the University of Lincoln, Nebraska, who footed much of the bill.

Determined to make the most of things, Dot and I came to London on November 6th, 1983, the day before we flew to the USA, and a get together with BUFORA's London and Home counties investigators which was held in my London hotel. As this was a Sunday I must say thanks to the various AIs who attended as well as the support of Council members. I think we were able to have a most profitable session.

On the long, long flight over the Atlantic there were some nice touches. The plane to Chicago was half-empty and Dot amused those around us by demonstrating her interviewing technique on all concerned. By the time we were over Canada she already had a date (which I am asked to assure her husband she never kept - honestly!) She even sweet-talked her way up front to meet the pilot and talk about UFOs (he hadn't seen any) then bought him back "to meet my boss." I smiled affably, but had to confess to a little trepidation as he stood there chatting and I looked down 35,000ft thinking: "If something happens how long will it take to get him back up front?" To be reassured that a computer was flying the 747 scarcely helped. The in-flight movie had been "WAR GAMES" which related how a nuclear holocaust was nearly caused by a computer. I was sure if it could manage to start World War Three our micro-chip friend could probably run to a little air disaster. Still, we made a smooth landing but I didn't ask whether that was thanks to the computer or the pilot!

ACROSS AMERICA

After some 36 exciting hours over-coming jet lag and settling down with Allen and Mimi in their beautiful Evanston home (headquarters for the Center For UFO Studies) I was ready for our car trip west to the conference. We drove on through lakeside Chicago into Illinois, Iowa and across the Mississippi into Nebraska. I felt somewhat pleased to have discovered that even the vastly efficient Dr. Hynek and CUFOS have data retrieval problems, just as I do. Their case reports and materials tend to form lots of little piles on stairs, and in boxes, and in fact in any little nook and cranny they can find to invade.

Mimi Hynek explained, en route, how the US street system is so logical that a stranger could never get lost. If you are in London, and need to find, say, Sussex Place, you have no hope of doing so without a street map. But, in the States, towns and cities, all the streets one way have numbers - 1st Street, 2nd Street and so on, in sequence, as far as necessary. All the streets at right angles (for American towns are like mesh grids) have names which are either unimaginative "A" Street, "B" Street etc., or names which, in turn, begin with these letters (e.g. Adamski Street, Betty Hill Street, CUFOS Street etc). We never saw any streets with these names I hasten to add!

All that explained, upon arriving at Lincoln, around 11.30pm, we managed to drive around in ever frustrating circles looking for the relevant letter or number. We passed the University more than once, which to British logic would have indicated we were close, but the number did not look right so we kept on going! Later, in Denver, Colorado, when I got off the bus and needed to find the Trailways depot, at the junction of a number and a named street, I saw for myself that Mimi was right, I just walked straight there without glancing at a map. But in a very cold

snowy Nebraska the American street system was not looking quite so wonderful.

Upon arrival Dot found Larry Fawcett and Linda Moulton-Howe (a television producer who had made a major award winning film about cattle mutilations and UFOs). Quite how Dot got the energy I don't know, but she stayed up for hours talking UFOs. I could not resist counting sheep.

The conference itself was a strange affair. Exceptionally well organised in superb university accommodation (a hotel was attached to the conference facilities). Aside from the assorted lectures (by Hynek, Fawcett, John Scheusler, Bud Hopkins and others) which all drew large audiences (200 plus) there were long private sessions each evening when the key conference delegates (I think more or less by invitation) dissected in great depth issues arising from the day. This was a marvellous idea which I hope BUFORA picks up on in its future congresses.

John Scheusler gave a fascinating talk about the Cash-Landrum case from Texas, where three people were severely burnt by a hovering UFO that was then seen off by a fleet of unmarked helicopters. The pictures of one of the victims (who clearly displays all the gruesome effects of the radiation sickness from which she now suffers - such as almost total hair loss) were horrific. But they were also very important for any sceptic is going to be very, very hard put to suggest that UFOs do not exist!

From this, one of the private sessions, planned approaches (via a friendly Senator who had agreed to help) were made to push government sources into giving explanations. Bud Hopkins, a famous New York artist, turned out to be a very nice man, whose work on time lapse CE4 cases goes beyond what he has outlined in his important book MISSING TIME (Merek, 1981). One evening session was devoted to a discussion of such cases, at which Bud gave details of his most current case which he regarded as too crazy to put before the public in the open proceedings! He even did a regression during the conference when a woman quietly approached him to tell of her ordeal some years before. The preliminary session revealed a bizarre "cover story" (a common element in such cases) where thousands of rabbits were hopping up and down beside the UFO haunted car!

Dot and I both enjoyed the four days in Nebraska, even though they were very hectic. Journalists and television cameras were all over the place, and I must say I have never undergone an experience like it. The Rendlesham Forest case (which Larry Fawcett discussed at length) drew intense interest and Dot and I were asked incessant questions about it both during the conference and in the much needed breaks. When I got up during the questions session that ended each of the days lectures and clarified some points about the case I had to fight hard to retain my composure as a television cameraman, plus a man holding a microphone, plus a man holding a powerful arc light, all ran at breakneck speed down the aisle straight at me, shooting away!

Thank goodness we do not get quite so much attention over here.

DEBUNKING

Another conference oddity was the reaction of the sceptics. Philip Klass, who is a notorious US debunking machine, had a fair reputation in my eyes until the events of the conference week. His books and television pronouncements (e.g. on HORIZON's recent UFO faux pas) have occasional truths amidst their sweeping assertions, and I felt that his dreadful US reputation was undeserved. Everybody I met, of whatever shade of opinion, hated the man (and hate is the right word). Even Allen Hynek refused to do

(continued on page 33)

JOHN BOSTOCK is a member of BUFORA and is currently a Senior Pricing Officer, Civil Spares Department, British Aerospace plc. Surrey. He served in the Royal Air Force during the war and was involved in the interpretation of photographs provided by ground agents and aircraft reconnaissance sorties.

He has always been interested in aviation and his researches into UFOs began after a sighting in the early 1950s.

Philosophers are queer birds but we all have our peculiarities, and one must admit the ufologist may be regarded as the oddest bird yet, though I suspect his standing will become more credible as time passes by and thinking people are more receptive to what could now be termed a branch of fringe thought. Among philosophers I suppose fringe thought could be regarded as part of the rationalist's domain. Before we progress further it is as well to remember that philosophers are in the main divided into empiricists and rationalists. They may well have quite different opinions from each other yet they are both necessary to the progress of modern thought, the empiricist being relatively slow and patient, not given to quick change; and the rationalist being very imaginative, venturesome, theoretical and maybe a trifle impatient. Strangely, it appears that the empiricists have been mainly represented among the English speaking peoples and if one studies philosophy, his course is based on the empiricist ideas of Locke and Berkeley. The rationalists, on the other hand, have been represented more by the continental school of thought; is this some indication of difference in temperament? Consider this as you remember that the empiricist relies on his senses and experience to help him reach conclusions, whereas the rationalist will regard reason as his only guide or authority for reaching the same ends. Thus the ufologist who does little more than go on skywatches is being too empirical in his approach to the subject, yet it is a good thing to go on these skywatches and it can be very good training enabling one to become more knowledgeable about the things he sees and does.

SINGULAR RARITIES

One begins to learn how very few lights in the sky need to be thought of as UFOs and how lucky one is when the inexplicable does appear. Of course the ideal is to become so familiar with one's surroundings that UFOs have become very singular rarities, this makes a really unidentifiable phenomenon so much more interesting.

METAPHYSICAL LICENCE

I think one could well benefit by reading some philosophy whilst bearing in mind the ufologist's point of view. The ufologist would, I suppose, be more of a rationalist in his outlook and would therefore have to read warily as philosophers are always warning against metaphysical licence and lapses into fantasy. A useful book is "Teach Yourself Philosophy" by C.E.M. Joad, the other book I would particularly recommend is "Teach Yourself The Philosophy of Religion" by H.D. Lewis, interesting

reading recalling some third-rate comedy script rather than a serious debate by two adults, but, in all fairness to Mr Fogarty, he did have to content with Mr Klass's stonewalling and sterile dogmatism.

- F. "You're hooked into the extraterrestrial syndrome. Why do UFOs have to be extraterrestrial?"
- K. "They could be ghosts, they could be leprechauns, they could be ..."
- F. No, no, no. I said they don't have to be extraterrestrial."
- K. "My current theory, as I explained to Bruce (Maccabee) is that that you saw was Santa Claus and his reindeer."
- F. "But that is so stupid, such a stupid thing to say."
- K. I've asked you for your hypotheses, you have refused or declined as if extraterrestrial craft is a dirty, vulgar word."
- F. Not at all. What I'm saying is that you seem to be locked into the extraterrestrial theory. It does not have to be"
- K. Well, can you give me three other hypotheses to consider and I will entertain them. I assure you. Give me three!"
- K. "As I said, I do not know what it was...."
- K. No, give me three hypotheses."
- F. All right, maybe it was Santa Claus and his sleigh, maybe it was, umm"
- K. A ghost?"
- F. "Yeah, that is one more you have given me. You are better at coming up with idiotic statements, so you make another suggestion"
- K. Then you give me your three most likely hypotheses."
- and so on and so on and so on.

Dr. Hynek, in a postscript to the book gives, as would be expected, a much less partial and biased interpretation of the events.

"The New Zealand UFO events described on the preceding pages are, of course, important in themselves as scientific evidence, even if they stood alone, but they have another dimension of importance; they illustrate graphically, and for the record, what hundreds of other witnesses from over the world have described but were not fortunate enough to have photographed. I have personally listened to accounts by a great many people whose descriptions match in general what the New Zealand film shows, which film, of course, was supported by radar and visual observation."

LET'S HOPE THEY'RE FRIENDLY is well worth buying and reading. Its title, however, might equally to apply to the humans involved in this case as much as any supposed extraterrestrial involvement!

JB

THE EVIDENCE FOR UFOs.
Hilary Evans. The
Aquarian Press. £2.50p.

This is the first in a series of EVIDENCE books published in association with ASSAP (The Association for the Scientific Study of Anomalous Phenomena of which Mr Evans is a founder member.

This very short book (150 pages) ranges over a wide area of UFO cases and theories and will appeal as much to the newcomer to ufology as it will to the more knowledgeable reader who might well use the book to examine his or her thoughts on the subject.

The history of UFOs is briefly examined, as is society's attitude to the

phenomena. Some classic UFO cases are considered from a number of different viewpoints and witness evidence is looked at as are physical traces, photographs and the thoughts of the sceptics - a format which guarantees an all round look at the subject and the opportunity for Mr Evans to present every facet of the argument for and against.

The book is entitled "THE EVIDENCE FOR..." and the author considers a number of theories which might account for the UFO phenomenon - physical and psychological forces at work, cultural manifestations, naturally occurring phenomena and the links (pace Vallee) between UFOs and folklore.

The author offers his own explanation - or rather four explanations - which is certainly having one's UFO cake and eating it too. However, there is now a growing consensus of opinion that the phenomena cannot, in fact, be accounted for by one simple all-embracing answer: a point which clearly emerged at BUFORA's congress in August, 1983.

Mr Evans' suggestions are: (i) psychological, (ii) natural biological objects, possibly possessing an intelligence; (iii) secret devices being tested or operated by world governments and (iv) extraterrestrial craft. The book lists some instances of sightings within, and supporting, each four categories. For (iv) Mr Evans gives us Partington (1977), Vancouver Island (1970), New Jersey (1965), Exeter, USA (1965), Vernon France, (1954), Canary Islands (1976) and Nash and Fortenberry, (1952). Oddly enough two of the most intriguing cases mentioned in this book, Livingston (1978) and Valensole (1965) are not slotted into any category, whereas I would have thought that both, undeniably, had a firm place within (iv).

Certainly readers of the book will have their own ideas and theories - and no doubt disagreements - with the author on what cases can be explained by which of his suggestions - but then that is part of the fascination of

the study of UFOs. It is a fascination which Mr Evans has captured perfectly and succinctly.

JB.

Mr Evans briefly considers Marian visions within the context of UFOs. These visions are examined in much greater detail by KEVIN McCLURE in THE EVIDENCE FOR VISIONS OF THE VIRGIN MARY, also published in the same EVIDENCE series and also priced at £2.50. Such visions occupy a major place in the world of the supernatural and cover a vast historical time span - from Walsingham, Norfolk in 1061 to a series of continuing visions which began in the early 1980s in Medjugorje, Yugoslavia.

Like UFO sightings Marian visions do not appear to conform to any readily recognisable pattern, although the phenomenon does contain more consistencies than do UFOs. Most of the visions have for their location strongly Catholic countries, and the vision invariably appears to a young child, or a group of children (often close friends or close relations) and almost always near or of puberty age. The visitee or vistees are almost always girls.

The Virgin herself, as described by all the children, separated both by time and geographical distances is generally a recognisable figure, with only minor variations in detail of form, figure and clothing.

The eight cases investigated by the author are undeniably interesting and there is something profoundly touching in the stories of the vistees themselves. They are young, often uneducated and deprived children suddenly confronted by a phenomenon as beautiful and radiant as their own lives are wretched and drab.

Nowhere, in reading their stories, did I feel that what they had to relate, was merely the product of a child's highly colourful imagination or, worse

outright lies in order to attract attention.

Having assessed the evidence Mr McClure turns to his own personal views on the matter and they are ones which I share. Even given the evidence it is hard to believe that the visions are what they are reported to be - the Mother of Christ in human form on earth. Like the UFO phenomena the location of visions is random, the prophecies, where given, often meaningless or dealing only in vague generalities, the visitees themselves are selected (perhaps intentionally?) from those least able to understand or rationalise the full import of what they have witnessed.

Yet it would be both unwise and churlish to dismiss the stories as totally untrue. They contain not only striking consistencies but a distinct element of the truth and of a phenomenon having been witnessed. I am convinced that the events did happen in most of the cases cited by Mr McClure, only their actual nature is in dispute. Marian visions and UFO sightings, bizarre though it may sound, do seem to have tenuous links. The author briefly mentions the researches of the French ufologist Gilbert Cornu and an Italian researcher who found a rise in Marian apparations in 1947 and again in 1954 during the wave of sightings over France. The reasons for the correlations are not clear but it is unlikely that they are entirely without significance - even if it is only that one set of strange sightings triggers off another. If this could be shown to be true then we are looking for psychological rather than extraterrestrial or religious answers.

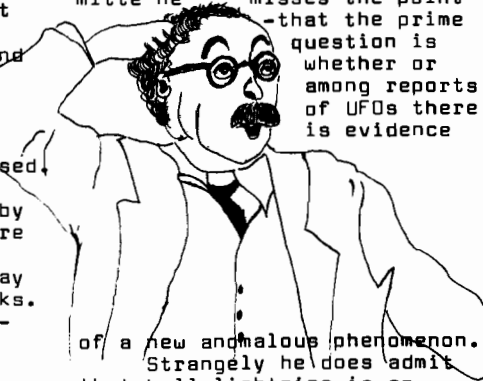
The EVIDENCE books are going to be an invaluable in providing useful, well-written examinations of case histories of anomalies which are so frequently dismissed simply as the ravings of the mildly unbalanced if not the dangerously insane.

Both Mr Evans and Mr McClure's book will, happily, do much to dispel those misconceptions.

J8

RED RAG TO A BULL.
Magnus Pyke. Willow
Books. 1983.

This dictionary of fallacies by Magnus Pyke contains a chapter on UFOs, an example of what he calls "up-to-date fallacies." Pyke's views reflect those of THE CONDON REPORT, to which he refers uncritically, making the mistake of believing that the question to be answered is whether or not UFOs are alien craft. Like the Condon Committee he misses the point - that the prime question is whether or among reports of UFOs there is evidence



of a new anomalous phenomenon. Strangely he does admit that ball lightning is an optical and electronic (sic) phenomenon worthy of study although the Condon Committee did not come to this conclusion!

The only CE3 mentioned is the Pascagoula case, observing that the "two professors from reputable universities (who) discussed theadventures respectfully." (Hynek and Harder) were not experts in law "which is a discipline in which people are trained to assess the reliability of witnesses." He suggests that there are people, even university professors, who believe such stories because they want to believe them. The corollary must be that there are people, like Pyke, who do not believe such stories because they do not want to believe them! The latter are as foolish as the former, but, unfortunately, the latter view is that of most scientists.

SC

Compared to the interest generated by extra-terrestrial and para-normal hypotheses which seek to explain the origin of UFOs, not many people have given credit to the idea that UFOs might be "secret" man-made devices. One of the best articles on this subject is by Gordon Creighton "These Cunning British: The Truth At Last!" in FSR Vol.19 No.4. From this we can see that most nations on this globe have been accused of designing and building the craft (or fleet of craft) which are responsible for modern-day UFO sightings.

This is not an entirely new phenomenon. At the height of the British 1909 "airship" wave the EAST ANGLIAN DAILY TIMES of 15th May, 1909 (credit: Carl Grove) wondered if the sightings had been caused by a secret airship owned by the British War Office. To support this view it was noted that in March, 1909, 20 Royal Engineers had been suddenly moved to an unknown destination. However, the majority of British people preferred to believe that the sightings were caused by German zeppelin craft.

Since 1947 many individuals have claimed that they have built UFOs, or are in the process of perfecting a cheap, efficient space vehicle. No doubt such people will have as much luck as those who seek the secret of the philosopher's stone, or who wish to create a perpetual motion device, but mankind can be stubborn in its pursuit of fame and fortune. In 1909 the British nation was not spared rumours that a secret airship manufacturer had created the remarkable airship. A typical story was contained in the LEICESTER DAILY POST for 24th May, 1909, which claimed that: "An aeroplane is being built with great secrecy at Yarmouth in a shed next the harbour. Part of the machinery is being made on the spot and part is being sent down from London. No one is allowed access to the premises, and whenever any piece of machinery is required of the local mechanics they are only shown a drawing of the particular part needed at the time." Earlier, on 21st May, 1909 the LEICESTER DAILY POST published a report which revealed that many people had seen a cigar-shaped dirigible in the vicinity of the Birmingham Small Arms works. In addition to this a motor-car manufacturer in the district told a BIRMINGHAM MAIL representative that they had produced the aeroplane, and that his company would soon be selling shares in the project to the public.

In a similar vein the IRISH TIMES of 17th May, 1909 (Credit: John Hind) reported that the London EVENING NEWS had discovered an "aeroplane of entirely English invention and English workmanship. Its construction has been proceeding secretly for many months, and the machine is now undergoing its finishing touches. It is anticipated that it will be complete and ready for its initial attempt at flight in about a fortnight or three weeks." Apparently the inventor of this machine "is a young man who has had special facilities for studying aeronautics as applied to heavier-than-air machines."

The best story emerged from the NORTHERN DAILY MAIL in their 6th July, 1909 edition. Here it was stated that: "The inventor and owner of the airships is Dr. M.B. Boyd, he has been perfecting airship invention for eight years, but the finished product of his ideas has only been built for a year Last March he began his trials and continued by night in the utmost secrecy in April and May." At the cost of £20,000 he produced an airship which Dr. Boyd said: "is 120 feet long and 300hp. unlike the usual airship it has no car suspended from the envelope, neither is the envelope cigar-shaped, more oval. I can carry three men and enough petrol (600 gallons) to last 1400 miles." (Credit: Dirk van der Werff).

1909 seems to have been a good year for aeronautical inventions for in that year, according to Gordon Creighton, Neki Coanda, a "French naval officer of Rumanian origin claimed to have designed a jet-aircraft."

In THE H.G.WELLS SCRAPBOOK edited by Peter Haining (New English Library, London, 1979) an entertaining spaceship illustrated by Albert Levering for Mark Twain's story "Extract From Captain Stormfield's Visit to Heaven" is interesting because it saw the light of day in 1909. Another work of fiction, by Rudyard Kipling, entitled "With The Night Mail" featured aerial vehicles. In the NORTHAMPTON MERCURY dated 14th May, 1909, it is told that Kipling wrote to an American friend explaining that the Wright brothers had accomplished what he had predicted would take place in 2000 AD in his story.

Certainly it seems that the airship/aircraft inventors had more in common with the fiction of Twain and Kipling than the nuts and bolts reality of the Wright Brothers' achievements. I wonder where they all flew off to?

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a television show with him, although he agreed to do so if someone less paranoic, such as James Oberg, participated. Klass did not attend the conference. I wondered why he was so disliked, especially since, in Britain, we live happily with our sceptics.

I learnt why when I saw letters and note on phone conversations between Klass and the University. He did everything possible to persuade them to cancel the conference. But his claim that UFOs were unscientific fell on the stony ground of an open-minded university board. In the end Klass insinuated that the delegates were anti-government (i.e. Communist) agents! I was astonished, but American ufologists said it was about par for course as far as Philip was concerned.

Perhaps we also bordered on paranoia, for several delegates (not Dot and I - although we were told the CIA would follow us to the USA) received threatening phone calls before the conference. Security demanded we became virtual prisoners with no outside calls allowed to our rooms, and a complex process for receiving messages. This was complemented by the notice at the lift entrance which advised what to do in case of "Severe Weather". I later figured out what they meant - tornados!

After the conference Dot flew to Connecticut with Larry Fawcett and I and the Hyneks headed west where I saw the snow on the Rockies and visited the University of Boulder, home of the Condon Report and talked to the scientists involved. When I returned to Chicago I had to work with Jerome Clark at the offices of FATE magazine. I had to drag myself away from Dr. Hynek's computer controlled satellite television with its 50 channels and 24 hour service of which I had free rein since he and Mimi, who were then in Texas on a lecture tour, very kindly let me their home and CUFOS's library facilities.

Dot and I met up in Florida (where we suffered 80°F temperatures - all say Aaah!) and were happily exhausted, and loathing the return trip to our respective other halves, our BUFORA work and a miserable English winter...not necessarily in that order!

I had travelled 13,000 miles - over 4,000 by road and rail but it was well worth it and I would do it again like a shot!

This new feature will briefly summarise recent UFO reports, articles and opinions appearing in the international press and UFO journals both in the UK and overseas.

FLYING SAUCER REVIEW

The December, 1983 issue reported on a landing and close encounter case near Aldershot in August, 1983. This is alleged to have happened to a 78 year old fisherman who claims an abduction by two 4ft 6in beings and a perfunctory medical examination, in which he reported that the "aliens" told him "You can go, you are too old and too infirm for our purpose."

There is also a report on some strange happenings in South America during the summer of 1983.

The October issue had an article by editor Gordon Creighton on "A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF THE TRUE NATURE OF 'UFO ENTITIES'" and one by Irene Granchi of a very strange encounter/abduction allegedly undergone by Senhora Luli Oswald and a Mr. F. in Brazil in October, 1979.

Dr. Robert Jacobs, PhD, Assistant Professor of Radio-Film TV, University of Wisconsin, claims that on 8th January, 1965, whilst he was working at the Vandenburg Air Force base, California, an Atlas F missile, 60 miles up, was approached by a UFO which three times emitted a vivid flash of light in the direction of the missile. The Atlas F subsequently malfunctioned and crashed into the Pacific. Says Dr. Jacobs: "The UFOs are real. I know they're real. The Air Force knows they're real. And the US Government knows they're real. I reckon it's high time that the American public knows it too."

Dr Jacobs' report first appeared in the NATIONAL ENQUIRER (October 12th, 1982) and December 9th, 1982 in ADVANCE-TITAN.

The August, 1983 edition looked at an Italian CE3 which took place at Gastagh, Vicenza on November 24th, 1978. There, in a woodland copse, a 61 year old resident of Gastagh, Angelo D'Ambros, encountered two 1 to 1.20m tall creatures. They were highly unpleasant looking with elongated heads, tusks and enormous ears. D'Ambros described them as "rat faced." Writer Antonio Chiumiento, Investigator and Member of Board of Directors of the Italian National UFO Research Centre, Turin, (CUN) drew a parallel between these entities and their resemblance to those seen at Kelly-Hopkinsville in August, 1955.

Editor Gordon Creighton added a postscript to the reported crash landing of a UFO at Bahia Blanco, Argentina in 1950, and quoted a syndicated article by Henry Cris that a UFO "knocked out" a Soviet space station at Baikonour, Central Asia in June, 1982.

MORE LANDINGS?

We go back to the May, 1983 issue of the AUSTRALIAN INTERNATIONAL UFO FLYING SAUCER RESEARCH, published in Adelaide, Australia, for an intriguing item on an alleged crashed UFO. This is reported to have come down in the remote Cape York peninsula area of North Queensland on May 9th, 1983. "UFO CRASHES IN FLAMES" was the stop-press news flash in the "BRISBANE NEWS" for that date. "THE NEWS", May 10th, in an item headed "MYSTERY CRASHED SITE REACHED" reported that some people from the surrounding area had cycled to the reported scene of the crash.

Reporter Paul Burton telephoned several newspapers for confirmation of the story but received no help. The RAAF said that the object described by a witness as "a yellowish-orange fire-ballemitting very bright sparks and leaving behind a long smoke trail" was not one of their aircraft. The area was shaken by a violent sonic boom as the object disappeared.

The August issue of the same magazine concentrated on the South Australian "flap" which began in May, 1983 and was briefly mentioned by Paul Norman in his Congress paper at High Wycombe in August, 1983. The Australian Department of Aviation has put the sightings, some of which were radar detected, down to atmospheric conditions and equipment malfunction - or a combination of both! ("ADELAIDE ADVERTISERS" July 5th, 1983).

The Rendlesham Forest mystery also received some coverage and Paul Burton recalled an alleged landing at Melbourne in 1966 when the Australian army burned out a paddock adjoining Melbourne Westall High School where the incident is said to have occurred.

MORE FROM AUSTRALIA

UFO ENCOUNTER Newsletter of UFO Research, Queensland, Australia (July/August, 1983) deals with increasing UFO activity in China; a Chilean jet/UFO chase on December 16th, 1978 and the uses and limitations of hypnosis. China UFO Research Organisation (CURO) reports that "a massive luminous object" was reported by Chinese Air Force pilots on October 21st, 1978, and links this with the disappearance of Frederick Valentich at Bass Strait, Australia on that day. The description of the craft says Cha Loping, CURO Chairman, tally, "very large, rectangular and emitting a strong light."

A NEW ROLE FOR DR HYNEK?

The Danish magazine UFO CONTACT (June, 1983) looks at THE UFO WAVE IN HESSDALEN (which is also covered in this issue of the BULLETIN) and also asks "IS J. ALLEN HYNEK A GOVERNMENT PLANT?" Donald R. Todd, Field Investigator, APRO, says: ".... I personally am not at all convinced about his motives regarding the entire UFO enigma. Actually it would take only a word or two from Hynek to sabotage years of tough UFO study."

Mr Todd's reasoning appears to rest, somewhat illogically as far as I am concerned, on the premise that: "....Hynek has never actually seen a 'flying saucer.' I've observed at least two dozen 'discs' over the past thirty-five years from North Carolina to Connecticut. It seems to me therefore that, for one who strives to be the last word in authority on the subject Hynek ought to have observed the phenomenon at least once first hand."

I know of no one on BUFORA's Council who has seen a UFO but that doesn't make them Ministry of Defence molesor does it?

The matter is taken up again in the November, 1983 issue of the magazine by Hans C. Petersen who goes further and accuses Dr. Hynek of being a CIA agent and that his organization, CUFOS, has not, in eight years, released a single investigated UFO report. The reason? They are all immediately forwarded to the CIA who then imposes a complete black-out on the case involved.

NORTHERN UFO NEWS (Sept/Oct.1983) edited by Jenny Randles contains a very interesting article entitled "RADAR/VISUAL ENCOUNTER "HUSHED UP?" Facts are sketchy but the story basically concerns a RAF sergeant who claims that in the summer of 1948 a York transport plane, in which he was a passenger, en route for Northumberland, encountered an object north of Oxford at a height of 25,000ft and about 100ft in diameter.

The object was detected on radar and gave an echo from which ground control was able to estimate its size. Several Meteor jets were sent up to intercept but as they climbed the object itself accelerated and sped away at 1500mph. All those involved were debriefed and told to keep silent about the event.

Until TJ (the sergeant) spoke out recently the event had remained unknown, but presumably remained on someone's official files, for 35 years!

AWARENESS. JOURNAL OF CONTACT INTERNATIONAL. Issue 1. 1983-84 published in the UK, has an article by Milos Krmelj on "CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE FIRST KIND IN YUGOSLAVIA" where there was a major "flap" in March, 1979. It also deals, at length, with sighting reports from Skipton, Yorkshire on February 11th, 1982 by two police officers on motor patrol, on October 15th, 1982 by four witnesses and in January, 1978, again by two police officers. Times of sightings were, respectively, 3.30am, 01.19am and 3.20am. Researcher was Mark Birdsall.

The east pennines of Yorkshire was particularly rich in sightings during 1983, particularly during March and April with a possible physical trace case (badly scared tree bark) at Grassington. This was analysed by Leeds University who discounted the theory that the damage had been caused by lightning. (YORKSHIRE EVENING POST, July 20th, 1983).

The BRADFORD TELEGRAPH AND ARGUS (September 5th, 1983) contained a brief report on sightings above Wharf Valley and at Addington. There, at 9.30pm on July 19th, 1983, a nurse saw from her window a "bright metallic object which appeared to have its own internal illumination, cigar shaped and about the size of a small car." It hovered above a television mast for about five minutes before moving off towards Skipton, turning horizontally as it went. It appeared to be made of gun metal.

AWARENESS also contains a strange story of an unnamed father and son who, on the morning of July 22nd, 1983, witnessed the crash of a phantom Spitfire in Suffolk. The same aircraft has been reported from other parts of the UK.

MAGONIA, edited by John Rimmer, has, in issue No.14 published at the end of 1983, an article by Hilary Evans entitled NORTHERN LIGHTS. This describes a visit he made in early 1983 to Arendal and Hessedalen, Norway to see the work of UFO Norway and, hopefully, perhaps, to have a sighting of his own in this very ufologically active part of the world.

Mr Evans spoke to some of the Norwegian witnesses and examined many of the supporting photographs and drawings which back up the case. Says Hilary, in the conclusion, to his paper: "...I don't think anyone questions that at the basis of the Norwegian sightings, as of the Missouri UFOs, there is a fundamentally physical phenomenon. It may have other dimensions which differentiate it from other types of physical object, but that doesn't mean the physical dimension isn't there. And since

ufologists are physical beings, it would seem only reasonable to approach these enigmatic phenomena on a physical level, as three dimensional objects with mass and duration and so on. The paraphysical aspects, if such there be, can come later."

Science correspondent Ian Ridpath contributes an article in the same magazine on AN EXPLANATION OF THE WOODBRIDGE UFO and puts the affair down to a combination of a brilliant fireball burning up over south-east England the pulsating light from Orford Ness lighthouse. Mr Ridpath visited the site in October, 1983 and confirmed that the beam from the lighthouse did indeed appear to hover above the trees and light up the entire forest with its brilliance.

It all sounds very convincing but if a high-ranking air force officer cannot differentiate between a fireball and reflections from a distant lighthouse then I think we should all be very worried indeed - and not just about UFOs!

BUFORA'S MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY SPEAKS OUT

NUFORA BULLETIN Vol.11 No.4 from G.N.P. Stephenson of Glasgow, Scotland, which is dated June, 1983 reached me in December! It looks briefly at UFO events during 1982 and lists some of the more outstanding UK sightings and some from overseas as well. A useful reference update.

Pam Kennedy, BUFORA's indefatigable Membership Secretary, was featured in a profile on "NEIGHBOURS IN THE NEWS" in her local newspaper THE NORWOOD NEWS on November 18th, 1983. This feature article was also syndicated in THE STREATHAM NEWS, WANDSWORTH AND SOUTH WESTERN STAR, CLAPHAM AND LAMBERTH NEWS and BALHAM AND Tooting NEWS AND MERCURY. Pam's interest in UFOs began in 1953. "In those days," she said, "you were very careful who you told that you were interested in flying saucers. But over the years it has become a respectable subject. Today it is being investigated by scientific types all over the world."

CYCLIC UFOs

The Rev. H.D.L. Thomas of Long Harborough, Oxfordshire, was widely featured in the press during autumn, 1983 with letters on UFOs published in the SLOUGH OBSERVER, OXFORD STAR, SURREY ADVERTISER, PLYMOUTH WESTERN EVENING HERALD, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE EVENING TELEGRAPH, PETERBOROUGH EVENING TELEGRAPH, BANBURY GUARDIAN and SOUTH YORKSHIRE TIMES.

The gist of his message was that UFOs come in cycles with their most frequently recorded appearance being October. He asked if readers would send him details of any sightings they had during that month.

A Mr W.A. Payne, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE EVENING TELEGRAPH (November 9th, 1983) was not amused. He replied: "From a logical point of view, the existence of UFOs is very improbable. Astronomers, for example, have no knowledge of a planet with intelligible inhabitants from which the UFOs could come. Also, a common feature of these sightings is that the flying saucer does not stay still long enough to be examined but flies off at great speed suggesting an optical illusion."

Mr E.L. Fitch, SLOUGH OBSERVER (November 11th, 1983) was equally miffed. At the end of a very long reply he concluded, somewhat acidly, "I suspect that positive searching for UFOs leads individuals to see what they want to see."

PRESS REPORTS

The NEWS OF THE WORLD for October 2nd and 9th, 1983 gave wide coverage to the alleged landing of a UFO in Rendlesham

Forest, Suffolk, in December, 1980. "UFO LANDS IN SUFFOLK" screamed the 96 point headlines. The case, thanks to the limpet-like tenacity of Dot Street and Brenda Butler, is certainly going to develop into a case of the very greatest importance: a classic which will come to rank along with the best. The case was fully discussed by Jenny Randles, together with Mrs Street and Mrs Butler at BUFORA's Saturday evening meeting of December 10th, 1983 (see BUFORA NEWS).

I am not a whole-hearted believer in the conspiracy theory, but the deathly silence concerning this case, as far as the media is concerned, does make me wonder. Adrian Berry's article in the "DAILY TELEGRAPH" of Monday, October 17th, 1983 and that in "THE TIMES" of a few days earlier (both pace the Rendlesham Forest mystery) only tend to make me even more suspicious. If a scientific correspondent such as Mr Berry can be so violently "anti" and needs to publish a hoax UFO photograph in order to prove his point, then maybe we really do have a UFO problem of the very greatest magnitude.

"THE PEOPLE" for June 5th, 1983 ran an article entitled "CLOSE ENCOUNTER AT THE SHAMROCK CAFE" which looked at the alleged abduction in Shropshire of three Telford women, Valerie, Rosemary and Vi. Members will recall that video tapes of these "abductees" were shown by Harry Harris at a BUFORA evening lecture in the autumn of 1982.

Berrows "WORCESTER JOURNAL" of June 30th, 1983 had a feature article in its "Junior Journal" on "CLOSE ENCOUNTERS FROM OUTER SPACE" illustrated with Knut Asheim's 1967 drawing of various UFO shapes. Just the kind of interesting article to appeal to junior readers - future BUFORA Council members of 1990s!

Other world-wide press cuttings have been received, mainly from Australia reporting on the extensive "flap" which has occupied most of 1983. No coverage in the UK press of course!

Do let me have your reports from the UK and overseas. The Bulletin will, hopefully, try to include them in this particular feature as a service to members who perhaps do not have the opportunity to see all the UFO journals and newspaper cuttings.

**HAVE YOU CHANGED
YOUR ADDRESS?**

If so please let the Association know

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From: Steuart Campbell.
Edinburgh, Scotland.

The Pennine Mystery

Sir - I was surprised to read (in the last issue of THE PROBE REPORT) Hilary Evans' glowing praise (albeit with faint damnation) of Jenny Randles' THE PENNINE UFO MYSTERY (Granada, 1983), especially when he recognised that the narrative is "somewhat incoherent" and that it "lacks a satisfactory conclusion." There is no excuse for these defects. Nor was there much of a cause to write the book in the first place (unless it was an insistent publisher). Plainly there is no special Pennine UFO mystery; the area has its usual share of unusual reports and eccentrics. But Jenny Randles has hyped a mystery out of a rag-bag of assorted incidents and rumours that appear to be largely unrelated to each other. She does not even deal satisfactorily with the Zigmund Adamski affair, and offers no evidence of adequate investigation. Instead we are led into the strange world of one police officer involved who ultimately undergoes hypnosis. It is perverse of Jenny Randles to devote a whole chapter to the script of a hypnotic regression session when she knows (and even admits) that the technique is prone to produce fantasy rather than fact! One suspects that such a consideration was secondary to the need to fill pages; the book is padded with references to nearly everyone in the UFO movement around the world. She certainly does not stick to the point.

Jenny Randles has developed a journalistic style to which various ideas and opinions are juxtaposed without feeling the need to choose between them, or even to criticise them. Thus any far-out concept is good enough to fill the pages, but she is careful not to adopt one. She is forever travelling through UFO-land, pointing out interesting items, but never arriving any-

where. Whatever conclusions she has reached in the past have since been abandoned.

And this is, according to Hilary Evans, "the best ufologist we have."! Really! I must dissent from that. A good ufologist could not have compiled such a mish-mash of innuendo and wild speculation in the guise of a serious investigation. I would not like British ufology to be judged by this book, which will do nothing to enhance it. It is merely a ramble through Jenny Randles' files accompanied by a set of inconsequential pictures (one of a PC's flying helmet). I was particularly puzzled by a reference to me as a "principal local ufologist" but not as the author of BUFORA's Livingston case study (which is mentioned). Is this good documentation?

HILARY EVANS replies:

Steuart Campbell quotes me as saying that Jenny Randles' book is "somewhat incoherent" and "lacks a conclusion", but omits the words which follow - "but then that is precisely what the affair itself presents." It is as a situation report on an affair which is still in progress that Jenny's book should be judged, not as an analysis of a case which is over and done with. What Jenny set out to do was to tell the general public that there are things going on in their midst which should be taken seriously. Her book should be compared, not with Steuart's own (superb, let me say!) report on the Livingston case, but with trash like Paget's WELSH TRIANGLE or Harold's UNINVITED. Her book, with its references and credits to other investigators, to say nothing of her own insightful comments, proves that a popular book can be done without distorting the facts. Of course I personally would much prefer a fully-detailed report along the lines of Steuart's Livingston report - and I hope that in time BUFORA will sponsor such a report: but Jenny was not trying to do that job, and her book should not be judged by that criterion.

From: Douglas Payne.
Midlothian, Scotland.

PROBE Errors

Dear Ian - Nice to see my article REFLECTIONS ON THE YELLOW BRICK ROAD in the last issue of PROBE REPORT. I feel, however, that I should point out three errors in the printed version which I think are not insignificant.

(1) Page 15, left hand column line 18. "Objective" should read "subjective." The sentence makes no sense otherwise.

(2) Page 15, right hand column, lines 23-24: "temporarily" should read "temporally." That is, the unconscious fantasy is chronologically confused not temporarily confused as you have printed it.

(3) Page 15, the drawing. The arrowed line for "A Waking Consciousness" should not extend to the end of the continuum as you have printed it, but should stop short by about an inch. This is an important point to which I refer in the paragraph on waking consciousness on page 15.

You will find that my typescript is correct on these points. I thought that I should draw your attention to these errors but I don't know if there is anything you can do about them now.

IAN MRZYGLOD replies:

I am sorry about the typographical errors, probably caused by too many "objectives" and "subjectives" cropping up everywhere. I hope the publication of this letter will at least partially correct the situation. Mind you, you seem to have missed the major error in that particular article, namely the mis-spelling of your name: "Douglas" instead of "Douglas."

This letter was originally sent for inclusion in PROBE REPORT but, with the latter's demise has been included in the BULLETIN in order to clear up any queries on Mr Payne's article.

From: D.G. Frost. Stockport

BUFORA's Future

Sir - Having read the November, 1983 BULLETIN and attended the December AGM I feel I should question BUFORA's future.

I was shocked to learn that BUFORA's membership totals only 298! Out of a UK population of 56 million only 298 people are involved with BUFORA of whom 13 are Council members and 24 "official" investigators. The rest sit at home and receive their information from the BULLETIN and other ufological sources. The Chairman asked for the support of ordinary members, such as myself, but will "ordinary members" be allowed to contribute to the future of UK ufology? When will Council realise that a fresh approach is needed? A new future for ufology is on the horizon and it is the "ordinary members" who must lead the way and become more involved in ufology.

Don't stay on the sidelines. Attend meetings, have your say, help make the decisions that could create a better future for both BUFORA and ufology in the UK. BUFORA is only as good as its members. If you do not agree with the way a certain department is run then say so; let your opinions be known. I suggest that BUFORA sets up a new public relations department to promote the Association and recruit new members. I also ask that a postal ballot system for the election of new Council members and the Chairman. Paid up members should be allowed to vote for such important Council positions as Director of Investigations, Director of Research, Publications etc.

The future is in your hands.

THE CHAIRMAN replies: I certainly support Mr Frost's call for more participation by members in BUFORA's work. Recruitment of members is of paramount importance, if each of our 298 members nominated one further member, many of BUFORA's present difficulties would cease to exist.

(Continued on opposite page)

S R A D A R E A L K N O R T A
 R D A R I L A N T Q Y S P C R
 H E A L N R I A E L A N D E D
 U I C C O O L E P N A B T J X
 M F M U G F L O N L G N I B J
 A I Q F A S T D T K U E T O E
 N T B O M S T A R O K T R I S
 O N U O R A G I C V H E O K S
 I E D A O F H N V A R P N E U
 D D C B J K E S I L V E R Y P
 N I L O W E K F O Y F B E H H
 I N D I S C O E E L L A V O E
 C U F O L O G Y C U Y F I E R
 A P L A N E T H E E I S E R S
 P C O R S I G H T I N G W M A
 S K Y W A T C H I N G E A H P

A ufological brain teaser for those that like such things. It is devised in the usual way where the words in the list (left) can all be found in the table of letters, read in straight lines, vertically, horizontally and diagonally. They can also be written backwards. An extra word has been added to the list which does not appear at all in the table. Some letters are used twice. There are no prizes for finding all the words, but good luck to those who try. The first word has already been indicated, the others to look for are:-

- | | | |
|------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| ALIEN | CIGAR | HUMANOID |
| ALOFT | CLOSE ENCOUNTER | HYNEK (J. Allen) |
| ARNOLD (Kenneth) | DISC | IFO |
| ATLANTIS | ETH | JESSUP (M.K.) |
| BLUE (Book) | FAST | KEYHOE (Maj. D) |
| (Blue) BOOK | FLAT | LANDED |
| CAR STOP | FLYING | MAGONIA |
| CETI | FLYING SAUCER | MENGER (Howard) |
| MIB | PLUTO | SILVERY VALLEE |
| NICAP | RADAR | SKYWATCHING (Jacques) |
| OBJECT | REAL | STAR |
| OVAL | RESEARCH | UFO |
| PHOTO | REVIEW | UFOLOGY |
| PLANET | SIGHTING | UNIDENTIFIED |

(continued from opposite page)

The Association's present articles do not allow for a ballot system for the election of a Chairman and Council members. To introduce such a system would be expensive and impose a severe drain on BUFORA's limited funds - funds which I know Mr Frost would agree should be used more profitably for financing research and investigation projects

and improving the BULLETIN and JTAP. The AGM does give members an opportunity to voice any criticism they may have on the way in which the Association conducts its affairs, and to ask questions of any of the Directors about their work.

It is certainly my wish that, during 1984, very many more members will come forward to help BUFORA carry out its work. One such way is outlined on the back cover of this issue of the BULLETIN.

