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# BUFORA

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# BULLETIN

## MAIN CONTENTS

One Early Morning In Milton Keynes Jenny Randles	7
Lecture Programme - 1983-84	14
The South Wales Triangles Lionel Beer	17
The Frederick Valentich Encounter - Another Look Paul Norman	19
The Night of the Celestial Illumination Nigel Watson	22

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objects (UFO) phenomena throughout  
the United Kingdom. 2. To collect  
and disseminate evidence and data  
relating to unidentified flying  
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## British UFO Research Association

BUFORA's 21st ANNIVERSARY

1962-1983

Half-day Conference in the Lecture Theatre,  
Kensington Central Library, Campden Hill Road,  
London, W8 - SATURDAY, 24th SEPTEMBER, 1983 - 2.30-6.30pm.

Twenty one years ago US astronauts John Glenn and Scott Carpenter were orbiting in space, the Liberals won the Orpington by-election, Marilyn Monroe died and the snow, which began to fall on Boxing Day, was still falling four months later, producing the coldest winter since 1740. An important event in UFOlogical circles that year was the formation on 22nd September, 1962 of the British UFO Association (BUFORA) which was created from LUFORA (The London UFO Research Organisation) set up in July, 1959 and seven other UK societies viz: British Flying Saucer Bureau (1953); Anglo-Polish UFO Research Club (1955); Tyneside UFO Society (1959); Scottish UFO Society (1959); Stratford-on-Avon UFO Group (1960); the Direct Investigation Group on Aerial Phenomena (1960) and the Crettenham Flying Saucer Group (1961).

The Association was consolidated as BUFORA when it merged with LUFORA in 1964.

The inaugural convention at Kensington Central Library on Saturday, September 22nd, 1962 was an overwhelming success, over 200 delegates attended, many sitting or standing in the aisles, and even then many people had to be turned away. Tickets for afternoon tea were priced at 3s (15p). Inflation has taken its toll since then but the initial enthusiasm of many original BUFORA members has remained and the 21st ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE will serve to bring together many long-standing members and, the Association hopes, encourage new ones to join.

In the last 21 years much has been accomplished and if the early 1980s are, so far, not as ufologically exciting as the late 1960s and 1970s, there is no reason to think that they will not become so. Indeed, 1962 witnessed a similar dearth of UFO sightings which continued until the waves of the late 1960s and early 1970s. On that September afternoon in 1962 some of the classic UFO cases were yet to come; Lonnie Zamora motoring across a dust road in Socorro, Betty and Barney Hill driving down US Route 3 in New Hampshire, Ronnie Johnson in his backgarden in Delphos, Kansas, Robert Taylor stepping into a forest clearing in Livingston.

Delegates at the 1962 meeting were welcomed by Mr G.N.P. Stephenson, Chairman of the host society, LUFORA, who spoke of a new seriousness in the public's attitude to UFOs, and took the opportunity to make a plea for greater co-operation between the appropriate government ministries and UFO societies. The guest speaker, Mr Leonard G. Cramp, author of "Space, Gravity and the Flying Saucer" gave a fascinating lecture on science and the UFO in which he outlined possible methods of propulsion.

The Anniversary Conference will provide not only an opportunity to look back on the classic years and cases but to think about the future progress of UFOlogy itself. The Conference programme contains something of interest to everyone, as the insert with this Bulletin shows. Pre-booking is advisable. Further details can be obtained from Lionel Beer, 15 Freshwater Court, Crawford Street, London W1. (Tel: 01 723 0305)

SEE YOU ON THE 24th!

1983 THIRD INTERNATIONAL UFO CONGRESS

BUFORA's Third International Congress will be held at the Lorch Foundation, Lane End, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire from 27th August to 29th August, 1983. Applications are coming in at an encouraging rate and those wishing to attend can obtain a booking form and details from JOHN SHAW, 5 VARDENS ROAD, LONDON, SW11 1RQ. The names of the Congress speakers, the titles of their Papers and brief details on their backgrounds are given below.

Dr. J. ALLEN HYNEK "An Overview of the UFO Phenomenon" (USA)  
One of the world's foremost international authorities on UFOs. He is currently Scientific Director, Centre for UFO Studies (CUFOS) and President Emeritus and founder member of PICUR (Provisional International Committee on UFO Research).

Dr. HARTLEY RUTLEDGE "Project Identification" (USA)  
Holds the post of Professor of Physics, South-East Missouri State University, Cape Girardeau. His UFO research culminated in "Project Identification: The First Scientific Field Study of UFO Phenomena" published in 1981. His Paper will look at Project Investigation's seven year field study.

PER ANDERSON "Danish Scientists And The UFO Phenomenon" (Denmark)  
Is studying computer science and mathematics at University of Aarhus, Denmark. Joined SUFOI in 1974 and was its Research Director and Vice-Chairman 1979-1982. He is leader of the Danish project UFODATA which handles the electronic data processing of all Denmark's UFO/IFO reports.

PETER WARRINGTON "An Evaluation Of The Evidence For UFO Events From Radar Observation" (UK)

Has been, since 1970, Chairman of the Manchester UFO Research Association and specialises in photographic and radar cases. His research has often been carried out with leading UK scientists. A Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society and co-author, with Jenny Randles, of "UFOs: A British Viewpoint." (Robert Hale 1979).

PETER HILL "An Analysis of Variables In International UFO Reports." (UK)

A member of SIGAP (The Surrey Investigation Group on Aerial Phenomena) and a founder member and first Chairman of PICUR. Until his resignation in April, 1983 he was BUFORA's Director of Research. He has addressed several national and international conferences and is the author of numerous technical papers.

STANTON T. FRIEDMAN Title Not Yet Known (Canada)

Has had 14 years of industrial experience in the design, development and testing of a wide variety of advanced nuclear and space systems including nuclear aeroplanes, fission and fusion rockets and nuclear reactor and radio isotopes systems for space and mobile terrestrial applications. He is a free-lance writer and broadcaster and was technical adviser to Universal Studios on the NBC film "The UFO Incident."

PAUL NORMAN "The Bass Straits Flap" (Australia)

Is Vice-Chairman and Investigations Officer, Victoria UFO Research Society (VUFORS) Australia, MUFON's State Director, Victoria, Associate Member, CUFOS and a member of APRO. He took early retirement in 1976 to devote all his time to the investigation of UFO incidents. He has written for many UFO publications.

BERTIL KUHLEMANN "Measurables And Non-Measurables (Sweden)  
In UFO Research"

Has been closely associated with scientific and industrial research and development for the last 30 years (i.e. radio-activity and its application in industry, semi-conductor research and computer analysis) and has been involved in UFO research since 1961. He is currently the Swedish representative to PICUR.

HILARY EVANS "The Liars And The Lunatics And (UK)  
What We Can Learn From Them"

Has written three books on the UFO phenomenon of which the latest - "The Evidence For UFOs" - was published this summer. He is a well-known lecturer on ufological subjects and is both Council member of the Society For Physical Research and Publications Officer of ASSAP (Association For the Scientific Study of Anomalous Phenomena)

PAUL DEVEREUX "Earthlights" (UK)

Editor of "The Ley Hunter" since 1976. He founded the Dragon Project in 1977 - a research scheme into earth energies and is the author of "The Ley Hunters' Companion" (1979) and "Earthlights" (1982). He has lectured both in the UK and the USA.

JENNY RANGLES "Opening Up The Windows" (UK)

A member of BUFORA since 1969 and since 1981 its Director of Investigations. She established the National Investigation Committee to better represent the different parts of the country in BUFORA's investigative work and drew up the Accredited Investigators' Code of Practice. She has written five books on UFOs, edits "Northern UFO News" is a consultant to "Flying Saucer Review" and lectures and broadcasts widely.

ALI ABU TAHAN "Solar And Extra Solar Life" (USA)  
(Provisional Title)

Is currently a Senior Consultant in communication satellite systems. Among the recent posts he has held have been Director, Middle East Projects Division COMTECH Laboratories and Vice-President, Telecommunications Division AEGIS Inc. His Paper, which will present some very strong evidence for abundant extra-terrestrial life, is likely to cause a good deal of controversy in scientific circles.

There will also be a Paper, title not yet known, by Alec Keul of Austria.

The Lorch Foundation conference hall will seat just 277 delegates so early booking is advisable in order not to be disappointed.

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# NEWS

● BUFORA's Council meeting on 5th February, 1983, Chaired, in Bob Digby's absence by Arnold West, discussed finance and Membership. Like most UFOlogical groups BUFORA is suffering from the recession, lack of UFO interest and a static membership. Letters from individuals not rejoining emphasise that, although they are still enthusiasts, "I am currently unemployed and...." Many of our earlier members remain, but it is increasingly hard to recruit new ones. Council is putting its collective talents together to remedy this situation and to cut costs where possible. The February lecture by Richard Beet on some spectacular sightings investigated by the Surrey Investigation Group on Aerial Phenomena was Chaired by John Shaw.

● BUFORA's officers met on 5th March, 1983 again to discuss finance and membership. Bob Digby was in the Chair and the meeting produced a worthwhile debate. The evening lecture, Chaired by Lionel Beer, was given by Harry Harris, a Manchester solicitor who asked "Hypnotic Regression And Where Now?" There was a disappointingly small audience for this insight into a very complex subject. Video tapes showed PC Alan Godfrey recalling, under hypnosis, entering the craft which he encountered at Todmorden in November, 1980 and meeting there with "Joseph" a tall, bearded man wearing a schoolboy's cap, eight creatures the size of five year olds and a dog resembling an alsatian. We also saw a video of three Shropshire women who, driving home early one morning, encountered a "bright round object with six lights" and later discovered that they had suffered a time lapse. Under separate hypnosis all told a consistent story of a floating, out of the body experience, a medical examination, telepathic communication and aliens wearing green cloaks. The two cases - PC Godfrey and the women - contain striking similarities for all obviously underwent very real, personal experiences. "But what does it all mean?" demanded my companion attending her first BUFORA lecture. If only I was able to answer that!

● Council met on 9th April and 7th May with Bob Digby in the Chair. It received with regret the resignation of Peter Hill, Director of Research due to increased pressure of work and the long journey from Edinburgh to attend meetings. He will continue with research projects for BUFORA. Council thanked him for all his past work and guidance. Peter's successor, Stephen Gamble, was appointed at the May Council meeting.

● The 1983 Congress (just eight weeks away) again occupied Council's thoughts. Details on pages 4 & 5. Those wishing to attend should contact John Shaw. A major part of his time and effort, and that of John Spencer, has gone into organising the Congress and with delegates expected from 23 countries it will be (falling a CEIII in Hyde Park) the UFO event of 1983. Some first rate papers will be presented and Congress will enable ufologists to get together in a relaxed atmosphere to meet old friends and make new ones. This exchange of ideas is vital to any professional body. Council also discussed, at both meetings, the June Garden Party, the 21st anniversary conference and the 1983-84 lectures. A new, central London venue for the latter has been booked and meetings will now begin at 6.30pm. (See pages 14 & 15). Lionel Beer outlined publicity arrangements for meetings and general recruitment purposes.

● Jenny Randles said that her investigations department had received from its press cutting service 60 reports of sightings between January-March, 1983 as opposed to 99 in the same period in 1982. This reflects the downward trend generally, although as Lionel Beer's article shows (page 17) there was much activity in the South Wales/south-west area early in 1983. Council examined its system of exchange publications, UK and overseas and suggested ways it might be rationalised. At Kensington on 8th April, C.A.E. O'Brien spoke on "The Genius of The Few". Leslie Bayer was in the Chair.

CASE 82-01524th March, 1982  
04.45Milton Keynes  
Buckinghamshire.

A preliminary mention of this case was made in the September, 1982 issue of BUFORA Bulletin and it is quite well known thanks to the publicity afforded to it by the national media (e.g. "Beat Cops Have Close Encounter" "The Sun" 25th March, 1982) or the more imaginative local headline "Oi, You Can't Park That Flying Saucer Here - Move It!" ("Milton Keynes Mirror" 31st March, 1982).

Considering the extensive co-operation the police gave to the media (including numerous photographs) and the apparently conciliatory attitude towards BUFORA's investigation on the day of the event, plus the fact that Norman Collinson (a high-ranking police officer with the Greater Manchester CID and an active ufologist) tried to intercede on BUFORA's behalf by talking to the local chief officer in Milton Keynes, it is to be regretted that the police officers involved in this case refused to take part in an investigation. Or rather were refused permission to do so. In a letter to Ken Phillips dated 7th April, 1982 Chief Superintendent Timothy White, Thames Valley Police stated: "The matter has been reported officially to the Air Traffic Control Centre at West Drayton, and that is the only action we take in these matters. Therefore I am unable to accede to your request to carry out an enquiry by interviewing the officers concerned."

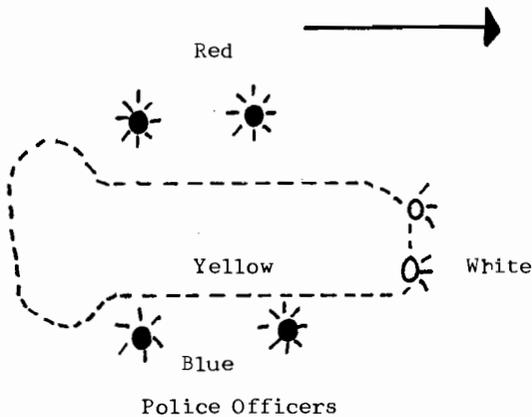
Aside from the disturbing consequences for BUFORA's national standing this attitude is rather puzzling. Why allow the media to have access to the police officers, publish statements which they made and their photographs and yet deny serious investigators even the opportunity of an interview? This paradoxical response has been noted in a number of cases in recent years where police officers were involved. One suspects that a careful investigation is not thought "desirable" by the powers that be to whom the affair is reported whereas media attention will fizzle out quickly enough ... and to deny the media access would actually do more harm than good because if they cry "cover-up" it might have some impact. If ufologists moan about the way they are being blocked by official channels, they will merely appear to be paranoid. Think about that.

Since the testimony of the two police officers involved is what made it important to the media it might be felt that BUFORA has no report to offer, other than a precis of the various statements culled from newspaper reports. Fortunately this is not so. A third witness (a milkman) observed the UFO along with the police officers and he co-operated fully with Ken Phillips. In addition, Ken was lucky enough to discover that his own milkman (who works for a different company in the area and who was a few streets away from the other three witnesses at the time) also observed the phenomenon. He did not report his sighting to the media, and so we have an invaluable independent account. This report is based upon all of the above sources.

Naturally enough the local press gave the best coverage to the story, two featuring front page accounts. Details from national and provincial newspapers ("The Sun", "Daily Mail", London "Evening Standard", and Manchester "Evening News") are added in the following composite version of the police officers' experience.

Sergeant Ian Victory and PC Anthony Underwood were on panda car patrol in the Fishermead district of the deserted city at about 04.40 they estimate.

In the sky they saw some strange lights and were so stunned that they rapidly brought the car to a halt by a roundabout and got out to look up at the slowly moving object. Most versions talk of a 'lozenge' shape, predominantly yellow.



It was emitting enough light to illuminate a 'super-structure' beneath the lights, which were predominantly displayed. Ian Victory, 45, Secretary of the local police federation branch, said "I have no idea what it was ... but there is no way I imagined it." He added "The frustrating thing is that if you told me you had seen something like this I would not believe you."

Tony Underwood was even more talkative (to the press). He said: "It was almost sort of fish-shaped....It was moving very slowly and passed right overhead." He says it was orange-coloured and adds: "I thought I could see a sort of superstructure, like girders on the underside."

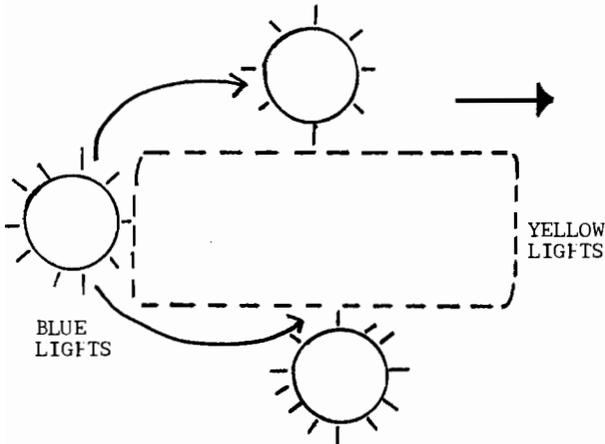
This 'fish' or 'lozenge' shape had lights at the side, variously described as red, white and blue (it seems they were red and bluish/white) It also had two very bright white front headlights which, when first seen, merged into one as the object floated towards them.

The sound made by the object was described in most reports as a quiet humming, but more specifically by Ian Victory as "something like the noise you hear in the engine room of a car ferry, a sort of humming, throbbing sound.

Their police chief superintendent told the press: "These are two experienced officers and I have no reason to doubt their integrity." He said the same thing, in no less unequivocal terms, when Norman Collinson talked to him on the telephone on BUFORA's behalf.

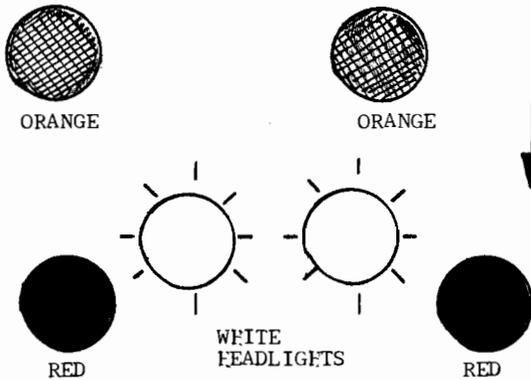
The shape described is actually quite a common archetype and is very reminiscent of what has been termed 'manta-ray' by other witnesses and seems to refer to a very real and repetitive UFO that has materialised at many points over Britain during the past few years. In my book "The Pennine UFO Mystery" (published summer 1982 by Granada) I delve into the background of these cases and it is possible they refer to some experimental type of airship under secret test. The engine noises described by the police officers could be consistent with that. The official stance on this case only makes matters more puzzling.

Let us turn to the testimony we do have first hand. Initially from the milk roundsman, 28 year old Richard Wait. Mr Wait had left the appropriately named "Bleak Hall" depot at 04.30 and arrived at the roundabout at Chaffron Way and Saxon Street at about 04.45. Here he found the two police officers standing by their car and pointing up at the sky. Curious, he stopped his float and was asked by one of the officers: "What do you think that is up there in the sky?" Richard Wait could see a rectangular array of lights of a yellowish hue, plus three blue flashing lights at the edges. He could also hear a faint humming sound. The mass of lights moved off very slowly southwards towards Bletchley, whereupon he exchanged



RICHARD WAIT

until he read the press accounts, and had not felt inclined to report his own unsupported testimony. At the junction of Craffron Way and Marlborough Street, at about 04.45 he noticed two white circular lights, accompanied by two red and two orange lights, moving slowly towards him. They passed virtually over his head but at no point did he stop the float. In view of the noise made by the latter it is not surprising he heard no noise from the object. When he lost the lights thanks to the roof of his cab he got on with his round, merely puzzled but no more, and did not see them again. However, on the last sighting he did notice that the two "headlights" were unusually large.



ALLEN S

this that the object seen was not a normal civil aircraft. Nevertheless, the media were informed "anonymously" and the "Daily Mail" published what it called "expert's" opinion that the object was a "plane seen through mist." There is absolutely no data to substantiate that claim. The anonymous "expert(s)" have not made themselves known.

Virtually every newspaper insists that the Ministry of Defence were informed of the incident and were investigating. The letter from the

personal details with the police officers and continued on his round. He has no idea at all what he saw, but adds: "There was no way it could have been a plane, because the lights were too different and it was moving too slow." (Like an airship perhaps?)

It seems the total time taken for the object to pass overhead and disappear was a fairly certain five minutes, confirming the slow movement. The weather was clear and cold, with a touch of frost.

The independent witness, 26 year old Allen S. was with his milk float about a quarter mile to the east-north-east of the other three witnesses. He knew nothing of their sighting

Ken Phillips undertook all the customary investigation procedures with the following results: Luton Airport; no traffic. Radar traces here correlate with aircraft at 04.03 and 04.20, but there were no radar traces at the time in question. No reports were made to them by members of the public. USAF at Upper Heyford; no traffic after 02.20; and no received UFO reports. RAF Chicksands and Crabfield aerodrome were not in operation at the time.

It seems fairly reasonable to conclude from all

police to Ken Phillips actually says the matter was reported to West Drayton (which is directly tied to the Ministry and is the official destination for all civil and military aerial anomaly sightings. "The Sun" in its usual flamboyant terms said: "... Ministry of Defence chiefs ordered a top-level probe into the lozenge-shaped UFO..." 24 hours after the sighting. (A statement one should treat with some caution!) But they quote a Ministry "spokesman" as saying: "We are making a full investigation." The next day the "Milton Keynes Gazette" reported: "A Ministry of Defence spokesman admitted that they were worried enough for an investigation to be made..." Five days later the other local paper added: "The mystery, however, must remain unsolved. No radar sightings have been reported and the Ministry of Defence have no idea what it was.

That all sounds pretty straightforward does it not? But the very next day the "Milton Keynes Citizen" carried an item entitled "RIDDLE OVER UFO PROBE." This stated: "Investigations into the Milton Keynes UFO have disappeared as mysteriously as the strange craft's appearance... When the "Citizen" contacted the Ministry (of Defence) they said they were never told about the strange occurrence.... A Ministry spokesman said, 'It should have come to us. I am surprised at this. We would have definitely looked into it.' They were further asked what they told the public to do if they sighted a UFO. Their answer: 'We always tell them to contact the police and they will send it to us.'"

So ... what happened between the sighting and the end of March? What about all those statements given by the Ministry to the press about investigations underway? Surely somebody at the Ministry reads at least one of the papers which gave this story headline coverage? Methinks someone, somewhere, has good reason to put the journalists off the scent. How nice and convenient to say "Nothing to do with us because nobody told us about it." I find it somewhat hard to believe that there was no investigation. I am sure that most of you do also. In which case two obvious questions emerge. What did the "investigation" discover that is too sensitive to reveal? Does this, and its apparent denial by the Ministry, have anything to do with the sudden reversal of policy by the police in refusing to allow the policemen to be interviewed by BUFORA?

There are a lot of very good questions still awaiting some very good answers.

But, above them all, remains the basic fact that four people on that early morning 14 months ago, did see something which they could not explain.

It might be wondered why so strange an object was not seen by anyone on the southerly course of this phenomenon. Well.... investigator Michael Lewis followed up a sighting made by a 66 year old lady at New Barnet, Hertfordshire, to the south of Milton Keynes. At 10.30 on the same morning (i.e. in bright sunlight) she saw a very strange object moving across the tops of trees at Hadley Woods to the north. It was round and silvery with blue and red lights on the underside. She tried to attract other peoples' attention to it but it moved slowly away before she could do so. Later she suffered a severe migraine which she attributed to the UFO.



NEW BARNET, HERTFORDSHIRE  
SIGHTING

Whether there is a connection or not here is difficult to say, but in view of the fact that this new case was featured in the local press, and with the enormous publicity given to the Milton Keynes case, it is rather intriguing that there are so few witnesses. But then that does seem to be how the UFO phenomenon behaves!

INVESTIGATOR: KEN PHILLIPS

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## Letters

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From: Mrs Kathleen Smith,  
Freshwater, Isle of Wight.

### Investigation Changes

Sir - I was concerned to read in the BUFORA Bulletin of March, 1982 about drastic changes proposed by the then newly appointed Director of Investigations of BUFORA's investigational system. While there is, no doubt, room for improvement I think it a great mistake to do away with all the present investigators and replace them with only those trained and approved by the director who states "they will be specialising in the more interesting cases - thus not chasing up every light in the sky, but concentrating on the better cases."

This is not an unbiased scientific approach to the subject. The UFO still represents an unknown phenomenon and we cannot pick and choose our material. A team of BUFORA investigators who do just that, who are only prepared to follow up exciting reports are but curiosity seekers, and are of no use to BUFORA and will be violating its aims.

Also, I do not approve of a reduction in subscription fees for investigators. Good work has been done, and is still being done, by BUFORA members who pay the normal subscription. If one joins a club and is prepared to work for it one accepts that a certain amount of expense can be incurred. I would expect the new AIs to think likewise and agree to this.

I can only hope that these sweeping changes do not discourage

too many of our present workers and reduce BUFORA to yet another cult society.

### Jenny Randles, Director of BUFORA's Investigations replies:

When I became Director in late 1981 it was not really a case of "doing away with all the present investigators" because there were hardly any investigators to do away with! The state of the network was most discouraging with very few people investigating in any capacity, and even fewer RICs (Regional Investigation Coordinators).

My first job was to plug the gaps by ascertaining which current RICs wished to continue working with BUFORA (with a promise of better things) and then by recruiting competent investigators from elsewhere whom I could persuade to either join or (in many cases) rejoin BUFORA. This was a slow process and it also involved finding out why they felt disheartened by BUFORA's investigation policies.

From this came the decision to change the emphasis somewhat. We were not in the position of having dozens of enthusiastic investigators, but only about 10! In such a situation it was hopeless to expect to adequately cover the entire UK and some degree of selectivity was essential.

We have been helped (in a round about way) by the lack of UFO reports. RICs have had time to mobilise local enthusiasts and build up their team

of co-operating investigators. This has had some effect, although in a recession people need to be highly motivated to spend hard-earned cash chasing UFOs, and since there are fewer and fewer dedicated people about we lack an unlimited potential for a national network. My appeals through the Bulletin for members not presently in our team but who want to help brought the illustrative (but personally not surprising) nil reply!

One vital thing necessary was to organise BUFORA investigations more effectively and more democratically. It is definitely not the case that new BUFORA AIs (Accredited Investigators) are "trained and approved by the new director." We, in fact, operate a National Investigations Committee (NIC) which has power to make accreditations. I represent NIC on BUFORA's executive as the councillor responsible for investigative matters. The creation of a broader power base, involving all BUFORA members who want to help run the network, is fundamental to the "new initiative."

To date NIC has met in Edinburgh and Manchester after an initial planning meeting in London in November, 1981. It will meet again in August at the 1983 Congress. NIC is made up of RICs each of whom has equal voting rights. But all interested BUFORA members can attend and contribute to meetings, and a few have done so. NIC thus maintains democracy within its ranks and ensures that (as far as possible) its decisions reflect the wishes of the whole investigation network.

RICs can nominate AIs and NIC as a whole votes on them; either under the direction of the relevant RIC or on proof of investigational competence by the candidate producing a case report. Any BUFORA member can apply to become an AI. Those who have not investigated a case are welcome to learn the technique alongside more experienced colleagues and aim for AI status. We have also covered ourselves against the unlikely prospect of discrimination. Should a member feel his chances of reaching AI status are jeopardised because his RIC "does not like him" he may appeal to NIC who will review his case. Ultimately he has right of appeal to BUFORA's council.

We are very concerned with being fair and open with our colleagues, the public and witnesses which is why we have worked

so hard to implement the Code of Practice, which serves to regulate investigators' ethical responsibilities. It is mandatory for all BUFORA AIs to sign it.

It is vital that NICs' work be seen by the membership not just through their attendance at its meetings but by my summarising in the Bulletin its actions and decisions. The membership must know what is happening within BUFORA's investigational structure.

AIs know that in joining a society they must contribute to it. Their lower subscription is simply a cost-effective replacement for the erstwhile system of contributing towards their expenses. This is much cheaper on the membership and provides less of a feedback to investigators. A look at case files shows that many reports take months to investigate and involve travel, phone calls, letters and, finally, a written report of high calibre. A lower subscription is a small compensation and one available to any member willing to do the work.

BUFORA has not forsaken its principles of scientific research - it is striving more fully to pursue them. Investigators spend their spare time on UFOs and they naturally expect to see a reward - not in money - but in the satisfaction of contributing to scientific study or discovery.

Ninety per cent of UFO reports refer to explicable IFOs. Many are low grade LIIS which are probably IFOs (around 95 per cent of them turn out to be) but in rare cases, might be UFOs. Even in the latter instances the value of studying such cases is minimal, and a primary cause of investigator frustration.

It is common sense that we adopt a new direction and urge investigators to spend less time on low grade cases and concentrate on pursuing those which (in their view or that of NIC or BUFORA's research committee) warrant full-scale study. If we allot 10 man days pa to UFOs I cannot see what is unscientific about spending one on recording

basic data (care of RI forms etc) from 100 low grade cases, and the other nine studying (in depth) the half dozen cases which offer hope of scientific pay-off. In my view failure to recognise this in the past accounts, in large measure, for our present lack of progress. This is not to say we ignore low-grade cases entirely. No such directive exists. I would be the first to admit the value of many IFOs.

I do not share Mrs Smith's pessimism that BUFORA might become a cult society. BUFORA is a membership society whose officers respond to members' wishes. I believe we are doing that. But if members disagree they need only let me know. I will certainly listen.

FROM T.W. Clark (SIGAP & BUFORA). Camberley, Surrey.

#### One Of Those Days

With reference to Jenny Randles' article in the September, 1982 Bulletin I would like to make the following points.

1. The location of the sighting (Wootton, Surrey) is an excellent one for viewing Farriers. It is only 10 miles or so from the airfield where they are assembled and test flown.
2. A Farrier can definitely be discounted; they are extremely noisy when hovering and at present do not have after-burners.
3. However, it would be wrong to discount an aircraft because of an apparent lack of noise. Many of today's aircraft are quiet enough not to be heard over the sound of a car engine.
4. We have had two - yes two - airships operating in the Guildford/Woking area at various times during 1982 - however as far as I know their operations took place in the period mid-May to mid-September, 1982
5. We (Air Traffic Control) Farnborough had a UFO report on 13th September, 1982 from a woman in guess where? Wootton! She reported that, to the north, in the Woking area, she could see a silvery/white cigar-shaped object moving slowly west. There was a clear blue sky with visibility of about 15km in haze - sufficient to

fine detail on the airship Skyskip 500 which she had been observing.

6. With reference to Jenny's own sighting some aircraft carry a bright red strobe light nowadays as an alternative to a simple flashing red anti-collision beacon and once again, reduced visibility due to haze could be sufficient to obscure its ordinary navigation lights. It may therefore have been an aircraft - either from Burtonwood or Barton or Woodford etc.

Finally, Mr Mackiell's sighting could, I suppose have been a hot air airship, this would account for the afterburners and the object's sudden disappearance.

From: G. Conway. British Columbia, Canada.

#### Alien Races

I would like to comment on John Paynter's article "Are We Aliens To One Another?" (September 1982 Bulletin).

I think that two other categories of our species merit some attention, or at least recognition. The pigmy deserves a section to himself and within the boundaries of the same continent the Masai stand literally head and shoulders above their neighbours. Two contradictions on the same Continent. Surely worthy of further questions.

Mr Paynter may not be aware of another racial enigma - the North American Indian can lay claim to a blood group possessed by no other race in the world. Very thought provoking.

Mr Paynter's ideas I have seen discussed elsewhere perhaps by the late Ivan T. Sanderson or, more than likely, by Charles Fort. The idea was, briefly expressed, was, I recall "I think we are property."



## MEETINGS

## MEETINGS

### BUFORA's LECTURE PROGRAMME - 1983-84

From 8th October, 1983 BUFORA's Saturday evening lectures move from the premises they have occupied for the last 21 years - Kensington Central Library, W8 - to a new venue, the London Business School, Sussex Place, London, NW1. The School is just north of Baker Street, a five minute walk from the London Underground station there and the BR Marylebone Station. Baker Street station is served by the Bakerloo, Circle, Jubilee and Metropolitan underground lines. London Transport buses 2B, 13, 74, 113, 159 go past the Business School and buses 1, 2, 18, 27, 30 and 176 go from Baker Street. The area is also served by Green Line coaches 707, 708, 717, 732, 757, 758 and 797 and United Counties coaches 249 and 250. The School does not provide car-parking facilities but there are National Car Parks in Park Road and Marylebone Road. Those coming by foot should,

from Baker Street station, turn right up Baker Street against the one-way traffic, to the junction of Baker Street and the Outer Circle of Regents Park. Enter the Outer Circle and bear left. The first block of buildings with a colonnade is Clarence Terrace. The second is Sussex Place, the School with its Regency domes. Between the Terrace and the School there is an entrance of pedestrians (and goods traffic) and on the right of this there is a small ramp for pedestrians only. This leads past a secondary entrance, through cloisters, to the revolving doors at the main entrance to the School.

BUFORA's Council have inspected the new premises and feel that members will be well satisfied with them. They are comfortable, spacious, centrally located and ideal for BUFORA lectures.

The latter will now start at 6.30pm and end at approximately 9.30pm.

24th September, 1983: 21st Anniversary Conference at Kensington Central Library. This will be BUFORA's last meeting at Kensington.

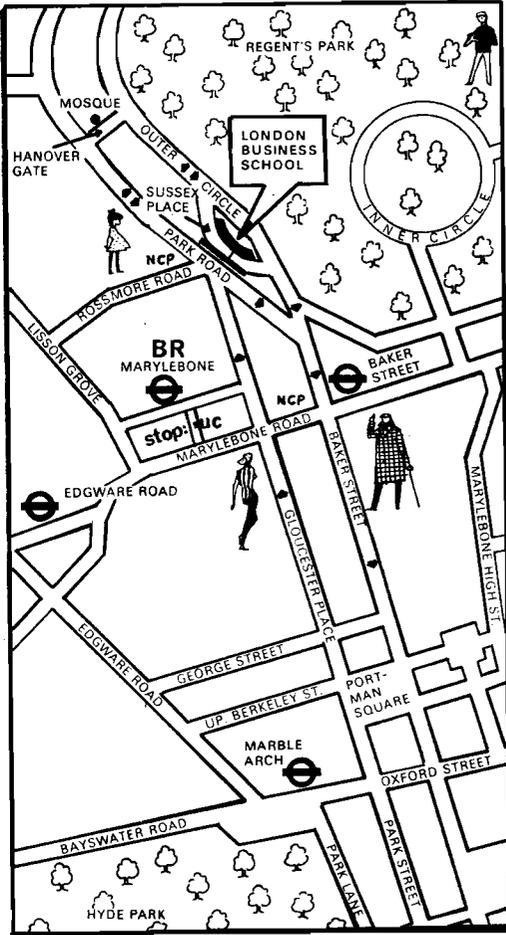
#### 8th October, 1983:

UFOs AND PALUCINATIONS. Dr. Sue Blackmore. Dr. Blackmore is currently at Bristol University. She has a degree in Psychology and Physiology and a PhD in Parapsychology. Dr. Blackmore is the author of "Beyond The Body" and is currently researching out-of-body experiences.\*

#### 12th November, 1983:

#### US INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES AND UFOs

Timothy Good. Mr Good is one of the UK's leading ufologists and is co-author of the recently published book "George Adamski The Untold Story."



## MEETINGS

## MEETINGS

His talk will contain hitherto classified documents obtained under provision of the Freedom of Information Act (US) showing how seriously the US government intelligence services take the UFO subject.\*

10th December, 1983:

AGM followed by TAKE ME TO YOUR LEADER.

Jenny Randles

BUFORA's Director of Investigations traces the history of the contactee from the earliest cases to date and will explore in some detail what aliens say.

4th February, 1984:

BRITISH FIREBALL SURVEY: THE FIRST FOUR YEARS.

John Mason

John Mason is Assistant Director, Meteor Section, British Astronomical Society and adviser to the International Astronomical Union. He is currently studying at London University for his PhD.\*

3rd March, 1984:

THE LOCH NESS MONSTER. A CASE TO ANSWER

Adrian Shine

Mr Shine is Head of the Loch Ness and Morar Project which, since 1979 has been investigating Loch Ness using underwater television cameras and sonar equipment. His talk will explain the methodology of research with its extension into the field of the paranormal. It will be interesting to compare the Project's research and investigation methods with those of ufologists since both rely on witnesses and photographs.\*

7th April, 1984:

RELIGION AND UFOs.

Jeremy Lockyer

Jeremy Lockyer, a local government officer, is a member of the Baha'i faith and his talk will make special reference to the messages given to mankind by the Great Messengers of God and UFO occupants. The talk will also examine leylines, life after death and the nature of religious experience.\*

5th May, 1984:

THE GENIUS OF THE FEW

C.A.E. O'Brien

Mr O'Brien will be enlarging on his April, 1983 lecture and carrying his argument a step further. He believes that "sages" were on earth as teachers between the 8th and 3rd Millennium BC - evidence for which can be found in Sumerian cuneiform tablets, Hebraic documents and an alternative translation of Genesis.

2nd June, 1984:

DENIZENS OF DARKNESS - The Problem of So-  
Called Space Visitors and Oriental Theories  
of the Wheel of Time

Lt.Col.Stephen Jenkins  
ID.,MA.,FRGS

Retired from Alleyne's School in 1982 Stephen Jenkins is writing episodes of time travel in the guise of science fiction. He will compare tales of UFO entities with the Buddhist teaching of Figt Asia. \*

\* ILLUSTRATED LECTURE

Have you remembered  
to renew your subscription?

MEMBERS SHOULD RETAIN THESE DETAILS  
FOR THE COMING SESSION SINCE THE  
USUAL MEETINGS BOOKLET IS NOT BEING  
DISTRIBUTED ON THIS OCCASION.

## BOOKS

UFOs African Encounters. Cynthia Hind (Gemini Paperback 236pp). Published Harare, Zimbabwe. (Available from: L.E. Beer, 15 Freshwater Court, Crawford Street, London W1., and J.N.N. Nield, Old Bakery Cottage, 45 Freehold Street, Lower Keyford, Oxfordshire. Price £3.25.)

Cynthia Hind's interest in UFOs goes back to 1968. Since 1981 she has been International Co-ordinator for Africa for Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) and is considered the leading authority on UFOs in that part of the world. "UFOs African Encounters" although extremely expensive for a modest paperback, should be on the bookshelf of all ufologists; if only that they should know what has been going on in that part of the world. Certainly UFO events in Southern Africa receive, as far as I know, little or no coverage outside specialist journals.

The two cases reported by Mrs Hind which readers are likely to find of particular interest are Jan Breytenbach's 1972 CE2 encounter at Loxton, Cape Province and the CE11 experience of Mrs Meagan Quezet and her 12 year old son at Mindalore, 26 miles from Johannesburg in 1979. The latter involved a 20-30 minute time loss which, under a period of regressive hypnosis, Mrs Quezet accounted for by a meeting with an entity who tried to persuade her to enter the craft. The author describes the case as one of the most interesting cases found in South Africa - which it certainly is.

Mr Breytenbach's case is marginally less sensational but is equally interesting with the UFO leaving traces in the form of marks and a grey-green granular substance. Breytenbach, a small-holding farmer in a remote hamlet knew little, if anything, about UFOs, yet his description of the craft and its occupants is uncannily similar to those found in many of the classic and widely reported stories.

The book also looks at the very curious case of a ruined tennis court at Rosemead, Middleburg, the Silver Men of Groendal Reserve, Eastern Cape and some other UFO sightings in Namibia, Madagascar and Mombassa.

A book of great interest to the serious ufologist.

The Catalogue of UFO Periodicals.  
A Said of Saucers publication. 281 pp.

Tom Lind has produced a very useful catalogue of all known UFO publications throughout the world - some 1400 items in all. It is an invaluable reference source and shows how much time, energy and money has been devoted to recording UFOs. It is one of the perils of such an exercise that so much changes within a short time. Although published in July, 1982 its references for BUFORA were, by then, already outdated. The publication is now in our library, and should be consulted by all who want to know exactly what is published, where, its editorial staff and history.

New supplements will be issued quarterly so we have the opportunity to keep the directory as topical as possible now that the painstaking initial research has been done.

Enquiries and copies of the catalogue from Tom Lind, PO Box 711, Hobe Sound, Florida 33455-0111, United States of America.

Without making any quality judgements, 1982 was a relatively quiet year in the UK for reported sightings. However, the level increased during the latter part of the year, and 1983 seems to have started well. For example, Bradford, which has a long history of sightings, had a report on 12th January. Michael Brett of Odsal was waiting on the Manchester Road, when he saw an orange ball of light gliding from the direction of Lidget Green towards the centre of Bradford, and there were other witnesses. On 17th January in South Devon, two 18 year old motorcyclists, Bruce Cowling and Andrew Jarvis saw a large blue firework-like object pass over their heads as they were travelling south from Teignmouth to Torquay. It was about 6.15am, and they thought it was going to land in a nearby field. They were too frightened to stop and investigate. A Denbury (near Newton Abbot) milkman told police he had seen a UFO that morning between 5.30 and 6.00 am. Two skywatchers, James Jeffrey and John Perrett of the Exeter UFO Research Group, were at Haytor on Dartmoor (a good vantage point) and claimed that at about this time some strange things happened to their car although they did not see anything unusual. They allege that five bulbs blew; there was a strange drumming sound, and a lot of static on the car radio. Eric Morris of the Plymouth UFO Investigation Group (BUFORA RIC) said he examined the road between Shaldon and Maidencombe, and found an unusual burnt circular area in a field close

**MILKMAN SEES UFO**

THE unidentified flying object spotted in Torquay...

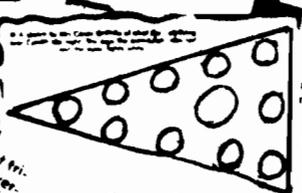
**POLICE PROMISE A SERIOUS PROBE ON GIANT UFO REPORTS**

...two teenagers had an encounter of the... and ear-... from a... land-... year-olds... is growing... of a low-...  
Sightings of the UFO have continued to flood in to South Wales Echo offices, after last night's publication of a sketch of the craft. "I saw two massive lights close together in the sky," said Mrs Jennifer Brooker, 37, of Church Road, Rhoose. "Until we saw the regular reports of people reporting over South Wales. Descriptions of a sighting in Llandudf, Ceredigion, Swansea, made by two people. All say it... shape...

**Sighting by Torbay youths**

**UFOs? It's not what you say RAF**

**What Carele saw over Cardiff**



**AN amazing UFO sighting by more than 200 people is being investigated.**

Among those who spotted the "flying saucer" along a 40-mile stretch of South Wales coastline were two policemen, a class of schoolchildren and a football team.

The sighting—over a one-hour period—is of the best-witnessed ever.

First to spot the huge, triangular-shaped craft...

We stopped playing to watch it," he said. "I didn't fathom out why the lights were so far apart was close perhaps 600-80 feet up. It must have been 300-400 feet across, so it could not be an aircraft. The thing is I really don't understand it. It made no noise."

—Bruce Cowling and Andrew Jarvis

**Lights flashed**

He said: "I saw a large, blue light heading towards the ground. It was wide-tipped and extremely bright. It was about 10 feet long and shaped like the body of a rocket firing."

● THE sketch and headline that appeared with the report in last night's Echo... The first of two Gwent sightings was reported at 8.30pm. Mr John Kee, spotted a wife and daughter... shape...

**Probe into UFO reports in S. Wales**

MINISTRY of Defence experts will investigate a string of UFO sightings reported over...

to where the motor-cyclists claim to have been, but he said there did not appear to be any holes in the ground. Pending further investigation it is tentatively suggested that the blue light might have been a bright meteorite.

The sighting of the month took place over South Wales on Wednesday, 19th January. It was widely covered by the local press, radio and television, and police stations had numerous calls between 6 and 7pm. In fact police were amongst the hundreds of witnesses along a sighting line of up to 80 miles. Place names mentioned include: Milford Haven, Newton, The Mumbles, Skewen, Swansea, Port Talbot, Baglan, Llandough, Cowbridge, Llantwit Major, Wenvoe, Cardiff, Risca, Fairwater and Cwbran. Witnesses saw one or no more than two giant triangular objects flying silently, one larger than the other. The sighting period was between 5.30 and 7.30 pm with earlier reports coming from West Wales although reports suggested that the triangles were moving in various directions. The triangles carried a varying number of lights, some said three - one at each corner - while others said four lights or with lights along the borders. Some said lights were flashing, or some of the lights flashed but not all. Everyone agreed that the objects travelled slowly, one estimate said 30mph. BUFORA member Bill Rich of Llandough and his 18 year old son saw one object and was convinced it was not a meteor nor aircraft. Swansea detective Sgt. Mike Troake said it was massive with a large main cluster of lights at the front, shaped a bit like a Zeppelin, followed by a triangular group of lights, and an estimated 1,000 feet in length.

Twenty-two youngsters at Egwys Wen Primary School, Cardiff, (time not stated) saw one of the objects. Their teacher asked them to do individual drawings, and it will come as no surprise to UFOlogists that they were all very similar. Apparently no unusual activity was monitored by RAF Brawdy nor by Cardiff airport. Incidentally there was a short power-cut in the Kittle and Bishopston area. An unidentified police spokesman hinted at an explanation, by saying that certain activity was going to take place in connection with a meteorological station in west Wales. One reasonable suggestion put forward was a Sea King helicopter, which carries bright "rescue" lights. However due to the size of the objects and the lack of noise over some 80 miles, this seems hard to reconcile with the witness reports. To this writer's knowledge no firm, official explanation has been put forward.

Synchronicity of the month? Fortunately I do not get many sightings telephoned to me direct. Therefore it was a matter of some curiosity when a lady caller spoke of an elongated dark object disappearing into a cloud on Wednesday 6th April, 1983 over Ealing and Hayes, Middlesex at 4.45pm. The weather was remarkably mixed over London that day with rain, hail and lively thunderstorms. Just a plane changing course on the Heathrow approach I thought. Later a Mrs Smith called from Hayes, Kent, to say that she and her daughter had seen a banana-shaped bright white light at 8.10pm from Pickhurst recreation ground. It performed highly unusual manoeuvres in a clear sky before disappearing at high speed.

Could someone be hoaxing at my expense?

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Paul Norman is Vice-President, Victoria UFO Research Society, Australia and MUFON's representative for Victoria. He is also a member of APRO, CUFOS and CAUS and a former member of NICAP

One night during November, 1953, I was called outside to observe an unidentified flying object approach and hover over a power station in Tennessee where I was serving as a superintendent. That same month two military airmen were sent in pursuit of a mysterious flying object. They never returned.

Little did I dream that nearly 30 years later I would be involved, with colleagues, in the greatest mystery in Australian aviation history.

During the evening of 21st October, 1978, a 20 year old Australian pilot Frederick Valentich, disappeared over Bass Strait while flying from Melbourne's Moorabbin airport to King Island, off the coast of Victoria. His disappearance occurred at 1912:28 hours, during the peak of Australia's largest UFO flap.

Since that fatal Saturday evening no trace has ever been found of Valentich or his Cessna 182 aircraft. An official report released on 27th April, 1982, just over four years after this mysterious incident stated: "The reason for the disappearance has not been determined."

This encounter is an example where not only the pilot reported the approach and description of a UFO, as long as he could be heard, but hundreds of people reported a score of sightings that same day and night, many of them at the time the pilot was describing his encounter and in the same location.

Civil and military officials cannot be blamed altogether for ignoring the UFO evidence. Time and time again the scientific community has been called on for assistance to solve the UFO mystery only to mouth the same old slogan: "There is no such thing as a UFO." Thus, the "conclusion" is "probably" Valentich died in a flying accident the cause of which is unknown.

During my travels and correspondence I have come across many false stories regarding the Valentich case. These inaccurate statements come from individuals at home and abroad, many of whom live hundreds of miles from the scene of the disappearance, newcomers to the field, newsmen who have tried to give the incident their own particular twist from a limited knowledge of the case and last, but not least, from people within the scientific community who have concocted a preconceived theory and have then tried to make their ideas fit around it.

These researchers who are familiar with the 1973 Lawrence Coyne case will recognise that the Frederick Valentich description roughly tallies with that of Coyne's helicopter crew. The object in each case was described as having a large cigar-shape and displayed similar manoeuvrability, hovering characteristics and a green light. Coyne and his crew returned to tell their story - Valentich did not.

Frederick Valentich was not the only person who reported a strange object in the sky over Bass Strait on 21st October. Investigators found 50 outstanding reported sightings of UFOs over and around Bass Strait which occurred before, during and after Valentich's disappearance. Most of this information would never have been discovered but for the work of researchers from the Victorian UFO Research Society (VUFORS) based at Moorabbin, the location from where Valentich began his mysterious flight.

The incident was at first treated as an ordinary "lost aircraft"

case. However, a difficulty arose in keeping his disappearance hidden because other pilots flying at the same time were tuned to the same radio frequency. The world first learned that a UFO was involved when one pilot tipped off the press.

We first heard of UFO involvement on the following day, 22nd October and I immediately phoned Judith Magee, President of the Victorian UFO Research Society. We had been members of the Royal Victorian Aero Club for several years and Judith, formerly an airline hostess with wide acquaintance of pilots and familiar with the technical language of aviation circles, was the logical person to go probing aviation personnel for details.

We were the first members to arrive in the club dining room and order our meal. When the waitress returned to the table, Judy asked "What is all this talk about a UFO/aircraft chase?" The waitress replied: "Yes, they had a meeting with some of the pilots. They were told not to divulge anything." We heard later that some of the pilots were flying at the time of the encounter.

As people began to gather the rumours began. Stories and speculation, such as hoax, suicide, secret military mission, stolen aircraft were rife. It was even suggested that Valentich had (a) become disorientated, (b) had joined drug runners or (c) had been murdered. All have proved to be incorrect, unfounded or beyond the scope of this particular young man.

I waited for the appearance of two pilots with whom we had discussed the subject many times. They both had previous encounters and were interested in similar cases. Finally one came and took his seat at the bar. I walked up to him and before I opened my mouth he waved his hand dismissively and said "I don't know a damned thing." He hasn't discussed UFOs with me since.

On Monday, 23rd October, the newspapers in Australia, and the world for that matter, although overseas coverage was not as pronounced, headlined Valentich's disappearance. For three days VUFOR's telephones kept ringing almost constantly. People were wanting to report sightings that had taken place, 10, 15 or even 20 years earlier, but we were trying to keep the lines clear for current reports. To complicate matters the press were demanding all the answers before we had had the opportunity to investigate.

The Bass Strait flap had been building up for over six weeks prior to Valentich's disappearance and UFO activity reached a peak on that weekend. Frederick Valentich was not the only person to report activity on the day of his disappearance. Hundreds of people reported dozens of objects and, in fact, more daytime sightings were recorded than in any flap we have ever investigated. Some of these reports have appeared in VUFOR publications, "Australian UFO Bulletin" and "The Australian Annual Flying Saucer Review" as well as overseas UFO publications.

One of the first attempts to debunk the encounter came from an official spokesman. "The pilot had been flying upside down and had seen his reflection in the water." This hastily prepared "explanation" immediately backfired. The fuel tanks of a 182 Cessna are located in the wings and the fuel flows to the engine by gravity. There is no fuel pump in this type of aeroplane. It will fly upside down for no more than 50 seconds.

Speculation that the strange noise heard on the pilot's radio was that of the aircraft crashing into the sea is incorrect. Due to the curvature of the earth, the radio could not have been heard by Melbourne Flight Service controller, had the Cessna been at sea level. Neither would a crash last for 17 seconds, which was the duration of the noise.

Attempts were made to make the public believe that Valentich

was not at his reported position. Wrong again! Witnesses camped along the Parker River, five miles east of Cape Otway light-house observed his plane turn toward King Island at the time he was radioing that position.

Perhaps the most unscrupulous reporting of the entire event occurred when newsmen misrepresented and misquoted the statements made by the manager of the Bay Pines Motel when Valentich's girl friend, Ronda, asked at the reception desk if a Mr Valentich was registered there. She was looking for the pilot's father, Guido Valentich, but the press distorted the facts and reported that she had asked for Frederick. Consequently this "twist" appeared as a front page "scoop" that Ronda and her friends were to have a rendezvous with the pilot. Some newsmen were busily engaged in making the incident look like a deliberate hoax.

The facts are that friends of Frederick Valentich, thinking that he might have turned back to Cape Otway, the nearest land to his last reported position, were searching for him. The newspapers which published this story have editors who are anti-UFO stories. The misleading reports have never been retracted.

Another false twist introduced into the story was that of suicide. This can be ruled out for a variety of reasons. Frederick was very fond of his girl friend, he was keen to secure his commercial flying licence and he had bought himself some new clothes just prior to his disappearance.

Rumours were also circulated that Frederick was in financial difficulty and that friction existed within his family circle. The precise opposite is the truth. Frederick Valentich had a savings account of A\$2,500 and his father has since experienced difficulty in transferring his son's account to a term account which pays a higher interest rate for Guido Valentich still hopes that his son will someday return.

Certainly Frederick's parents did not approve of his becoming a pilot because of the dangers involved, but apart from this objection, and the normal scoldings that I or any other father give a 20 year old son, the family was a close knit one.

It was also rumoured that the aircraft had been stolen, but if this had been the case the thief would surely have stolen a more expensive one. A thief, had he taken it, would then have had to land it, after dark, on a lighted runway.

No official admission has ever been made that either the Cessna or the UFO were detected by radar. It is documented fact however that hundreds of people reported dozens of UFOs during that day and night and these reports flooded the telephones of radio and television stations, newspaper desks and VUFORS' telephones. Witnesses have been located who observed a blue and white Cessna which matched the pilot's flight plan. Neither was Frederick Valentich the only person who reported a green light at the position where he vanished.

It is a fact that official channels insist there is no such thing as a UFO. Yet military aircraft continue to chase them. VUFORS' researchers will continue to search for the truth behind Valentich's disappearance and the series of incidences which are linked with it.

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Paul Norman will be lecturing on the Bass Strait sightings and the disappearance of Frederick Valentich at BUFORA's 1983 International Congress at Eigh Wycombe, Buckinghamshire.

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On Monday evening, September 6th, 1926, virtually the whole of Yorkshire was treated to a spectacular display by a large fireball entering the Earth's atmosphere. It bathed the countryside in light and startled all who saw it.

In Sheffield it was seen as a flash of purple light which illuminated the whole city and left in its wake a "hoarse murmur" not unlike the rumble of thunder.

A witness in Sheffield reported:

"I was outside at the time, about 9.40 p.m. and the sudden intense glare in the heavens lasting apparently several seconds arresting my attention, I observed high up towards the zenith and in the midst of the glare, what appeared to be a meteor with a long trail of light behind it, travelling fairly slowly, as near as I can say from north-east to south-west. After an interval of several seconds this was followed by a dull distant roar, and having observed the meteor or aerolite, or whatever it was, I imagined that what I heard was the final disruption of the visitor from space by explosion."

Another Sheffield witness claimed that from his home in Abbeyfield Road, he saw the flash emanate from a diamond-shaped meteor.

"There was a purple flash," said the witness, "and I saw the Town Hall illuminated. Then I saw a long tail of brilliant electric sparks, with a ball at the head. It swiftly moved across the sky, and after some seconds, suddenly disappeared."

Not surprisingly, when we consider the short duration of this phenomenon, there are some discrepancies in the witnesses' stories, especially with regard to the direction of the fireball's flight; though the consensus of opinion claimed the object was moving from east to west. Some witnesses said they heard no sound following their sighting, but the majority reported hearing a rumbling sound like thunder.

In Hull, Bridlington, York and Pocklington, windows were rattled by the shock wave generated by the celestial visitor. It was also seen in Nottingham and Lincolnshire, but the most spectacular observations were reserved for Yorkshire.

In Doncaster a witness said that whilst he was:

"Walking down Printing Office street I was startled by what appeared to be a vivid flash of sheet lightning. It was only momentary, but the whole street was lit up in a brilliant flame colour light. The dark outlines of buildings and landmarks stood out in striking contrast against the livid sky. Then a loud fizzing denoted the cause of the mysterious light. Just over the roofs of the buildings, on the left as it seemed, a large round black object was seen bursting into flame and apparently falling earthwards - leaving as it did a trail of flames and shooting sparks. Then a low rumbling noise was heard and all was quiet."

Miners at the pit gates of Armthorpe colliery were puzzled by the fireball and were heard to remark: "It was leetnin'" "It's an electric fuse" another said it was a "verey light let off as a police signal." However, their speculations ended when policemen came to disperse the gathering crowd.

One person was certain that the fireball had some significant bearing on our future destiny." He wrote:

"Before Christ left this world He gave, for the guidance of Christians, indications as to the approximate time of His return. There were to be various signs, which all occurring together at the same period, were to be regarded by His people as heralds of His coming. One of these indications was to be 'signs in the heavens.'"

From this and other accounts it is apparent that this celestial visitor had a tremendous impact on the minds of Yorkshire people who were privileged to see such an uncommon natural phenomenon.

#### SOURCES

- |   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| (1) Sheffield Daily Telegraph               | September 7th, 1926  |
| (2) Sheffield Daily Telegraph               | September 8th, 1926  |
| (3) Doncaster Gazette                       | September 10th, 1926 |
| (4) Retford, Gainsborough and Worksop Times | September 10th, 1926 |

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#### MEETINGS OUTSIDE LONDON

PUFOIC (Plymouth UFO Investigation Centre) welcomes new members to its meetings and publishes a small UFO magazine now called "West County UFO News" 30p per copy (postage included) £1.00 for four issues. Circulations has risen from 25 copies (February, 1982) to over 70 copies at the end of that year so interest in this part of the world is obviously on the increase. PUFOIC was founded in 1978 and further details on its activities can be obtained from its Chairman, Eric Morris who is Regional Investigator Co-ordinator (South West) BUFORA, at 17 Wilkinson Road, St. Budeaux, Plymouth, Devon PL5 1DF.

DICAP (Direct Investigation Group for Aerial Phenomena) founded 1953 meets on the second Friday of the month at the Friends' Meeting House (behind Manchester Central Library) near Albert Square, Manchester. Secretary: Arthur Tomlinson, 24 Bent Fold Drive, Unsworth, Bury, Lancashire. (Tel: 061 766 4560).

(Continued from page 6)

● At the May Council meeting Arnold West resigned as Director of Publications in order to devote more time to his role as BUFORA's Vice Chairman. Council thanked him for his unstinting work over very many years in this difficult and busy post. His successor is John Barrett, the Bulletin's editor.

The evening lecture was Hilary Evans' fascinating account of "The Seven Day Wonder at Cergy-Pontoise" which looked at the alleged abduction in November, 1979 of Franck Fontaine and its bizarre aftermath. It is hoped to report in more detail on this extraordinary case in the September issue of the Bulletin.

JB

often describe how they pass through a tunnel before emerging at their destination. Even Alice had to fall down a tunnel before she got to Wonderland!

What I am trying to say is that maybe the "tunnel and light" experience is a basic built-in feature of the human being - something that happens at both ends of life and occasionally in between, if there is an appropriate trigger. We all share common archetypes that we carry through life and maybe this is one of them.

#### The "Experimenter Effect"

I am of course exempting from this article those instances where physical traces are very evident and the rather more (apparently) straightforward CEIII landing cases. I am thinking more in terms of the family or individual abductions where the participants recall, under hypnosis, similar experiences. There is a definite time-loss, subsequent behavioural changes (often for the better) but nightmares and feelings of unease if not actual malaise, culminating in sessions where the story is pieced together by the hypnotist. This is where I feel the "experimenter effect" may play a very great part and it could well be that a biased hypnotist may quite unconsciously influence his subject along the lines he expects him to go. It has often been noted that in psychoanalysis Freudian subjects report Freudian symbols, Jungian subjects report Jungian symbols. Likewise, anyone studying under a particular religious tradition will generally have dreams appropriate to that tradition.

In this country, we have a cultural background involving "The Little People" and fairy mounds. In the east it is demons and genii and magic carpets. But the UFO abduction seems fairly consistent around the world. Is it due to a vast "experimenter effect" - with UFO buffs unconsciously affecting the more receptive members of mankind, or to the dissemination of space age news, or even collective political/social unease surfacing as bizarre UFO encounters? Dr. Lawson might suggest that it is due to a hormone substance flooding the mother and fetus during birth, called oxytocin. This causes amnesia in laboratory animals. But what would cause someone to be suddenly flooded with oxytocin - especially a whole family?

#### Deep Personal Changes

I remain sceptical of Dr. Lawson's ideas in this direction, and I remain rather doubtful of my own "experimenter effect" suggestions. Until we discover the trigger factor (if there is one) for these happenings, the UFO enigma will continue to baffle us. I personally feel there is very much more to it than birth experiences, experimenter effects, changes of consciousness etc. If Andy Collins' fascinating lecture on the Day family (October, 1982) is anything to go by there seems, at least according to Mr Day, little likelihood that alien spacecraft are coming down and grabbing people, so the experience appears to remain subjective. Even so, it often involves deep personal changes for those involved, sometimes to their good and sometimes to their complete detriment. I suggest that something other than a buried memory could be responsible for such a drastic upheaval in the life of one person - let alone a family.

#### READING

- "Anti-Matter: UFO Update." Alvin F. Lawson. OMI Vol.5.No.1.
- "UFOs - Fact or Fantasy?" Peter F. Warrington. New Voyager. No.1. Autumn 1982.
- "The UFO Handbook." Allan Hendry. Sphere Books Ltd. 1980.

Betty Wood was BUFORA's Secretary from 1967 to 1982.

Accounts of people lured or dragged away by various types of "beings" have been with us from very early times. All cultures have these tales, involving kings and peasants, demons, fairies and gods. I find it difficult to believe that all this time we have just been reliving our birth experiences which, if applied to UFO encounters, should equally be applied to many other instances of "paranormal" abductions, as they share features in common - the feeling of "time standing still" a "journey" of sorts, reception into a brightly lit room and, when freed, an unexplained time-lapse and amnesia.

However, according to Dr. Alvin Lawson, most UFO abduction stories are "loaded with birth images - tunnels, womb-shaped rooms, cervix-like doorways." According to a recent article in "OMNI" when an abductee says an alien's metal clamp held and twisted him, it may be that he underwent a forceps-aided delivery. The long tunnel with a light at the end - the birth canal and entrance into light, with hovering attendants. Do we really remember the midwife and doctor as short, hairy robots? The long tunnel description can also apply to one of the near-death experiences we read so much about nowadays. Does one's type of birth therefore ensure a certain type of death experience?

Many of Dr. Lawson's findings have been garnered from volunteer research subjects chosen, we are told, for their lack of knowledge or interest in UFOs. They are duly hypnotised and told to fantasise a UFO abduction. All interested in this experiment should read the appropriate chapter in Allan Hendry's book "The UFO Handbook" which casts many doubts upon the value of such experiments and outlines the problems associated with the use of hypnosis. It is an extremely interesting but unreliable tool for the UFO investigator. Any one of us could sit down, relax, and fantasise a road accident, for example. But it does not mean that real road accidents do not occur. What would most likely be missing are the strong emotions of fear and horror, and actual injury, mental or physical, which could last for months, and probably recurring nightmares, that can also apply to a UFO abduction victim.

There seems little doubt that most abduction stories do embody an element of fantasy and often include previous medical experiences of the victim. But as a drowning person is said to recall scenes from his earlier life, it may be that under the stress of strong emotion a similar memory arises. Ordinary UFO contact stories certainly have a dreamlike quality about them, or at least there appears to be a change of consciousness - and having heard some most impressive UFO dreams from various people, I sometimes wonder - are UFO experiences dreams, or are such dreams UFO experiences?

#### Dreamtime Helter Skelter

A couple of my friends (not interested in UFOs) have had classic UFO encounter dreams - one even underwent the now obligatory medical examination which, she says, was quite painful. She lived at that time in Wales, near a mountain where strange lights had been seen. Was she influenced by local interest? - she is a psychic "receptive." Another friend with a more positive attitude, had a thoroughly enjoyable dream trip which went into pages of description. Tunnel dreams are also fairly common (without UFO connotations) and I suppose could be a birth memory, but I prefer to think of them as a passage into the unconscious. Some people find them frightening, but I've always enjoyed mine - a dreamtime helter-skelter which is great fun. I hardly think this descriptive of the birth experience. This "tunnel" description, floating etc., and similar sensations can also be applied to many experiences loosely gathered under the paranormal banner - shamans, clairvoyants and so on,

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28.8. 1945	Pacific	15. 6. 1968	Argentina
24.6. 1947	US	7. 7. 1968	US
20.6. 1953	US	9. 8. 1968	UK
23.2. 1954	UK	22. 8. 1971	UK
6.9. 1954	Brazil	23.11. 1971	US
	1955 Atlantic	9. 1972	US
27.12.1955	Australia	2. 2. 1973	New Zealand
12.1957	Atlantic	11. 3. 1973	US
15.12.1957	US	4.10. 1973	US
13. 8.1959	US	18.10. 1973	US
24. 8.1963	Austria	2.12. 1973	France
26. 8.1963	France		Canada
12.11.1963	Atlantic	4. 8. 1974	Australia
1. 7.1966	UK	15.10. 1974	US
13.11.1966	France	24.11. 1974	US
20. 5.1967	Canada	28.11. 1974	US
6.11.1967	UK	12. 1974	Atlantic
	1968 US	7.10. 1976	UK
15. 1.1968	US	17. 2. 1977	UK
24. 1.1968	US	4.10. 1977	
2. 3.1968	Australia	18.10. 1977	UK
4. 3.1968	US	19. 1. 1978	US
24. 3.1968	US	17. 4. 1978	Atlantic
4. 2.1968	US	9.11. 1978	Italy

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## ASSAP GARDEN PARTY

Saturday, 25th June, 1983.

On Saturday 25th June ASSAP (The Association For The Scientific Study of Anomalous Phenomena) is holding a Garden Party at Imber Court Cottage, Orchard Lane, East Molesey, Surrey. A number of organisations interested in earth mysteries, paranormal phenomena, physical research, ufology and related fields, will be arranging displays and giving informal talks. This occasion will be an essentially light-hearted one, avoiding the commercial overtones of some urban fairs and festivals. Equally there is a serious side, as it will provide researchers with an opportunity to exchange views and perhaps talk to visitors with a latent interest in these fields. The event will be open to the public. Refreshments will be available, although visitors are welcome to bring their own picnics to this delightful setting of woods and water.

Organisations wishing to reserve space for their displays (free) and those wishing to attend should send a SAE to David Christie-Murray at the above address or telephone 01 398 2381.

Trains from Waterloo to Thames Ditton and Esher BR stations will be met. Free parking.

### SUMMER FESTIVAL

The Mind Body Spirit Festival, Olympia, London will be held from 2nd-10th July, 1983. Subtitled "The Show For Healthy Living" will be changing direction to take in the increasingly popular areas of natural health and beauty. There will also be demonstrations of vegetarian cookery and natural cosmetics.