

UFO MATRIX

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ISSUE 1

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how to
take better
UFO photos

*The MOD
UFO files*

INTERNATIONAL
UFO RESEARCH

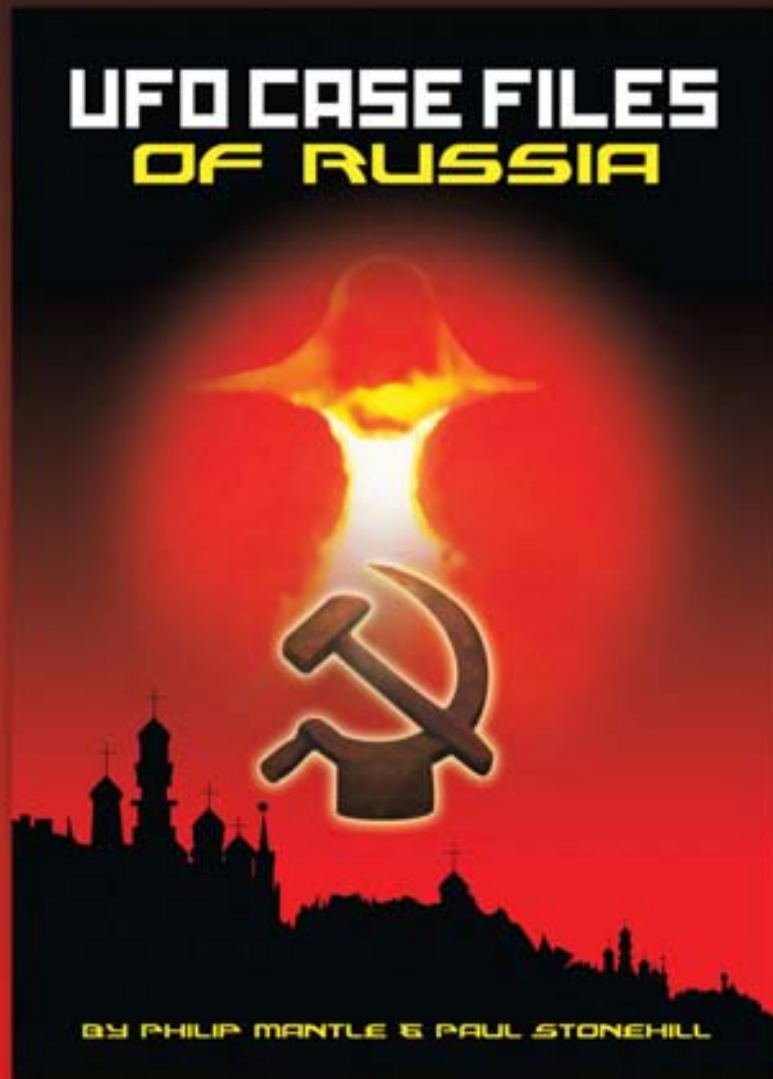
Sightings,
Reports,
Reviews &
Much More

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*A 1916 close
encounter in the UK*

ROSWELL:
The senator and the alien



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UFO MATRIX MAGAZINE



It was June 24th, 1947, when civilian pilot, Kenneth Arnold, was flying his light aircraft near Mount Rainier of the Cascade Mountains in Washington State, USA. Arnold observed nine crescent-shaped objects flying at high speed in a V-formation the likes of which he had never seen before. Arnold later reported the incident to a local journalist, who asked him how these objects moved through the air. Arnold replied, "Like a saucer skipping on a pond. . ." and the modern era of flying saucers was born. Since that day in June 1947 to now, the UFO subject has been debated and discussed by laymen and academics around the world, a debate that still hotly continues.

UFO MATRIX MAGAZINE will bring together an international list of columnists and contributors to provide you with the latest UFO sighting reports, discussions, debates, theories, news, reviews and much, much more. It is our aim to try and cover any and every aspect of the UFO subject as space will allow. We have no hidden agenda and no fixed editorial plan on what we can and cannot cover. Instead, we will endeavour to offer you, the reader, as much information as we possibly can on the UFO subject and allow you to reach your own conclusion. We will not favour any one particular theory as to what UFOs may or may not be, nor will we ignore the research of our colleagues who take a more sceptical stance. The pages of *UFO MATRIX MAGAZINE* are open to anyone who wishes to submit an item for possible publication.

The one thing we do feel strongly about is the importance of UFO study. This is one of the primary reasons for producing this publication. It is to bring to the attention of the general public at large as much information on the UFO subject as possible. We feel that, whatever lies behind the UFO phenomenon, it deserves serious study and debate and to do that it needs to be kept in the public domain. *UFO MATRIX MAGAZINE* is our contribution to keeping the UFO subject in the public eye and, hopefully, adding something to continued UFO research and investigation.

Philip Mantle
Editor

UFO MATRIX



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Nick Pope investigated UFOs for the MoD from 1991 to 1994. Nick's regular column will deal with a whole host of UFO events, utilising his 21 years of experience working for the Ministry of Defence. In this first column, it is the MoD's UFO files that come under Nick's unique spotlight.

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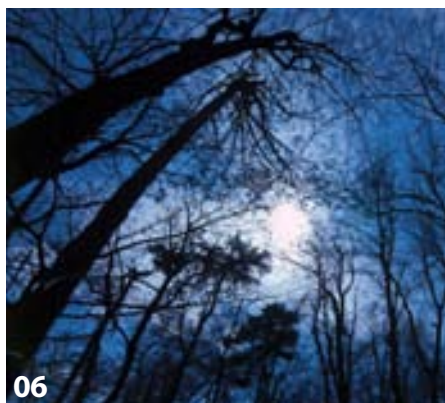
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Former Soviet citizen, Paul Stonehill, now lives in the USA. Paul is co-author of UFO CASE FILES OF RUSSIA. In his first contribution, he looks at a leading Soviet KGB scientist's interest in all things paranormal, including UFOs.

78 AREA 51 WEDDING AND UFO CONGRESS

Dave Hodrien is the Chairman of the Birmingham UFO Society. In February of this year, he travelled to Laughlin, Nevada, to attend the International UFO Congress. Not only did he attend the congress, but he got married as near to Area 51 as he could. A report on both events is featured in full.

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UK researcher, John Hanson, looks back at a curious case from the UK back in 1916.

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Jeff Nisbet has often visited the beauty spot just 20 miles from Edinburgh. In July, 2004, while on holiday from his home in the USA, Jeff took a number of scenic photos. It wasn't until returning home that he realised he may have captured the elusive UFO on film without even knowing it. Here, Jeff looks at these curious photographs.

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Here, we look at the latest reviews of books and UFO related products.



AND NOW THE NEWS...

Welcome to the very first *UFO Matrix Magazine* news round-up. In this section, we'll take a look at the big UFO news stories that have made the headlines in the past couple of months. Ufology is often painted as a 'dead subject', but reports keep coming and strange things are seen in the skies on a surprisingly regular basis.

UNDOUBTEDLY, THE BIGGEST, RECENT NEWS STORY wasn't necessarily focussed on UFOs. It was Professor Stephen Hawking's comments regarding any possible contact with an extra-terrestrial race. In his Discovery Channel TV series, *Into the Universe with Stephen Hawking*, the astrophysicist said, as reported by the Australian *Sunday Herald Sun*: "Such advanced aliens would perhaps become nomads, looking to conquer and colonise whatever planets they can reach. If aliens ever visit us, the outcome could be much as when Christopher Columbus first landed in America, which didn't turn out very well for the Native Americans."

Reacting to this alarmist viewpoint, ufologists came forward with their own views.

Steven Greer told *AOL News*: "As a scientist, he should know better: Any interstellar civilization would possess such technologies that the meager resources of Earth would be unnecessary. If you can travel faster than the speed of light, you can manifest what is needed. Period. Moreover, if they were hostile, since ETs are already visiting Earth this would have been made crystal clear when we detonated the first atomic weapon in 1945. To date, no place on Earth has been invaded or attacked or colonized."

David Jacobs agreed with Hawking, telling *AOL News*: "I agree with Hawking, they would be threatening species and they are probably far more advanced than we are. There have been many occasions where people coming

into contact with aliens have been harmed. One case in Brazil comes to mind where the person was killed in a horrific manner being skinned and had various body parts removed via some kind of laser."

At least it generated publicity for his television show...

MORE RECENTLY, another story emerged, also leaning towards the 'aliens are coming' outlook. The distant *Voyager 2* probe has, according to NASA, started sending back peculiar signals in an unknown data set. The German newspaper, *Bild*, quoted Hartwig Hausdorf, an alien expert, apparently, as saying: "It seems almost as if someone had reprogrammed or hijacked the probe –



AND NOW THE NEWS

thus perhaps we do not yet know the whole truth..."

Speaking in *Spaceflight Now*, NASA scientist, Dr Edward Stone, said: "The telemetry comes down in a certain format. For some reason, that format changed, which means that the flight data system computer was no longer formatting properly." He went on, "All I can tell you for sure is the engineering mode and the data is coming down just fine. That tells us the computer is working fine and that certainly gives us some confidence."

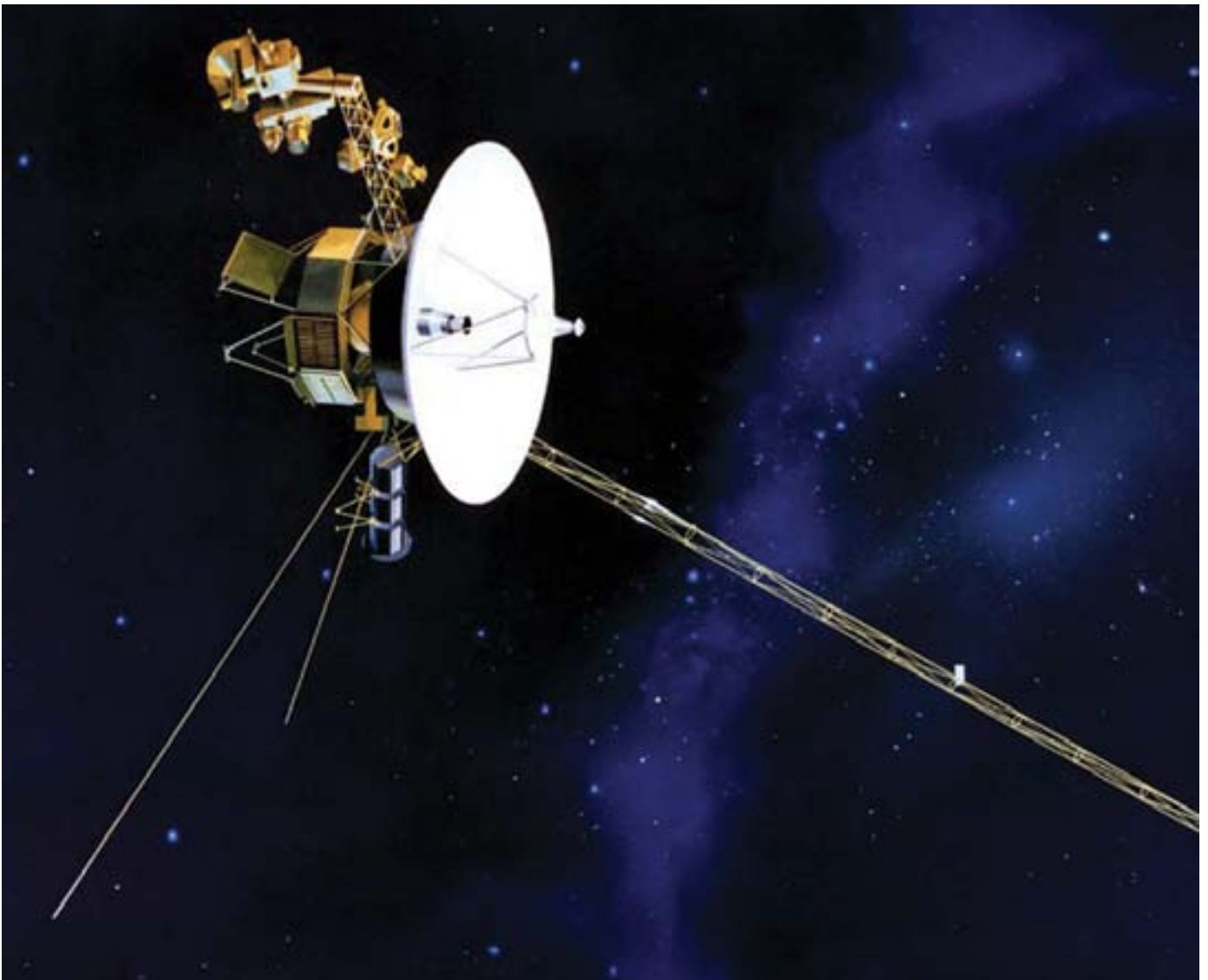
IN THE UK, WE GOT A NEW GOVERNMENT!

Our new Prime Minister, David Cameron, said, way back in January, 2009, that he would be frank and open about UFOs. Speaking in Tyneside, he told members of a public audience, as reported by the *BBC*, "I have no idea there is intelligent life out there and no idea whether any of the sightings which have

taken place or whether any incidents which have taken place have any basis in truth." He added, "But I think we should be as open as possible, so I would be quite happy to give you a guarantee that if I became prime minister I would always be entirely open and frank about these things. I don't think any of us have any clue whether there's intelligent life out there and it is certainly not something that any government should seek to hide from anyone."

I won't hold my breath!

Speaking of the new government, both the Conservative Party and the Liberal Democrats supported blocking the extradition of UFO hacker, Gary McKinnon, to the United States. Speaking to the *Daily Mail*, Gary's mum, Janis Sharp said: "He [Nick Clegg – LibDem leader and new Deputy Prime Minister] has been one



of Gary's most passionate and outspoken supporters and always said he would not extradite him. It would be a great and honourable start for them and it will show the public that we have finally got politicians who will stand up for justice and civil liberties." [Since writing this, the coalition government has gone back on its word and Gary may yet be extradited to the US!]

MEANWHILE, IN RUSSIA, one of its politicians decided to tell the world about his meeting with yellow-suited aliens. Here's what the *Daily Telegraph* reported:

"Kirsan Ilyumzhinov, the President of the republic of Kalmykia, made the extraordinary comments on Russian state TV last week, claiming he spent several hours in the company of aliens in 1997.

"He said he was relaxing at his Moscow apartment when he heard his balcony door being opened and someone calling him. "I went there

and looked. There was a semi-transparent pipe. I went into this pipe and saw people in yellow spacesuits."

"He claims to have communicated with the aliens/humanoids through brain waves. "I was shown around their spaceship," he said with no apparent sign of irony, adding that the aliens explained that they were collecting samples. "I would probably have not believed this if there had not been three witnesses – these were my driver, a minister and my assistant."

ABC News added: "Now a Russian parliamentarian wants Ilyumzhinov questioned, fearing he may have given the aliens "secret information," according to the *Echo of Moscow* radio station."

But what about actual UFO sightings? I've been waffling on about space probes and elections and nutty Russian politicians, but have any actual UFOs been reported? Of course there have! Here are just a few of the ones that caught my beady eye:

PAT REGAN, OF THE NORTH WEST UFO RESEARCH PROJECT, told the *Lancashire Evening Post* (1st April, 2010) that he was followed home by a UFO. The paper reported: "He spotted a pale orange/white light and slowed his car down to watch the strange

object as it seemed to hover motionless. He said: "My first consideration was that this must have been one of the ubiquitous Chinese lanterns that are so popular these days. However, as I picked up speed and kept glancing out of my right side window, I noticed that the object rose in altitude and seemed to be keeping pace with my car. It was as if it was following me but keeping its distance." Pat said the UFO continued to travel above the right hand side of his car as he got closer to his home, on Brook Road, Ainsdale.

"It was quite calm but as I was walking back to my door a strong gust hit me in the face – from the South West. If what I

"He and members of his 15-strong team saw the UFOs at work as they spent a night at a Welsh hill farm monitoring the skies around the Radnor Forest.

"The spheres not only fired mysterious rays but sent out smaller versions of themselves, which he believes performed the grisly experiments.

He said: "The technology involved in these attacks is frightening. These lights and spheres are clearly not ours. They are built by technology and intelligence that's not from here."

STRANGE LIGHTS IN THE SKY were reported in the Isles of Capri in Florida. Bright, white lights were seen over the water by

numerous witnesses in early April. Fire-Rescue Chief, Emilio Rodriguez was reported as saying to a fellow eyewitness in the *Marco Island Sun Times*: "There is a strange ball of white light that drops down from

“The Howard Springs resident said she watched the UFO for about three or four minutes, together with her partner and his 16-year-old son, before the object took off into the night. “It veered off at a right angle, then in another direction, then just shot off at a great speed (and) disappeared.”

witnessed was a lantern it had hovered, and then travelled some eight miles at good speed against the prevailing wind."

UFOS ARE MUTILATING SHEEP, according to Phil Hoyle of the Animal Pathology Field Unit. Speaking to *The Sun* on 5th April, 2010, he said: "Animals are being clinically and surgically sampled by a highly advanced technology." The newspaper went on:



the sky out of nowhere and then just hovers for a long time, finally dropping out of sight."

MUFON state director, Morgan Bealle, said on 13th May, 2010, "This Capri case is very credible and very interesting. It cannot be explained at this time, and so for now I am calling it unidentifiable."

THE NORTHERN TERRITORY STATE OF AUSTRALIA has seen a spate of UFO sightings hit the headlines Down-Under. The *Northern Territory News* reported:

"The first sighting was reported by a woman who wanted to be identified only as Shirel on April 21. She said she saw the strange lights from her Humpty Doo home hovering over Howard Springs. "The lights were really low in the sky, really bright, with flashing dots," she said. "Three of them formed a semi-circle and they hovered over the area for at least half an hour."

Another article told of Susan Clarke's sighting: "The Howard Springs resident said she watched the UFO for about three or four minutes, together with her partner and his 16-year-old son, before the object took off into the night. "It veered off at a right angle, then in another direction, then just shot off at a great speed (and) disappeared."

ONE OF THE ODDEST STORIES came from the North-East United States, when a New Hampshire teenager claimed a UFO picked up the car in which she and her boyfriend were parked. *The Citizen of Laconia* told us: "[Officer] Adam Batstone responded at 12:17 a.m. on March 21 to the residence of Linda Dutile where he made contact with her daughter, Emily Moore, 18, and Moore's 16-year-old boyfriend.

"Moore, Batstone wrote, was "very upset" and told him that, a short while earlier, she and her boyfriend had been parked at Opechee Park in her mother's Ford Focus, looking out toward the lake, when "all of a sudden a dark object started to float across the sky in front of them."

"The object passed over them and returned, Moore said, and, when she and her boyfriend attempted to put the car in reverse, "the vehicle started to shake violently and the windshield smashed as though something had hit it and the air bags went off."

There was no one around, Moore stated, and, upon questioning by Batstone, she said a bird had not struck the windshield.

"They never saw anything actually strike the car, they just saw the dark object in front of them, heard the windshield smash and the car shake violently and all of the sudden it felt like the car had dropped back down into the parking space. Moore said that she knew it sounded impossible or incredible, but that's what happened," said Batstone."

There have been claims that the story is a hoax, as the couple's story goes on to suggest that some sort of abduction event might have taken place. The owner of the Funsport, where they were parked, denies the incident happened. The National UFO Reporting Center (NUFORC) is investigating the claim.

AN OBJECT IN A PHOTOGRAPH taken in Scarborough, North Yorkshire, has people scratching their heads. The *Scarborough Evening News* takes up the story:

"The mystery object appears in just one frame and appears in no other photo, or in any other taken at the same time around Betton Farm. No aircraft were seen or heard. The small black spots on the photo are dust on the camera sensor.

"Evening News reader Russ Kellett has come forward after seeing the image and said he believed the object could well be a UFO.

"Mr Kellett, who is vice-chairman of the British Flying Saucer Bureau, said: "When I first saw the picture I thought it was a fighter jet



banking to the right, but the problem is that the object looks to have three parts to it. There seems to be a main fuselage and then two spheres either side of that and the sphere on the bottom seems to be blocking out the electricity cable. It can't be a trick of the light because it is covering the overhead cable and the object appears to be almost the length of the car that is also in the photo."

That's it for this issue. Obviously I don't have the space to cover all the UFO-related stories that crop up and if I missed out any that you thought deserved column inches more than my pick of the bunch, I humbly apologise.

See you next time and *Keep Watching the Skies*. I can't believe I typed that!

Steve Johnson



Steve Johnson: (UK) UFO MATRIX News Editor. Steve Johnson is from West Yorkshire. He was a feature writer and

reviewer for *UFO DATA Magazine* and chief forum administrator. He has published three science-fiction books and his website can be found at www.mercuryrapids.co.uk.

As this is the very first issue of *UFO MATRIX MAGAZINE*, we thought it important to look back to where the subject of UFOs actually began. It was, of course, with Kenneth Arnold, way back on June 24th, 1947. Very few UFO researchers around today ever had the opportunity to meet Kenneth Arnold, but the late Bob Pratt did, at least, manage to interview him on the phone. We offer here an edited version of Pratt's discussions with Kenneth Arnold, which serve as a fitting reminder of where it all began.

Conversations with Kenneth Arnold

By Bob Pratt

UFOs have been around for more than half a century, if not many centuries, but the "Age of Flying Saucers" didn't start until 1947.



On the afternoon of June 24th that year, an Idaho businessman and private pilot named Kenneth Arnold was flying in his single-engine

plane near Mount Rainier, in the state of Washington, when he saw nine strange objects flying through the sky.

They were at about the same altitude as he was, 9,500 feet, perhaps twenty to twenty-five miles away. Every few seconds, he said, "Two or three of them... would dip or change their course slightly, just enough for the sun to strike

them at an angle that reflected brightly on my plane." It was the flashes of sunlight that caught his attention.

At first, Arnold assumed they were military jets because of their speed, which, judging the distance between two peaks and noting the time it took for them to pass from one to the other, he calculated as more than 1,500 miles an hour. But they were weird-looking, somewhat like flat pie pans and didn't seem to have tails. They were so strange that, after landing, he told some pilot friends about them.

Then he went to an FBI office to report what he'd seen, but the office was closed. So he went to a newspaper office, where he told a reporter what he had seen and reportedly said the objects "flew like a saucer would if you skipped it across the water."

That phrase was included in a story that was sent out over the wires of the Associated Press and, within two days, the nation's press was talking about "flying saucers" and the "Age of Flying Saucers" began.

Life was never the same again for Arnold. Very soon, he began getting phone calls from all over the country. He was ridiculed in the press and was the butt of some bad jokes. However, many people took him seriously, including pilots who had seen similarly unexplained aircraft.

I never met Kenneth Arnold and most of what I know about him comes from the internet. He died in 1984, but there are ufologists still active today who did know him. Still others have analyzed his June 24th, 1947, sighting (later on he saw UFOs on several other



UFO cases over the years and many military and civilian pilots have come to him to tell him their stories. He has many strange stories to tell, including the following.

“Arnold still flies, still investigates sightings. He is still in his sixties and he’s a businessman and his letter to us is an offer to negotiate for the right to publish portions of his book, *The Coming of the Saucers*, published in 1952. I have read portions of it and it is pretty interesting.”

The negotiations with Arnold eventually fell through, but I don’t remember why. It may have been because of money. Arnold estimated he had spent about \$30,000 of his own money on UFOs in the thirty years since his 1947 sighting and he felt that his book was worth at least that much. It is possible that my editors didn’t agree, although

gotten so goddamned complex that nobody really gives a (bleep) whether it’s solved or not,” he told me. “They’re only interested in making money.”

Later, he also said: “There is a bunch of nameless, faceless people, that are a lot higher than the government, that are saying, ‘Look, chum, you shut up!’ And they’re talking to your publishers and there isn’t a publisher in thirty years that’s got the guts, goddammit, to get out and say what they ought to say. And that’s just the way I feel about it.” He also believed many newspapers and magazines had distorted his views.

Arnold had no doubt that UFOs were real. “I think this is probably the greatest discovery in the world or the greatest discovery of consciousness in the world and there’s not going to be an end to it,” he said. “It’s coming, it’s coming all the time. If I can tell by my phone calls and by the stuff that people keep sending me from newspapers all over the world, I know damned well it’s pretty cockeyed important.”

Arnold was born on March 29th, 1915, in Subeka, Minnesota, grew up in North Dakota, graduated from the University of Minnesota as a chemical engineer and later learned to fly. Eventually he moved to Boise, Idaho, where he owned a business.

For some years, he flew in his plane from one town to another in five western states, selling and installing automatic and manual fire fighting equipment. It was on one of these trips that he saw the nine crescent-shaped objects. That came about because, about six months earlier, a Marine Corps C-46 transport plane, with thirty-two men aboard, crashed into the southwest side of Mount Rainier and had not been found. The government had offered a \$5,000 reward for the discovery of the

occasions) in minute detail and this information is available on the internet. There are more than 11,000 websites devoted to Kenneth Arnold or mention him in some way.

Although I never met him, I did talk with him by phone several times in February and March, 1978. He had sent a letter to the *National Enquirer*, offering to sell the right to re-publish portions of his book, *The Coming of the Saucers*, which was first published in 1952. The letter was passed on to my editor, Bill Dick, who was then in charge of UFO stories, and he asked me to check it out. [Of the half dozen or so editors I worked for, Bill Dick was the only one who wholeheartedly shared my belief that UFOs are real.]

After my first phone call to Arnold, I submitted a memo to Bill saying:

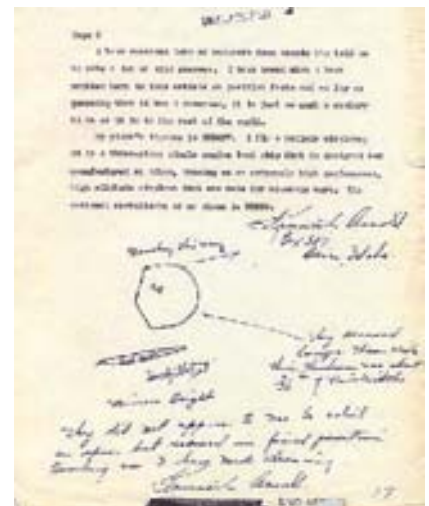
“Kenneth Arnold’s sighting of nine crescent-shaped UFOs on June 24th, 1947, is the granddaddy of all flying saucer cases and was the beginning of the ‘modern’ phase of the phenomenon. His story has never been told in the *Enquirer* before, but he is now willing to talk to us. Since then, he has had six or seven other sightings and has photographed UFOs on two occasions. He has investigated hundreds of

the *Enquirer* had sometimes paid much more than that for other stories.

Arnold had also suggested that his book be published in serial form, maybe a chapter a week, and it is also possible that the editors didn’t feel his book was worth so much coverage. In those days, brevity was one thing nearly all *Enquirer* stories had in common. Most of them never ran more than a thousand words.

The deal may have fallen through for some other reason. Arnold had a really strong dislike of most newspapers, magazines and reporters and he might have felt the *Enquirer* was jerking him around. At that time, the *Enquirer* was the only publication of mass circulation paying any attention to UFOs and Arnold told me he liked the way we treated the subject. For much of the time that he and I talked, my editor, Bill Dick, was in Russia and no negotiations could be conducted until he returned. Bill was the only other staff member, besides me, who knew about Arnold’s offer. He died some years ago.

Despite Kenneth Arnold’s feelings about the press, he was always polite and civil to me. But it was clear that he thought most newspapers and magazines didn’t have the courage to tell the public the truth about flying saucers. “It’s



wreckage and recovery of the bodies.

Arnold was a member of the Idaho Search and Rescue team and had participated in aerial searches before. On the afternoon of June 24th, 1947, the day of his sighting, he took off from an airport at Chehalis, Washington, and headed for Yakima, Washington, about one hundred miles to the east. En route, he detoured a little to the north to fly over Mount Rainier and look for the crashed plane. Kenneth Arnold was an outspoken man given to salty language.

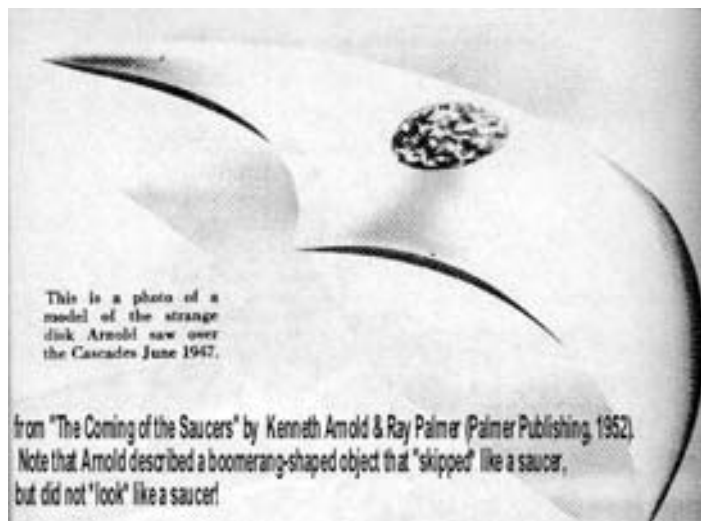
After his 1947 sighting, hundreds of people contacted him, so much so that his business suffered for a while. Virtually every time he flew into an airport, people were waiting to talk to him, taking time away from his work. Some of the stories that people told him were more bizarre than what he saw on that flight near Mount Rainier. In our conversations, he mentioned those incidents and some of his personal experiences.

Among other things, he talked about the military cutting out forty-two frames of a film he took of two UFOs that flew under his plane and claimed there was nothing on the film, the fact that he believed military and airline pilots had been silenced under threats of fines and imprisonment, that the crew of two airliners going in opposite directions saw seven UFOs between them and that UFOs might have been able to read his mind.

Here are excerpts from three phone conversations, each lasting about forty minutes, that I had with Arnold.

INTERVIEW FEBRUARY 6th, 1978

PRATT: ... Isn't it true that after (the 1947 sighting) occurred that a lot of people got in touch with you when they had sightings and told you about their own cases?



ARNOLD: Yes. In fact, I was kind of by myself in a way, outside of the airline boys and all the ones that were able to talk at that time. And most people, particularly pilots, would call me and say, "Well, we joined your club... We saw so many and such and such and it looked like such and such and so on." And it was kind of a basis of where even military personnel here, some of the boys out here at Mountain Home (Air Force Base), fighter pilots, have seen them and they've never said anything to anybody, but they'd come and talk to me because they felt at least I was going to be sympathetic.

PRATT: Yeah, right.

ARNOLD: Now we had a very responsible pilot here [Boise, Idaho] who runs the Nampa Flying Service, named Harry Clark, a very respected person who saw seven of these things. They were rather triangular-shaped (and they) went under the wing of his plane between Nampa and the mountains between Boise and Mountain Home. They were going from west to east. He wouldn't even give his name, but (the newspaper) wrote up his whole story and, finally, Harry admitted to me that he was the one. He was quite shocked. The funny (thing) was that, one time, I landed my plane over there, and we were friends, and he said, "Oh, so you're the guy who sees funny things in the sky." And after he saw (them) he fidgeted around and fidgeted around and I said, "Well, draw me a picture of it, Harry." A lot of incidents like that did happen...

DEVIANT INTELLIGENCE AGENTS

ARNOLD: I've been bothered by busybodies, intelligence (people) and this type of thing. They're friendly for three or four years and then, apparently, they refined their approaches. Most of these people have come to me under various, well I wouldn't call it disguise, I wouldn't exactly say that, but they ask a bunch of stupid questions and then, all of a sudden, ask a question that I know that they couldn't possibly have asked if they weren't pretty



familiar with what the military was trying to do. It's like they all went to the same school...

PRATT: Did you tell me that the military tried to discredit you?

ARNOLD: No. The military that I was associated with, Captain William Davidson, Lieutenant Frank Brown, I later learned after meeting with them, after the accident, that Lieutenant Brown was a counter-espionage agent. And that he actually worked out of Mitchell Field, New York! This wasn't known to me. He was just an A-2, you know, Air Force intelligence. But these were the people who were very gracious and kind to me. But they also said at the time, when I was asked to (speak) by the Knife and Fork Club people... he said, "You let us take care of it, Ken, and don't expose this subject... Don't offer yourself for exposure or we would advise you not. Of course, you can do as you please." But he said, "I think that you will regret it." In other words, they do things like this and, all of a sudden, when you get this offer and that offer to appear some place, all of a sudden, it got canceled. And it happened so frequently in the last thirty years...

Captain Smith was told the same thing. Smith and I had met with Lieutenant Frank Brown, or with (Captain) Davidson, quite a number of times. They kind of briefed us on what they knew because they were intensely curious themselves. And so (many) of their associates in the military and the Air Force had also seen these things. But they didn't want to get involved in any type of publicity. They didn't want us to get involved or be exposed to a lot of publicity until they had a chance to do it. They kept saying, "You let us take care of it and, in a couple of weeks, we'll let you know just exactly what's going on." Well, they never did let us know. We were set out there and hung up. We didn't know what the hell happened.

TWO AIRLINERS, SEVEN UFOS

ARNOLD: It's like Captain Smith telling me about the two American Airlines and United (airliners and) how they passed within several thousand feet of each other and they saw seven of these (UFOs) in between them... a group clustered together. It was a senior pilot of American Airlines who related the experience to Captain E. J. Smith when they were both up taking a physical up in New York just recently.

CONVERSATIONS WITH **KENNETH ARNOLD**

This happened the 22nd of June of this year [Actually, 1977].

PRATT: THIS year?

ARNOLD: Yeah.

PRATT: Oh, I thought you were talking about an old case. But you're talking about something that happened very recently then?

ARNOLD: Oh, yes.

PRATT: Would you go back over that, just, what did you say, two or three airlines?

ARNOLD: I know this happened because Captain E. J. Smith called me, long distance, from Sarasota, Florida, to tell me about it. What happened was that over Mono Lake, as I understand the story from Captain Smith – it could have

happened on the 23rd instead of the 22nd but I think it was the 22nd – there was a time of day when both United and American Airlines (flights) would be passing over Mono Lake, which is in the High Sierras, near Bishop, California. It's a rather remote area. And I understood that United was flying east at 41,000 feet, a DC-10, I think it was, and American Airlines was flying west to San Francisco. And they passed each other over this area, almost within seconds every day. And these seven (objects) were in a cluster between these two aircraft. (The pilots) all saw them. They were just amazed. Anyhow, (it was) Captain McCormick, (who) was the senior captain on the United's flight and was the one arriving back in New York, who told Captain Smith. I just thought, "Well, it's just another one of those things." What made it most interesting was that there was a talk program... (and) I happened to mention this sighting and we got this phone call from a forest ranger up at Mono Lake who said he used to set his watch by the time when these planes went over because they were so accurate. He was looking up at the time they went over and he saw those seven things too, from the ground. He said that, several days before this, he saw Mono Lake, which is a completely placid, still lake, in the

mountains and not very many people live up there. I've flown over it. But he said he saw just like a tidal wave in this lake and this lake was just spinning and the waves were three or four feet high. He said a round, circular type of aircraft lifted out of the lake and stood there, about a hundred feet above the lake, for a little while and just turned on edge and went right off into the blue. I thought that was very unusual.

BLUE BOOK MEN PHOTOGRAPHED BALLS OF LIGHT

PRATT: A businessman here in West Palm Beach called me earlier this afternoon and was telling me about a UFO incident that occur red

“There've been some wonderful sightings. I'm sure that the military with the facilities of gun cameras and this type of thing must have thousands and thousands of this stuff. Hell, they've been seeing these things all over the world, and I can't see how they could possibly avoid seeing ”

somewhere in that area, he thinks around 1961. He was not involved. He was down at McClellan Air Force Base in California and he was a communications specialist and what happened is that all of the West Coast communications funneled into McClellan and then relayed out to Wright-Patterson or Washington, D.C., and what happened was that, for four or five Wednesday nights in a row, a large number of balls, different colors (he's not positive of the colors, but like orange, green and white, of different sizes - golf ball size, orange size and grapefruit size, okay?) were seen over these ICBM sites and the messages would come in to McClellan to be



relayed out to Wright-Patterson. And by the second or third Wednesday night this happened, they had a bunch of Blue Book personnel out there and they photographed these things. And the photos would be transmitted by facsimile machine to McClellan

and then on back to Wright-Patterson and there were like twenty or thirty of these things at times and, sometimes, the speed would be enormous, like 15,000 miles an hour. And he's curious why he's never seen anything in print about this. And I am just curious if you'd ever heard anything of this nature?

ARNOLD: Yes I have. These military pilots would call me and tell me they had seen such and such and so and so. And they'd say, "Look, I'm not supposed to say anything." Of course, I knew that the joint armed forces all had a \$10,000 fine and ten-year imprisonment penalty on any personnel that was in the military – that's all branches of the military –

(who) released information on unidentified flying objects without going through public relations. And, that's a fact. I knew that way back in 1947. That might sound silly to you, but it seems funny because the military that made

observations were simply scared off from saying anything about it and that was it...

ARNOLD FILMS TWO UFOs, BUT...

ARNOLD: There've been some wonderful sightings. I'm sure that the military with the facilities of gun cameras and this type of thing must have thousands and thousands of this stuff. Hell, they've been seeing these things all over the world and I can't see how they could possibly avoid seeing. And they would certainly try to take pictures of them. I've got some movies of them myself. I have movies of two that went under me at Mount Lassen [in northern California] and this, of course, confirmed my feeling about them maybe being alive, because I could see a pine tree through one of them. This film was sent in to Wright-Patterson Field and my publisher at the time, a man named Ray Palmer, sent it in and asked them if they could identify the brown ducks or something that was in it. These things were going over a thousand miles an hour (as they) went under me. I was within half a mile of them. I had a camera (with) a six-power lens on it at sixty-four frames a second and I got probably thirty-five or forty frames of them. Well, they sent the movie film back, saying,

"There's nothing on the film" that they could see, no ducks, no nothing. But (when) they sent it back, forty-two frames had been clipped off. . .

THINKS UFOs MAY BE ALIVE

PRATT: In all your thirty years, have you ever... come to any conclusions about the origin?

ARNOLD: No, I've seen them seven or eight times and my first impression is this: The ones that I first reported over Mount Rainier were definitely crescent-shaped type things, with a pulsating thing in the middle of them. I've seen them since and, whatever it is, it has the ability to change its density, apparently, to accommodate for either its speed or flyability or whatever it is. The impression that I have felt is that these were going somewhere. I've never seen any of them that circled me or got curious. However, you get the feeling that they're aware of you. And, of course, you're aware of them, but my thinking was that they're something alive. . .

PRATT: Something alive?

ARNOLD: Something that... could come from the surface of this Earth, commonplace things that go through a stage of development similar to a tadpole. It would be difficult for you to believe it's going to be a frog. But when you watch the process, it becomes a frog. And it's, well, a density, like I said to *Look* magazine one time. I said, "If you take a jellyfish in the ocean and you're not familiar with jellyfish when it's completely extended, it looks just like the ocean water, or very similar. It looks just a little bit milky and [if] you stick your finger in it, oh boy, it will really shock you. And then it solidifies. Nature has ways of doing this type of thing with these deep fish, or with fish in the deep parts of the oceans, and they go through various stages of development... If it is an aircraft from some place, they haven't advanced much. You know, if you took a picture of, say, a 1915 airplane and then you took a picture of a 1978 aircraft that we have, you'd hardly know that they were related.

PRATT: Right.

ARNOLD: And then you'd think that any civilization that could be making something like this would improve it or something. Nature takes many, many millions of years, sometimes, to evolve from one form to another. However,

these things have been seen many times before. I'm not a Bible study person in particular, but I've read the first twelve chapters of Ezekiel and when he talks about this man, he was a farmer or something, and he looks up and he sees a wing upon a wing and burning coals in the center. If you hadn't seen one of the original pictures of one of these flying saucers, as I saw the 24th of June, 1947, you'd never know what the guy was talking about... He's trying so hard to explain something to somebody and mixing it all up with God and this and that. But it would be difficult to reconstruct these things. It's just something that occurred to me and, like Ezekiel said, it was God talking to him. Of course, everything is God, if you want to call it that, or the Creator or whatever, but you couldn't criticize the fellow, but he had one description, in particular, of a wing upon a wing and the burning coals, the fire in the center and this is identical to the first observation I had.

Now, you take Chip Chiles of Eastern Airlines or some of these other boys that have seen these torpedo things, they seem to be outright mechanical things. They have a (inaudible) and tail on them and windows and all. . .

[On the night of July 24th, 1948, Captain C. S. Chiles and co-pilot, J. B. Whitted, were flying an Eastern Airlines DC-3 airliner, with twenty passengers aboard, from Houston to Atlanta. When they landed in Atlanta, the pilots reported that, near Montgomery, Alabama, they had seen a huge plane flash down toward the airliner and then shoot back up into the sky, when it was about seven hundred feet from them. They said it was about a hundred feet long, about four times as fat as the fuselage of a B-29 bomber, had two rows of brightly-lighted windows and had no wings. When it veered away from them, flames shot out about fifty feet behind it. It came so close that it left the DC-3 rocking.]

I can only say, from my own reasoning, that if we've gone to the moon, it's just the first step. We're gonna go to the other planets and if anybody else is living in the universe... they might have been able to make the journey here. And so the possibility is there, but then there's also the possibility that SOME of these things may not have anything particularly to do with this, too. . .

MADE NO MONEY ON HIS BOOK

PRATT: Have you made any attempt to publish your book?

ARNOLD: Oh, yes... There've been a number of

people trying to stop me from writing another book, but I haven't quite gotten to it because I've had so many other things to do. But I've got a multitude of unusual things that I could talk about if it would be worthwhile. But the last book that I wrote, *The Coming of the Saucers*, we never made any money on it and what we did make I insisted that it be donated back to Ray Palmer for any research that could be developed to find an answer to this. So, the whole thing was really, fundamentally, just a big expense on my part and, I think, on Ray's part. We thought it was important to write it down, and to write it down right, and that's what we did.

NB: Bob Pratt passed away on Monday, November 21st, 2005. Article reprinted with the kind permission of the Mutual UFO Network (<http://www.mufon.com/>).

ROBERT V. PRATT



Robert Vance Pratt died Monday, November 21st, 2005, at a local hospital, following a brief illness. He was born August 12th, 1926. He was 79 years old. A journalist and UFO researcher, he retired in April, 1999, after 48 years as a newspaper and magazine reporter and editor, writing under the byline of "Bob Pratt".

In more than 28 years as a UFO researcher, he never saw a UFO.

He was a veteran of World War II, serving in the U.S. Army Air Force.

At a New Year's Eve party in Charlottesville, Virginia, he met Faith Collins. They were married October 22nd, 1955. She and their son, Alan Collins Pratt of New York City, survive him. Another son, Robert Scott Pratt, died in 1975 at the age of 17. A cousin, Richard Taylor, of Boca Raton, and numerous nieces and nephews in California also survive him.



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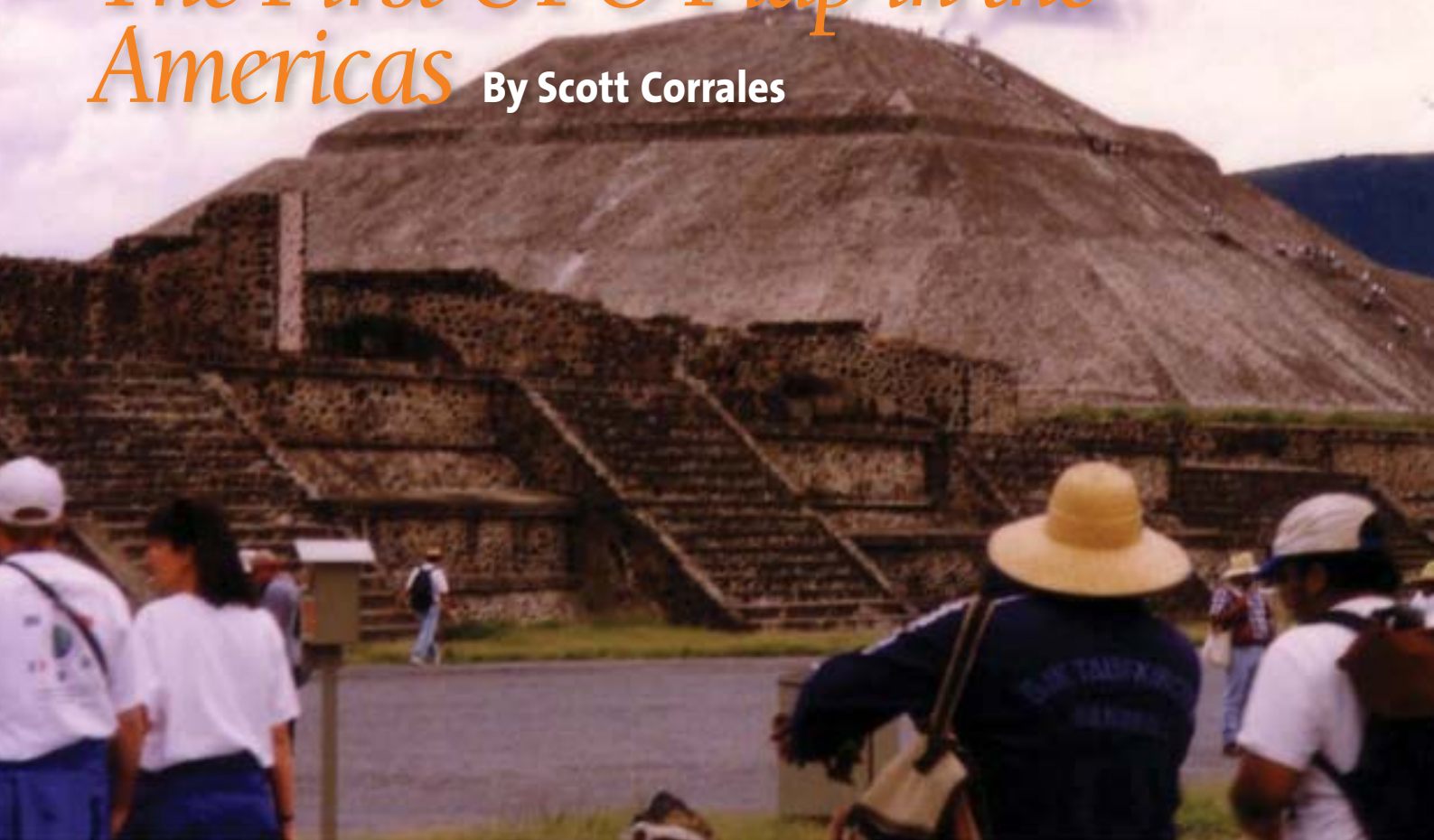
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ORBIS TERTIUS

The First UFO Flap in the Americas By Scott Corrales



Why should English-reading audiences care about what happens in Latin America or anywhere in the Spanish-speaking world?

Allow me to reply to the question in a very personal manner.

This was the issue that confronted me as an author and translator when I took my very first, faltering steps into the murky waters of UFO research. Publishers would often suggest that “I should write for the people of those countries” as American (and presumably Australian, British and Canadian audiences by extension) would not show much beyond polite interest in the matter. Twenty years later, it pleases me to report that interest about matters ufological and paranormal, as they manifest in Spain and Latin America, is steadily growing.

As a youngster with a keen interest in the occult, it was a delight to get the latest issue of

SAGA UFO Report and peruse the “Saucer International” column, written by *Flying Saucer Review’s* very own Gordon Creighton, providing information on amazing cases elsewhere on the planet. Issue after issue would discuss sightings



and landings in France and Spain, Jane Thomas’s reports from Argentina, discussions on the non-human presence in far-flung corners of the world... proof that the pesky “lights in the sky”, the enigmatic craft leaving burn marks on fields and country roads and their bizarre occupants, were not merely relegated to the cornfields of middle America.

Time passed, magazines came and went, interest in UFOs waxed and waned and, one fine day, I learned – in the pages of Jacques Vallée’s *Dimensions* – that *Defendámonos de los dioses*, the landmark work of Salvador Freixedo, the Spanish Jesuit-turned-paranormalist, remained unavailable in English, years after having appeared in the original language. As I



have been burned (the fate reserved for "Works of the Devil"). The Laurencio Mendicea Library in Florence, Italy, is the repository of the Codex Sahagún, compiled between 1563 and 1565 and which contains the drawings and texts gathered by native wisemen at the behest of Fray Bernardino de Sahagún.

The bizarre events are listed sequentially: The "comet" of 1509, the "pillar of fire," the blaze that reduced the god Hutzilopotchli's temple to a smoldering ruin, the unexplained boiling of Lake Texcoco, the manifestations of the phantasmagoric creature known as *La Llorona*, the appearance of the monster-men and last, but not least, the cygnet displaying the arrival of the Spanish conquistadors on what appeared to be a looking glass built into the bird's head. Modern historians have dismissed



“Ten years prior to the conquest, a great pillar of flame was seen in the horizon all day and night, causing much consternation among the indians. This pillar, we are told, "seemed to be anchored in the sky”

these events as fanciful or, more charitably, as metaphors employed by Aztec scribes. Something very strange, however, was taking place over Old Mexico between 1509 and 1517.

Diego Muñoz Camargo's *History of Tlaxcala*, written in 1892, contains an account of the events contained in the Codex Florentino, reworded by the native informants of Franciscan priest Bernardino de Sahagún:

"Ten years prior to the conquest, a great pillar of flame was seen in the horizon all day and night, causing much consternation among the indians." This pillar, we are told, "seemed to be anchored in the sky" and assuming a roughly triangular shape. This omen lasted for an entire year. It is reminiscent of the Biblical pillar of flame that accompanied the Israelites out of captivity in Egypt. The fire that consumed the temple of the Aztec deity did so with the intensity of one of our modern incendiary devices, spreading panic throughout the Aztec capital city of Tenochtitlan. The third omen, the destruction of Xhiutechutli's temple by a "beam of light" from above, occurred in the wet season, during a shower of misty rain. It was a bad time to be a graven image, for this temple was also reduced to a smoking ruin.

Omen number four, however, is the most significant: "...during the day and in full sunshine, comets from heaven sallied forth in threes, from

East to West, full of force and violence, issuing sparks in their flight..."

Poetic enough, but this is how another source re-states it: "...While the sun still shone, a fire fell from above. It split into three. It came from where the sun sets, heading toward where it rises like an ember, showering sparks. Long was its head and far-reaching its tail. When it was seen, there was great commotion, as if bells were ringing."

While it may well have been a bolide or fireball, the impression that it was a guided device permeates both passages. UFOs splitting into three and then reforming or throwing sparks or accompanied by a buzzing or ringing of bells are certainly nothing new and researchers have documented a wealth of cases along these lines.

Omen number five tells of a total flood of the Mexican lake without wind or rain. The waters suddenly became turbulent and engulfed homes and temples, creating untold suffering.

Now we come to the sixth omen, perhaps the most disturbing. This one went on to become an integral part of Mexican folklore, although it was ascribed a more prosaic origin in contemporary times. The terrified residents of Aztec Mexico began hearing banshee-like wailing in the dark of night, pleading in stentorian tones that no mortal lungs could

contacted book publishers and magazine editors, it was a surprise to find out how little information was available in Spanish on UFOs and paranormal subjects in general.

This is surprising, when one considers that the first UFO "flap" in the Americas can be said to have occurred in the early 1500s, predating European conquest and colonization by at least twenty years. We know this because the scribes of the Aztec Empire kept careful records, some of them suggesting activity that we would identify as clearly ufological, paranormal or, at the very least, "Fortean". These chronicles, commonly referred to as *los presagios de la conquista* (The omens of the conquest) survived the vicissitudes of time and reached us, thanks to the diligent work of priests who learned the Aztec tongue, Nahuatl, devoting themselves to saving what would otherwise



according to the sages, but the inquisitive sovereign was undaunted. He gazed again at the “mirror” and saw, to his dismay, what looked like humans arrayed for battle – hirsute men astride what he took for deer. The Aztecs, of course, had never seen a horse in their lives. The mystery bird vanished into thin air, in a manner befitting any denizen of the paranormal menagerie.

The eighth omen consisted of sightings of two-headed humanoids, dubbed *tlacanzolli* (“the split men”) throughout the empire. Their manifestations were considered an unquestionable sign of the coming change in the natural order and, unlike the Mothman or Bigfoot, specimens were apparently captured and brought to Tenochtitlan’s “house of



“While the sun still shone, a fire fell from above. It split into three. It came from where the sun sets, heading toward where it rises like an ember, showering sparks. Long was its head, and far-reaching its tail. When it was seen there was great commotion, as if bells were ringing”

match: “Oh, my children! All is lost...where shall I hide you?”

The unseen source of the plaintive wailing became known as *La Llorona* (“the Crying one”) in later times and is used to frighten children to this very day. Modern scholarship associates the presence with the goddess, Cihuacoatl, although the presence of screaming nocturnal entities has become known to students of the paranormal as a factor in certain hauntings and Bigfoot manifestations (even some UFO cases).

But these were just the opening acts in a high strangeness free-for-all. As mentioned

earlier, the seventh omen involved the discovery of a fantastic bird, alternately described as a crane or a cygnet, bearing a round mirror on his head. This fantastic creature was supposedly captured by fishermen going about their daily work in the waters of Lake Texcoco and it was brought before the Emperor Moctezuma. Gazing into the “mirror” that seemed to be a part of the bird’s anatomy, the Aztec ruler and his courtiers were able to see the night sky and its stars, with particular emphasis on the constellation Gemini. This monster-bird was the direst of the omens,

darkness” – the place where Aztec sorcerers practiced their craft. But, alas, the entities would dissolve into nothingness before allowing the Aztec equivalent of the National Academy of Sciences to dissect them. A garrulous "monster", a deformed Indian serf lacking toes or ears, however, interpreted the troubled Aztec emperor's dreams (in the fashion of the biblical Joseph...) before also disappearing into thin air.

These, then, were the omens. The fall of Aztec Mexico is a matter for history books.

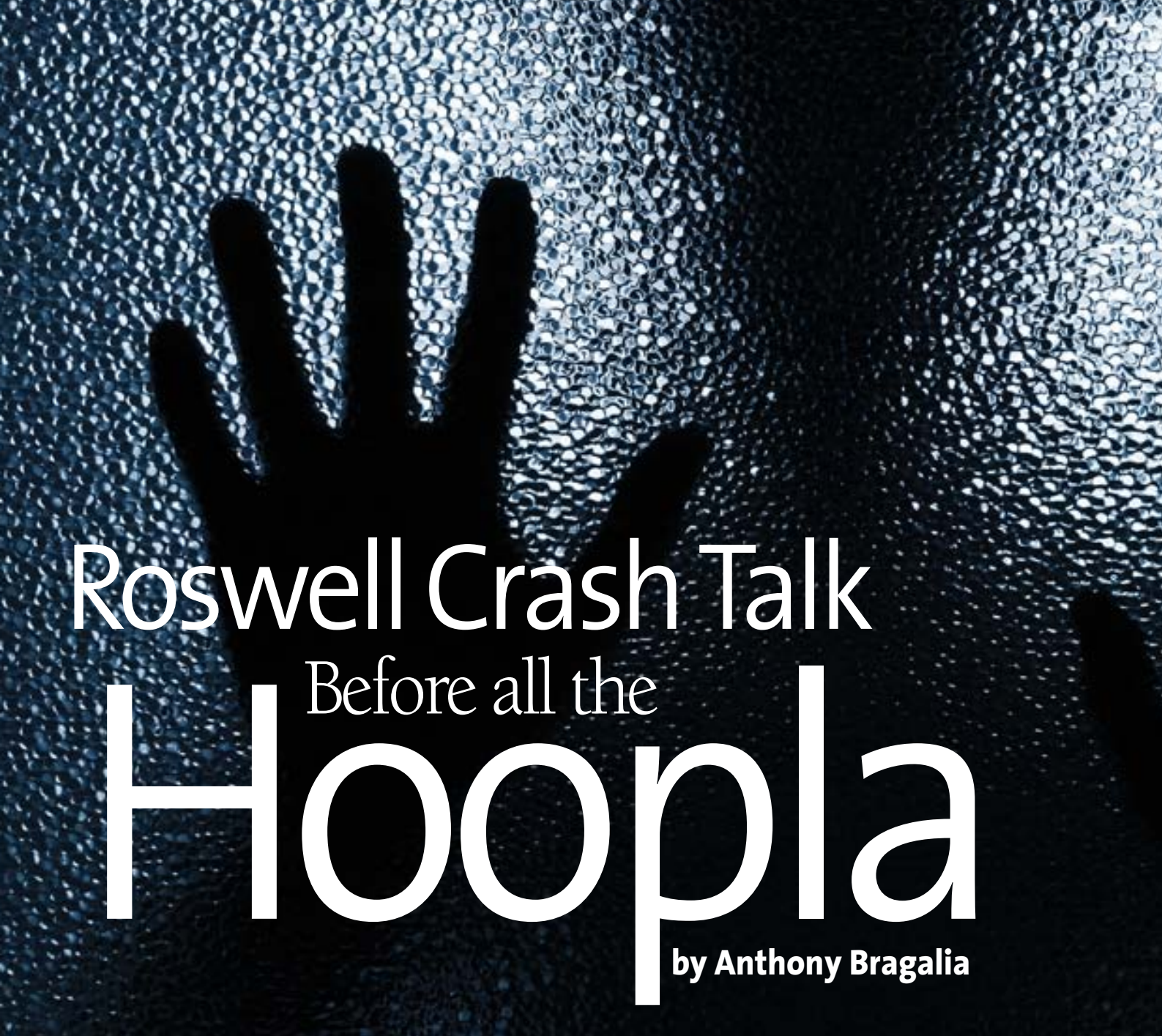
It should be noted at this point that the Aztec codices supposedly make mention of what we would nowadays term a "mothership" or cigar-shaped craft. The repeated sightings of

this object, dubbed *Moyohualitohua* ("He Who Speaks To Us In The Dark"), occurred in 1492, just as Columbus reached San Salvador, thinking he was in Asia. Much like *La Llorona* in later years, the menacing celestial object proffered dire warnings, accompanied by landslides, earthquakes and other disasters. Again, it is easy to dismiss all of these omens as simply poetic license, misidentifications of perfectly normal phenomena, et cetera. And this would be the wisest course to follow, if it were not for the fact that similar – if not identical – activity was taking place thousands of miles away from Aztec Mexico. We shall explore these South American events in our next column.

Scott Corrales: (USA) Orbis Tertius.

Corrales was born in the USA of Cuban parents. He lived in Mexico between 1968 and 1975, moving later to the Caribbean island of Puerto Rico, where he remained until 1982. His interest in the UFO phenomenon came about as a result of the heavy UFO activity experienced in both locations at the time. He now edits *The Journal of Hispanic Ufology* as the official publication of the Nascent Institute of Hispanic Ufology.
www.inexplicata.blogspot.com



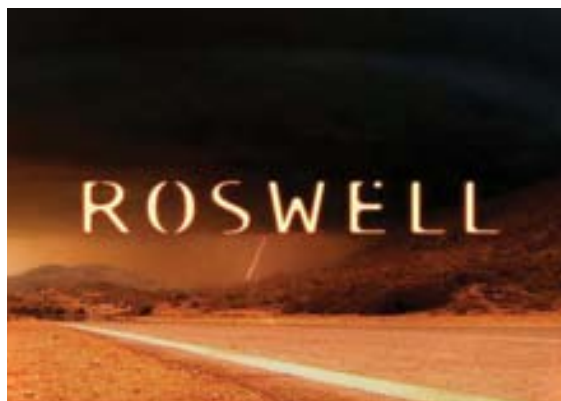


Roswell Crash Talk

Before all the

Hoopla

by Anthony Braglia



Skeptics who say that the Roswell UFO crash was never discussed before 1980 with the publication of the seminal book, *The Roswell Incident*, are wrong. In fact, the 1947 UFO event in New Mexico was brought up in many ways - and at many times - throughout the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s.

These naysayers maintain that witnesses only came forward when the Roswell story became "popularized" by

the numerous books, movies, TV shows, documentaries and articles done in the 1980s and 1990s - many years after the crash event itself. They would like us to believe that, after the original press release and newspaper articles on the crash, in July of 1947, had appeared, that nothing more was ever said until much later. The implication made by these disbelievers and cynics is that Roswell was a virtual "non-event" until the release of the first book on Roswell in 1980 and the subsequent publicity in following decades. But, an examination of the literature - and confirmation of stories told privately - reveal that the alien episode was known and discussed well before all of the "hoopla".



WILHELM REICH – 1955

DR. WILHELM REICH

Dr. Wilhelm Reich was a psychiatrist and psychoanalyst who worked closely with Sigmund Freud. Known for his development of radical theories that



TWO AUTHORS AND A SERGEANT - 1976

DR. KEVIN RANDLE

Noted Ufologist and author, Kevin Randle, relates an intriguing story about a pre-1980 mention of Roswell. Randle explains that he

did not understand the significance of the story until much later, as, at that time, he never had even heard of the Roswell UFO crash.

In 1976, he and researcher, Robert Cornett, were researching trace landing cases in the Midwest. They both had an opportunity to interview a former Air Force sergeant, who told them that he was tasked to "stage a solution" to a UFO sighting. The sergeant had explained to the investigators that he had trucked the debris of a weather balloon into a town and, according to Randle, "told all who would listen that this is what they had seen or what their neighbors had seen. The wreckage contained the silvery elements of the rawin radar reflectors, the neoprene balloon envelope and the balsa sticks that had formed the frame of the reflector." Randle asked him, "How often have you done this?" The sergeant replied, "Only once." When Randle asked him where this had taken place, the sergeant replied, "At Roswell, NM." This remarkable story was told in 1976, years before the publication of the first book on the Roswell crash.



LYDIA'S TELETYPE - 1973 and BEFORE

In 1973, author, Peter Gutilla, was a correspondent with the now-defunct publication *Saga*. *Saga* was a long-running men's adventure magazine which competed with magazines with titles such as *Argosy* and *True*. Gutilla relates that he had

related to a "life energy" that he referred to as "orgone energy", Reich was also very interested in the subject of extraterrestrial life and UFOs. Reich died in 1957, but his last book, published in the last year of his life, refers to Roswell and UFOs.

In 1957's *Contact With Space*, Reich recounts a 1955 trip to Tucson, AZ, to conduct "weather and energy experimentation", using a device that he designed and called a "cloudbuster", along with other devices made to attract UFOs. On his way to Tucson, he relates that he "felt compelled" to stop at a small town called Roswell, NM. Reich decided to make "field observations" there at Roswell. In the 1957 book, Reich makes specific (albeit brief) mention of what he called the Roswell area's "strange imbalance" of, what he believed, were "UFO energies" related to forces he called "DOR/OR".

Reich was known to conduct such unusual experimentation in geographic areas that he felt held special meaning and that were relevant to his UFO study. Though Reich was controversial - and his mention of Roswell oblique, without speaking to the actual crash there - others were far more direct:

a conversation with a park ranger that he identified as "G. Sleppy". The park ranger was giving Gutilla an account of a UFO sighting that he had experienced in the woods, while on duty, sometime prior. He then mentioned to Gutilla that his mother, Lydia, had a far more interesting and unusual UFO story that she had been telling for a very long time.

The now-famous Lydia Sleppy story (published only in part and without using her name) appeared on page 60 of the Winter, 1974, issue of *Saga* magazine, in a special "UFO Report" edition. It read:

"In New Mexico, a woman, with a responsible position, received a call from a station manager. He had been checking out reports of a UFO which had crashed in a field and was trying to track down the rumor that pieces of the object were supposedly stored in a local barn. In his excited call to the newsroom, the station manager verified the UFO crash report and also claimed to have seen metallic pieces of the UFO being carried away to a waiting Air Force plane, destined to Wright Patterson Air Force Base. As the woman was typing the fantastic news item over the teletype to their other two stations, a line appeared in the middle of her text, tapped in from somewhere, with the official order, 'Do not continue this transmission!'"

Today, the story of Lydia Sleppy is well-known to Roswell followers. She has since expanded on this story in the book, *The Roswell Incident*, and to other researchers and agreed to allow her name to be divulged. But, with my rediscovery of this early *Saga* article, we learn that she first told her Roswell story publicly in 1973 and, according to her son, for many years before to her close friends and family.



THE PROFESSOR AND THE RANCH WOMAN – 1960

RANCHER LORETTA PROCTOR

Richard Glaze was a Professor of Agriculture at New Mexico State University (NMSU) and honored by the

Las Cruces-based University with a Distinguished Service Award in recognition for his long service over and above normal routine duties. He was also known for his contributions to the university in Experimental Statistics and Quantitative Analysis. In addition to his scholarly achievements, Glaze was an avid amateur archaeologist and arrowhead hunter. He relates that, in 1960, he took his family to the Proctor ranch, near Roswell, on the recommendation of one of his students. It was suggested that the ranch was a particularly appropriate spot to find such Native American arrowheads.

He maintained that, during the summer of 1960, he introduced himself to Loretta Proctor (still alive today at 96) and sought permission from her to search for arrowheads on her property. Loretta Proctor was a close friend of rancher, Mac Brazel, who was custodian of the Foster Ranch and who had reported the crash to the Roswell Sheriff, George Wilcox,

and to the RAAF base. Loretta's son, Dee, was with Mac when the discovery was made. Loretta was herself shown a piece of the strange debris by Brazel. Her story is well-known to those who follow the Roswell crash story.

Glaze stated that Loretta granted him permission to explore her property, but also told him what he thought to be a "wild story" at the time. Loretta told Glaze, "If you find anything unusual, let me know." Loretta then related to Professor Glaze that, about a dozen years prior, a "crashed UFO" from another world had fallen to Earth on a nearby ranch - the Foster Ranch. Glaze stated that Loretta "talked a lot" about this event, but that he did not hold much credence to it, until he was reminded of his encounter with her after he read the book, *The Truth about the UFO Crash at Roswell*, many years later. Glaze then remembered the long conversation that he had decades earlier with the ranch woman - and that what was told in the book was the precise story she had told him so many years prior.

So, here we have an example of a Roswell witness, Loretta Proctor, telling her story privately as early as 1960 - and well before her public confession on the subject over three decades later in an affidavit signed in 1991!

OTHER MENTIONS OF ROSWELL - 1950s and 1960s



Now deceased UFO author, Frank Edwards, may have been one of the very first researchers to relate details on the UFO crash at Roswell. Though incomplete on the details, he spoke of the crash at a New York City meeting of the early UFO research group, Civilian Saucer Intelligence. On April 28th, 1956, Edwards told the assembled group that "at Roswell, a farmer reported that he saw something strike a mountainside and crash."

Though sparse on information in his 1956 lecture, Edwards later expanded on the story. In his 1966 *Flying Saucers: Serious Business* book, on page 76, he writes: "There are such difficult cases as the rancher near Roswell, New Mexico, who phoned the sheriff that a blazing, disc-shaped object had passed over his house at low altitude and had crashed and burned on a hillside within view of his house. We were not told, however, why the military cordoned off the area while they inspected the wreckage."

A review of the literature reveals other (brief) mentions of the Roswell crash event:

- 1) *Flying Saucers on the Attack* (Harold Wilkins, 1954)
- 2) *Flying Saucer Review* (Volume 1, No. 1, Spring, 1955)
- 3) *The Flying Saucer Story* (Brinsley LePour Trench, 1966)



THE REASON WHY ROSWELL WAS EXPANDED ON IN LATER YEARS

Of course, it is impossible for many of us today, in 2010, to relate to, or identify with, just what it was like to

live, during the 1940s, in impoverished, rural New Mexico. Most did not have telephones, there was no TV and much of that part of the country did not even have electrification. As rancher, Loretta Proctor, said to me, "In those days, travel was a 'big deal' and you watched the amount of gas you used and even how much wear you put on your tires." To say that those at Roswell at that time were, in many ways, isolated would be a very true statement.

The UFO crash at Roswell could not have happened at a better place or time to ensure secrecy - and little talk of the event by the involved to the outside world. But, to be sure, there was talk amongst themselves about the incident. I have several other accounts of this in my research records.

Though many of the involved had left Roswell in the intervening years, over time, the "secret of Roswell" was no longer secret. It must have been a relief when, beginning in the 1980s, researchers began re-examining the event and started to ask those involved what had happened. As more and more came forward, those people were likely to be more inclined to tell what they knew. You would tell what you knew when you realized that others were doing the

same. Because others were now saying what you knew to be true, you would feel that people would not think of you as "crazy". A "strength in numbers" dynamic had come into play.

CAPTAIN OLIVER "PAPPY" HENDERSON

Captain Oliver "Pappy" Henderson makes this very point very well in a confession to his family. Henderson was stationed at RAAF in 1947. In 1981, he indicated to his wife, Sappho, and to his daughters - after reading a newspaper article on the crash event: "I want you to read this article because it is a true story. I am the pilot who flew the wreckage of the UFO to Dayton. I guess now that they're putting it in the papers, I can tell you about this. I wanted to tell you for years."

Publicity about the event - and the knowledge that others were talking - was Pappy's motivator to tell all.



Indeed, the "hoopla" about Roswell in later years had finally freed those who knew the truth to speak the truth: extraterrestrials had fallen to the desert floor, forever changing the lives of the involved. It was a memory never forgotten - and a memory now to be shared with the world.





The Real X-FILES

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE UFO FILES

Introduction

In my first column for this exciting new magazine, I've decided to cover, arguably, the biggest UFO-related media story of the last year, namely the ongoing programme to declassify and release the entire holding of Ministry of Defence (MoD) UFO files and transfer them to the National Archives. Having worked on these files while employed at the MoD and having worked with the National Archives in the run-up to the files being made public, it's my aim to look below the surface of this story and tell the inside story of this fascinating development.

Background

The British government's UFO project had its roots in a 1950 initiative by the MoD's Chief Scientific Adviser, the great radar pioneer, Sir Henry Tizard. Tizard was intrigued by media coverage of UFO sightings and decided that the subject should not be dismissed without some proper, official investigation. Accordingly,

he agreed that a small study group should be set up to investigate the phenomenon. This was dubbed the Flying Saucer Working Party. This group issued a final report in 1951 and concluded that all UFO sightings could be explained as misidentifications of ordinary objects or phenomena, optical illusions, psychological delusions or hoaxes. The main body of the report ends with the following statement:

"We accordingly recommend very strongly that no further investigation of reported mysterious aerial phenomena be undertaken, unless and until some material evidence becomes available."

However, during the period 1952 to 1957, there were a series of high-profile UFO sightings, including numerous incidents where UFOs were seen by RAF pilots or tracked on military radar. These forced the MoD to rethink its scepticism and investigate the phenomenon – something it did right up until 30th November, 2009.

The Real X-Files

In the lifetime of the MoD's UFO project, the Department received over 12,000 sighting reports. As well as these files, there are policy files, public correspondence files and files detailing how the MoD handles the subject when raised in Parliament and in the media. There are hundreds of files and tens of thousands of pages of documentation. Up until comparatively recently, little of this material had been made public. Some of the older files were available at the National Archives and researchers such as Georgina Bruni, Timothy Good and *UFO Matrix's* very own Philip Mantle used the Freedom of Information Act to obtain a few, high-profile documents, such as the file on Britain's best-known UFO case, the Rendlesham Forest incident. Then, in 2007, the MoD dropped a bombshell and announced that it was to release the entire archive of UFO files and transfer them to the National Archives. There were four reasons for this decision:



the date DAS wrote to the Under Secretary of State for Defence recommending that the files be released. Other parts of the MoD that were involved in investigating UFO sightings (e.g. the Defence Intelligence Staff) were also receiving large numbers of FOI requests on the subject. Writing in 2006, following MoD's release of a formerly classified study into UFOs, codenamed Project Condign, Under Secretary of State for Defence Tom Watson said:

"There is a real and enduring interest in Unidentified Flying Objects. By far the most popular topic of FOI requests has been UFOs, followed by recruitment enquiries, enquiries from staff and historical events such as World War Two, the Falklands Conflict and the Balkans. Recent freedom of information releases on UFOs have attracted media interest from as far away as Japan."

MoD realised that if they released the files proactively, most FOI requests could be dealt with by simply referring people to the National Archives.

Disclosure

MoD decided not to release the material all in one go, mainly because of the administrative burden of redacting the files, i.e. deleting any information covered by the various exemptions to the Freedom of Information Act, ensuring that classified information and personal data isn't released. Names, addresses and other personal details relating to witnesses and officials have to be removed, to comply with the Freedom of Information Act and the Data Protection Act. Other exemptions cover categories such as defence and national security and examples of the sort of information that is being withheld include classified information such as the capability of military radar systems, information passed to the UK in confidence by allies, commercially-sensitive information and information which, if disclosed, would reveal intelligence sources or methods of gathering intelligence. It's a massive job and a tricky one. Tens of thousands of pages of documentation have to be read, word by word, to ensure the material is properly redacted.

To date, batches of files have been released on the following dates:

- 14th May, 2008
- 20th October, 2008
- 22nd March, 2009
- 17th August, 2009
- 18th February, 2010

In all, this has involved the release of 72 out

of 160 files and the process is due to be completed in 2011. While there is still much interesting material to come, many of the files that still have to be released consist of requests about UFOs from members of the public under the Freedom of Information Act and its precursor, the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information.

What's in the Files?

Much of the material is mundane. Mr Smith is out walking his dog late at night and sees a vague light in the sky that could be anything and – as with most UFO sightings – is probably a misidentification of aircraft lights, a satellite, a meteor or a Chinese lantern.

However, in among the more routine material, are some truly amazing incidents: UFOs seen by police officers and pilots, UFOs tracked on radar, craft seen performing speeds and manoeuvres significantly in excess of those of our most advanced military aircraft, intriguing photos and videos that impressed MoD's technical wizards. What isn't in the files is some 'spaceship in a hangar smoking gun'. If there is such a thing, they didn't tell me!

Media and Public Reaction

Because I used to work on these files, the National Archives asked me to assist with the release programme. Prior to the release of the first batch, I selected a range of cases to highlight to the media: some explained, some unexplained and some humorous. I also recorded a short film to promote the release. There was some nervousness prior to the initial release. When the French government released their UFO files in one go in 2007, demand was so high that the dedicated website crashed. The National Archives brought in extra processing power and back-up systems in advance, but, fortunately, all went well. Their prudence was justified by the statistics: within two weeks, the website had been accessed over two million times.

The release of each batch of files generated massive coverage in the media. To promote the story, I have written feature articles for *The Times*, *The Guardian*, *The Sun* and *The Mirror*. In addition, I have been interviewed on the subject by a vast range of TV and radio shows, including *Newsnight*, *ITN News*, *CNN News*, *Larry King Live*, *Good Morning America*, *Sky News*, *GMTV*, *This Morning* and Radio 4's *Today* programme, to name a few of literally hundreds of programmes.

- The MoD was receiving more Freedom of Information Act requests on UFOs than on any other subject.
- The French government had released their UFO files in 2007, setting a precedent that would have been difficult to ignore.
- MoD believed this would be a good way to demonstrate their commitment to the Freedom of Information Act and to open government.
- MoD hoped that releasing the files would defuse the accusation that they were covering up information on UFOs.

The first reason was the key one. Hundreds of people were bombarding the MoD with FOI requests and the administrative burden of responding to the hundreds of requests was becoming unbearable. Directorate Air Staff (DAS) – the MoD division that had the policy and investigative lead in relation to the subject – received 199 UFO-related requests in 2005, 140 in 2006 and 120 as at 18th September, 2007,

The Reaction of the UFO Community

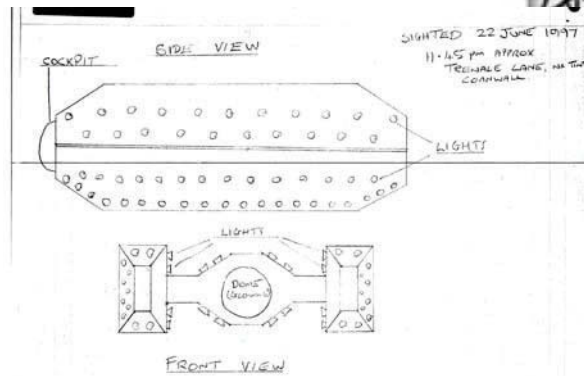
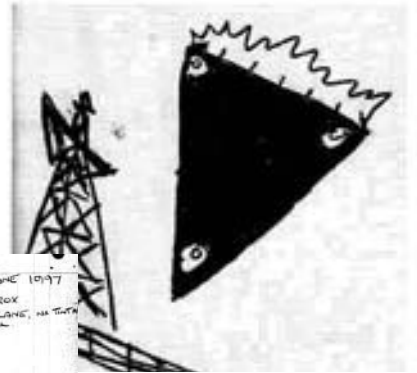
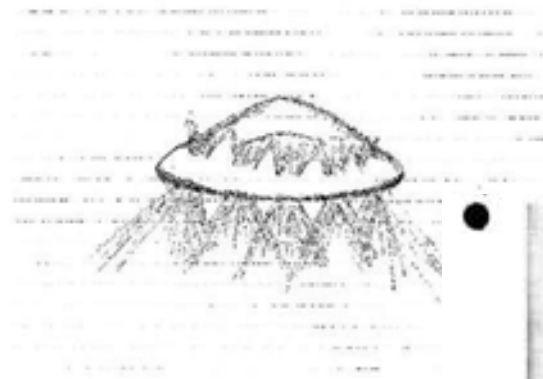
The reaction from UFO researchers was mixed and, ironically, was not as enthusiastic as the reaction from the wider public. Some criticised the MoD for what they felt was a lack of proper investigation in many of the cases. But much of this stemmed from the fact that, in many cases, the most likely explanation was found straight away and the witness received little more than a standard letter back, explaining MoD's policy on UFOs and stating that most sightings had conventional explanations. Others failed to appreciate that, in the shadowy world of government, the paper trail hardly ever tells the full story. A number of ufologists thought that the file release programme was part of a co-ordinated government campaign to acclimatise the public to the idea of an extraterrestrial presence, prior to an official announcement that aliens were visiting the Earth. Others felt that the absence of a 'spaceship in a hangar' smoking gun document meant that the whole programme was disinformation. "All the really good stuff is being held back" was a phrase that was often used. My involvement in the release programme and the fact that I was, inevitably, the person to whom the media turned for a quote, added fuel to the fire, as many in the UFO community believe that I'm still working for the government and that my 2006 resignation was a ruse.

Endgame

As I have explained, the key motive for the file release was to ease the administrative burden caused by the hundreds of people who were bombarding MoD with FOI requests. This, in part, was successful and UFO-related FOI requests certainly declined from the levels seen 2005, 2006 and 2007. However, just as this problem receded, another one emerged. The numbers of UFO sightings reported to MoD began to rise, exponentially.

- 2006: 97 reports
- 2007: 135 reports
- 2008: 285 reports
- 2009: 643 reports

Moreover, a higher and higher proportion of these UFO reports were clearly caused by members of the public misidentifying Chinese lanterns – those ubiquitous fire balloons that are increasingly popular at weddings, barbeques and other social functions. MoD's corporate irritation with the UFO phenomenon reached breaking point and, after over 60 years of official research and investigation into the



mystery, the Department decided enough was enough. With effect from 1st December, 2009, the Ministry of Defence terminated their UFO project. The news was slipped out in a way designed not to attract attention, by making an amendment to an existing document in the Freedom of Information section of the MoD website, entitled "How to report a UFO sighting". The announcement stated that "in over fifty years, no UFO report has revealed any evidence of a potential threat to the United Kingdom" and goes on to say that "MOD will no longer respond to reported UFO sightings or investigate them".

There was to be a final twist. In response to a query from a journalist, the MoD press office made an interesting comment. The quote was published in *The Sun* on 22nd January, 2009, in a story that ends with the following:

The MoD defended its decision to shut the UFO division. A spokesman said: "We do not feel there is any military value in reviewing the public's sightings."

The key point is that the quote didn't say there was no military value in reviewing UFO sightings - only that there was no military value in reviewing *the public's* UFO sightings. Where evidence suggests that UK airspace has been penetrated by an unidentified object, this must, automatically, be of defence interest and should be investigated properly, not least because such activity may be espionage or terrorism related. Indeed, I am sure that sightings from pilots and uncorrelated targets tracked on radar will continue to be looked at, albeit outside of a formally constituted UFO project. That's the implication of the comment from the MoD

press office. On the one hand, this is understandable and it's clear that the vast majority of sightings reported by the public were misidentifications of ordinary phenomena or objects - largely, in recent years, Chinese lanterns. On the other hand, it's patronising to assume that no useful information could ever come from the public and it's unscientific to ignore data.

Conclusion

The relationship between the MoD, the UFO lobby and the phenomenon itself is full of ironies, many of which are illustrated in this article. The release of information is seen by some as being part of a cover-up. Opening files is followed by closing the UFO project. Ufologists dream of a day when they can see the MoD's UFO files, but then react in a lukewarm way when the files don't tell them what they want to hear. MoD stopped investigating UFOs just as sightings reach near-record levels. Whether one believes this is conspiracy or bureaucracy, it's certainly a fascinating story.

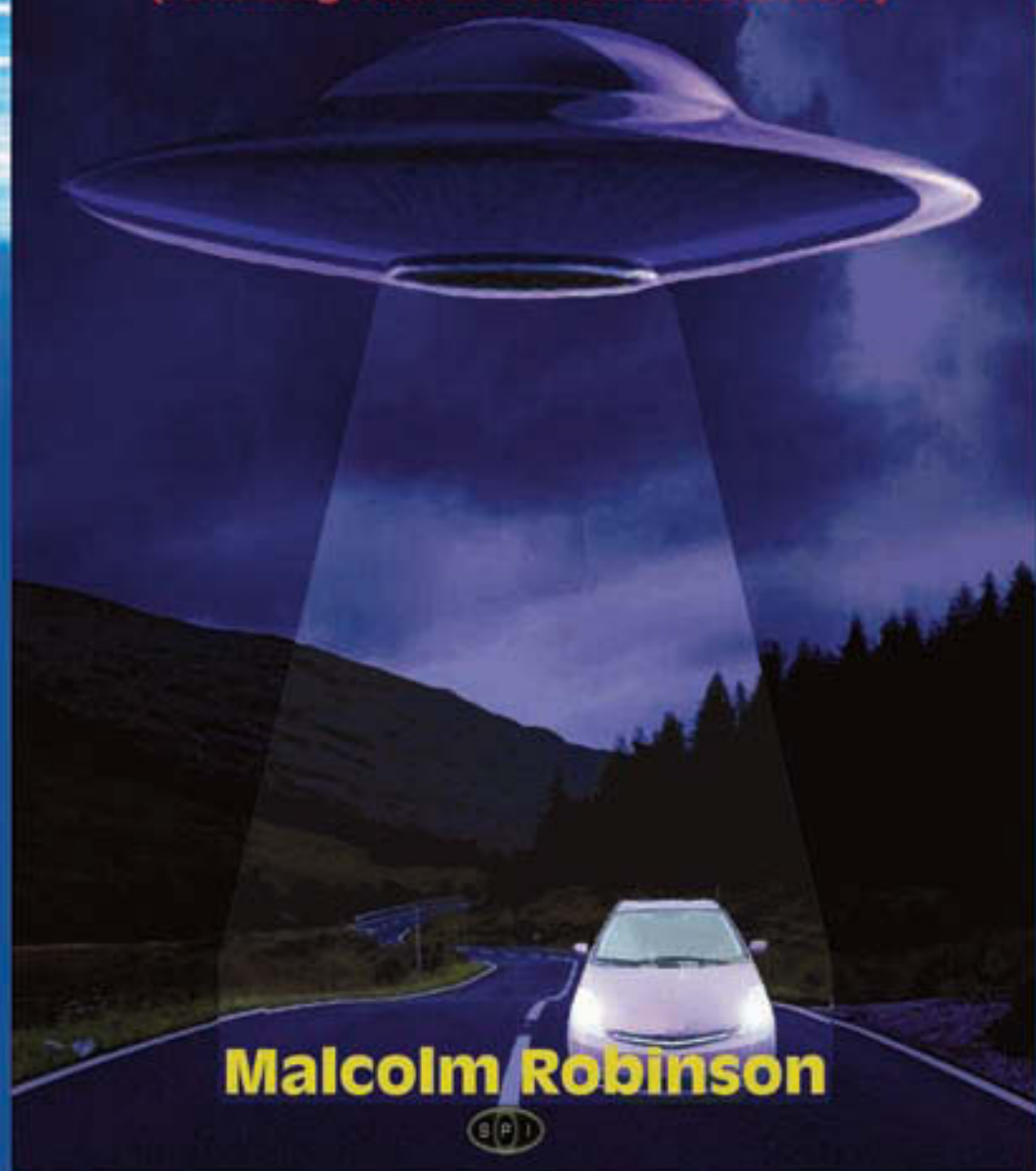
Nick Pope: (UK) The Real X-Files. Author, journalist and broadcaster Nick Pope commentates extensively in the media on the unexplained, conspiracy theories, fringe science, space and science fiction. He worked for the Ministry of Defence for 21 years and from 1991 to 1994 was responsible for investigating UFOs, alien abductions, crop circles and other mysteries. www.nickpope.net



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ISODORO FERRI CASE

English Translation by Daniella L. Herrera

Introduction by GAUS

More than 25 years have passed since the night of October 10th, 1984, when one amazing Type 3 sighting occurred, involving Mr. Isodoro Ferri near the little town of Polcanto (Florence, Italy).

GAUS members returned to the sighting's location to interview Mr. Ferri and his daughter, Anna, in an effort to better understand this case with newer and more updated ufology theories.

Mr. Ferri and Anna received us at Villa "La Radicchia" on Via Tassaia n.1, Polcanto with much hospitality and enthusiasm.

They told us their personal story and it was an experience we noticed had impacted them quite significantly, not only because of its importance, but also in the way in which they told their story. They used simple, but precise, words in order to focus more on the importance of their story and the message they wish to share.

In our opinion, most details of this story coincide with those of other witnesses, especially with the details of the abduction case. However, we are still unsure of whether or not to call this story an abduction case, which

we will elaborate further. Regardless, we want to point out that much of the details in the story described by Isodoro Ferri match exactly the details described in subsequent Type 3 cases.

One of Mr. Ferri's most impressive details is the light emanating from the "spacecraft", the same light that had been described by many abducted persons before and after Mr. Ferri's personal experience. Mr. Ferri described the "solid light" as something astounding. As readers of his story, we ought to note that Mr. Ferri was a simple man, working as a caretaker of the villa, at the time of the incident, without any interest in UFOs or science-fiction.

This "solid light" is just one of the many amazing details he shared, which has become more of an interest in ufology of the new millennium. The "solid light", as it is now commonly referred to, has been reported repeatedly, including incidents from the United States in previous years as well as succeeding years in other countries worldwide. Curiously, countless witnesses have also spoken about a "hypnosis state" that occurs in the presence of such light. In Ferri's case, this light was so bright

that it illuminated the entire garden of the villa "more than the sun" with the ability to "immobilize" him as well. This particular light also impacted Mr. Ferri's body and his dog, but we will describe these details later.

Another bizarre occurrence that happened to Mr. Ferri is something oftentimes reported by abducted persons: he was initially hyped-up with fear and then, suddenly, became tranquil, physically and mentally, for the duration of the sighting. Witnesses have described this effect time and time again and this is an indication that the events take place peacefully and quietly.

Moreover, the duration of the sighting event is particularly fascinating. According to Mr. Ferri, he is certain of the event's beginning and end moments, but says he lost track of time during the sequence of such events. This occurrence can be described in either of two ways: whether it is due to the excited emotional state of the body while the extraordinary event was taking place or due to a momentarily delayed response from a state of shock in the witness. We are unsure of whether or not we can definitively say that this event is a case of



“missing time”, even though we suspect strongly of this. Mr. Ferri claims to remember all the events that occurred in the sighting, although the sequence of events was not very extensive. Curiously, the lapse of time seemed much longer and, unfortunately, this is a mystery for which we have no method of explaining at this time.

Equally important, another detail worth noting is the absence of sound throughout the duration of the sighting; the unidentified object in the Ferri Case did not make any sound. We want to emphasize that Villa La Radicchia is located in an isolated lot surrounded by a park. Any mechanical sound would be immediately noticed by witnesses in the area. Additionally, Mr. Ferri’s wife and daughter were sleeping in the room closest to the incident’s occurrence and they do not recall any disturbance. For all of these reasons, the Ferri Case presently remains as one of the most intriguing cases from the perspective of modern ufology.

Additionally, Mr. Ferri has not gained monetary fortune as a result of the sighting event, but rather has maintained his humble duty as a loyal and hardworking farmer and

father. He has been interviewed by various Italian magazines and has been a guest on several Italian television shows. He has even been interviewed by the famous ufologist, J. Allen Hynek. However, Mr. Ferri wishes to remain as a simple man of integrity who shares his fascinating story of that night in 1984 with anyone who wishes to hear it, unlike other individuals involved in past UFO sighting cases and abductions by aliens, eager for fame, who embellish their personal accounts with more attractive exaggerations than sharing the simple truth.

With the integrity that Isodoro Ferri has demonstrated in his character, this is why he has all our respects. Any person who has experienced an event this extraordinary does not need the approval or acceptance of others because he or she knows, wholeheartedly, the actual truth.

We proceed now to the story told by Mr. Ferri’s daughter, Anna, directly from her perspective in the first person. Her account guides you through the sequence of events in detail and allows you to understand better the intense emotions of a UFO sighting witness.

Anna Ferri’s Story

Although many years have gone by, I still remember as if it were today. . .

Some memories are not easy to forget...

In the early morning, I sensed confusion in the household. My father had spoken nervously with my mother. Since I had just woken up and was still groggy, I did not understand exactly what they were talking about, but I knew something had happened.

Later, my father told me the story...

I remember seeing my dad nervous, confused and stupefied. He seemed powerless to whatever it was he saw that night. . . it had made him so distraught, but, most importantly, he had no doubt that it was a UFO.

The sighting occurred in the nearby field of the villa, well-visible from my father’s bedroom window.

My father says he was awakened that night by a bright light that shone directly into his eyes. Now awake, but still laying in his bed, he



scanned the field through his window. Then, it was in that moment when he saw the outline of a human. At first, he thought it was a poacher, with a miner's helmet on his head and a mounted light, the same light that woke him up. The figure then suddenly moved out of his line of vision. Unfortunately, my father could not elaborate more on the human-like figure.

Immediately after, he saw three "flames" or something that seemed like that, but he could not describe this with other words. He thought that the same poacher had ignited the straw hut nearby. In that moment, my father felt agitated and uneasy mentally, being that he was in charge of the place and the caretaker of the villa. He was realizing the peculiarities of these "flames" (as he initially perceived them to be) and thought that they may not really be flames at all. These flames were very unusual, since they radiated from the top to bottom and gave off no smoke or sparks.

"They were like three beams of light, but made out of fire," my father said, but could not explain them in better detail than that.

The impression I had while he told the story of the occurrence was that he tried to make an

explanation for him to understand what he had seen more than to other people. Naturally, he used simple but concise words in his explanation.

He proceeded to tell the story by describing the sudden disappearance of the three flame-like lights and how, in that moment, a "very bright, white, powerful light" appeared and moved slowly. It was so bright that he could not watch it for very long. My father described this light as "dazzling but blinding." This light started at one point, widening and advancing gradually, slowly coming towards him. This is when I remember his fear, this light frightened him...

My father then got out of bed and went towards the window, at which point he became blocked into some kind of trance. Suddenly, he felt he could not move nor speak; he could only look outside and watch. He saw everything. He was even able to distinguish the trees and the dog house. Then he felt a blast of hot air on his face. He even felt the heat blast in his hair. He says that it felt like an electrical sensation.

"Night had become day, but even brighter than daytime," he said.

After the initial scare, he told me he felt like he

had entered another world. Shortly thereafter, the fear in him subsided and his body was then engulfed with a sensation of tranquility and harmony. I still haven't been able to understand very well what exactly he meant by all of this.

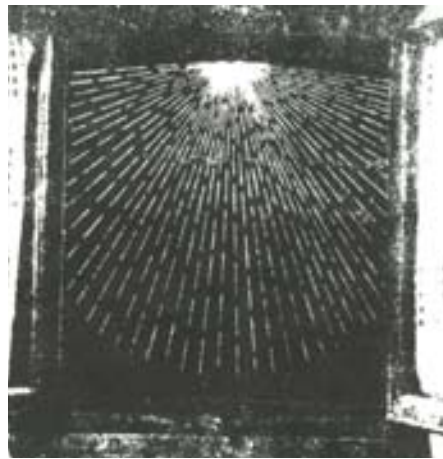
Then in the same way the light had arrived, it went away in a peculiar fashion. Gradually it narrowed and reversed to the point where it then took off and disappeared... all very slowly.

At this point, my father was released from his trance and is now able to move again.

Next, a brilliant red sphere, emitting incandescent light, appeared and departed rapidly in a diagonal direction, without any sound. It caused a shifting of air among the leaves and branches of the nearby trees.

My father remembers seeing the clock. It was between 3:45 to 3:50am. When the sighting event started, he truly believes that the time was between 3:10 to 3:15am, but is not completely sure.

Also regarding the duration of the phenomena, he has not been able to be precise but rather estimated the time. I'm sure that he doesn't really know exactly how much time went by.



My father returned to bed, befuddled. He did not call anyone in the family and stayed awake until the later morning. When the rest of the family awoke, he began telling his story.

That same morning, my father went to the *carabinieri* police office to file a police report.

Later in the afternoon of the same day, he was bombarded with visitors including: *carabinieri* police, ufologists, military personnel, researchers and journalists, all swarming the area where the incident took place. He was already very well-known by the *carabinieri* police since they had previously come to the villa seeking mushrooms and hunting activities. Moreover, university scholars and military authorities were making frequent visits within a time span of several months. Unfortunately, I cannot be more precise, I can only say that the authorities involved were definitely *carabinieri* police and Air Force officials. Since the initial visits and my father's police report, no new information was given or told to us.

The investigation soon began.

The presumed location of the UFO landing

incident was outlined with markers in the shape of an isosceles triangle. Word had spread and other personal accounts and confirmations of the occurrence in the zone of interest began to surface. Apparently, a woman had noticed a strong, bright, red light towards the location on the same night. She said it was 1:30am.

Then another two people, while traveling on a highway near to the villa, had seen a red object hover above the trees at around 2:30am.

Also, a married couple, living approximately 350 meters from the villa, had seen a brilliant, white light "as if it were daylight" manifest through the window shutters and lasted only a moment. According to them, it was 3:40am.

However, my father had experienced not only psychological effects, but also physical effects from the occurrence. I will never forget how bloodshot his eyes became and continued to be this way for days. Besides his intensely red eyes, he felt internal pains. In the following days, he was weak in his legs and knees. He felt worn out and disturbed for many days. Unfortunately, there aren't any medical records to indicate this.

The dog, a German Shepherd that roamed the yard just a few meters away from the incident, would not come out of his dog house after that night. We have never seen him act so fearful before. He even stopped eating for weeks and, after this period of suffering, he died. During the incident, the dog never barked. Instead, he just stayed inside his dog house completely scared.

We had many interactions with people since the incident. There were people who knew my father well and did not ever have any doubts about his story. Then, there were other skeptical people that did not believe him and mocked him. I think that my father didn't have any problems with this anyways. My father did not seek to convince anyone. All he wanted was to tell his story of what he saw. He never minded what other people thought or said.

I believe that this incident has helped set my father up for the rest of his life. He has always looked back on it favorably and in a very positive manner. He is proud and feels privileged that this happened to him.

Sometimes I watched him from the very same window and I saw him outside where it all happened, walking and looking around as if he were maybe trying to find something or relive the experience.

Oftentimes I watch him while he looks up at the sky and I ask myself what he could be thinking about. I have so many questions and no answers.

I have made sure to explain the incident that happened to my father while keeping details to a minimum and adding some thoughts of my own reflection on the subject. However, I haven't been able to tell or, better yet, transmit his emotions. Those emotions are his alone and only he can talk about them.



KEEPING
WILTSHIRE
WEIRD **By Chris Williams**

Background

In June, 2008, on a windswept hill, above a small town in Wiltshire, the concept of *Weird* was conceived. The hill was Cradle Hill, probably one of the most famous sky watching locations in the UK and the town was Warminster, once crowned the UFO capital of the UK and home to the late Arthur Shuttlewood.

From the start, *Weird* was going to be different from other conferences. It was going to be held in a theatre, but it was also going to include more subject matters than just UFOs. The boundaries between paranormal and UFOs overlapped and the conference would reflect this. *Weird* also needed to be about balance and we were determined to have representation across all aspects of belief.

In September of 2008, we launched the website. What followed was a year of dedicated, hard work by the *Weird* crew and ended in a highly-rated and well-received event in August, 2009.

After the success of *Weird 09*, an annual event was sure to follow and planning for the 2010 conference began. Encouraged by the positive responses, we also created three new *Weird* offerings, including *Weird Talking*, *Weird Investigations* and a podcast called *Clear Air Turbulence*.

Weird Talking started in January, 2010, and each month, a well-known speaker is invited to Swindon. The talks are held in a pleasant hotel in the Old Town area and have a relaxed and friendly atmosphere.

Our first talk saw Busty Taylor and Maria Wheatly presenting their research on the alignment of henges and their meanings. In February, we welcomed Trystan Swale, who gave a fascinating lecture on 'Disinformation in Ufology' and more speakers, such as Malcolm Robinson and Nick Pope, have agreed to appear.

Our investigation series was borne out of the need to dispel the myth being created by the internet and TV shows of what a paranormal investigation is like. Our investigations are different from any other you can attend in the UK. We take an objective stance and, although we discuss the many and varied methods used on paranormal investigations, we are very careful in explaining why most, if not all, simply do not work.

Clear Air Turbulence, co-hosted by Michael Gage, is a topical, sometimes sarcastic, take on the many subjects that fall under the forteen umbrella. Special guests abound on the show and have included Dr. David Clarke, Dr. Chris French, Nick Pope, Malcolm Robinson and the

Starchild Project. Well known investigators and researchers are planned to appear on the show during 2010.

Weird 10

The *Weird 10* conference will be held on the 21st and 22nd of August, at the Athenaeum theatre in Warminster. The theatre is a Victorian building and provides an atmospheric and historic setting for the event. Over the two days, speakers as diverse as Dr. Ciarán O'Keeffe, Dr. David Clarke and Andy Roberts to Wal Thornhill and Andrew Collins will speak and discuss a range of subject matters. There will be a large merchant area and refreshments will be



available throughout the day. This year, *Weird* will be the chosen event for the launch of two new books and will, again, break new ground in what constitutes a quality weekend for delegates and speakers alike.

Weird 10 welcomes back Brian Allan to Warminster, who will explore the concept of magic as a viable and usable technology. Dr. David Clarke, of MoD UFO files fame, will be giving a rare appearance and will discuss the famous Angel of Mons legend and other warfare based paranormal activity.

Andrew Collins is due to reveal cutting-edge evidence to demonstrate plasma is the key, not just to some UFO close encounters, but also to certain types of abduction and missing time experiences. Moreover, he will show that this phenomenon, in all its forms, might well have had an interrelationship with the human species since time immemorial.

We also welcome, from Australia, Wal Thornhill, a pioneer of the electric universe theory, who will be bringing his concepts of a universe and recent solar upheaval to a talk entitled 'UFOs and Stonehenge in an electric universe'.

Andy Roberts, another well-known researcher and investigator, also joins the line-up and will be looking at the famous Welsh Berwyn Mountains case. He is joined by serving officers

from ASSAP, a scientifically-orientated educational charity and amateur research organisation. The British UFO Research Association join the line-up and finally, mostly known in the public arena for his role on *Most Haunted*, Dr. Ciaran O'Keeffe will be talking about his experiences and work in the parapsychology field.

The conference will also see a number of book launches as well as short films and other activities over the weekend. Rock band, CE IV, will again be providing all the music for the event.

Finally, the weekend offers the chance to partake in the legendary UFO skywatch on Cradle Hill. The evening proved very popular in 2009 and, with a number of sightings reported and one investigated by Robert Moore, we hope that the 2010 watch will be just as fascinating.

Weird 09

Weird 09 was the first Wiltshire-based paranormal and UFO conference. Held over the bank holiday weekend in August, 2009, it attracted rave reviews and critical acclaim. *Weird* was hosted by Ross Hemsworth and attracted well-known speakers, including Nick Pope, Nick Redfern, Brian Allan, Malcolm Robinson, Paul Devereux, Mike Oram, Joe McGonagle, Dr. Peter McCue, Kevin Goodman and Hayley Stevens. Two videos that were recorded earlier in the summer with Dr. David Clarke and Steve Dewey were also shown over the weekend.

Alternative Rock Band, CE IV, provided the musical backdrop and their song, *Touch the Sky*, which was commissioned for the conference, was a huge hit.

The conference evening involved a paranormal investigation, which had been sold out for months, and also the chance to take part in the annual Warminster skywatch, held at Cradle Hill on the outskirts of the town. Several sightings were made during the investigation, which were documented by Robert Moore. The report is available on the *Weird 10* site.

Weird 09 was only the success it was due to the crew who helped put on the event and the team that run the conference deserve a special mention. A huge thanks therefore to Phil, Colin, Hayley, Sharon, Tracey, Darren, Andrea and the trustees of the theatre for all their help.



8 Tips to Better UFO Photos and Videos

Since the objects and entities behind the UFO phenomenon will not present themselves for our inspection, we are obliged to study them indirectly. The only way to do this is to treat them like rare particles in a detection chamber and analyze their traces. These traces take the form of witness reports, landing sites and supporting documentation – photos, videos and radar returns.



In the first decade of the 21st Century, the near-omnipresence of inexpensive, compact, automated digital cameras and the addition of cameras to the ubiquitous cell phone has unleashed a veritable flood of UFO images for investigation. Unfortunately, quantity does not translate into quality. I have been observing and, in some cases, analyzing UFO

photos for several years now and while the number of recorded observations posted to the worldwide web is phenomenal, the quality still leaves much to be desired. This is due partly to the elusive and largely unpredictable nature of “the dodgy subject”, as musician, Noel Redding, called it, but also to the equipment being used to capture the images and, sometimes, even to

the process of capturing an image itself.

Daily, it seems, we are treated to new shots of a glowing blob or blobs (blobettes? blobules?) that dance(s) against a black, velvet background while the autofocus camera, unprogrammed for such an obscure subject, helplessly focuses in and out, in and out.

Partly this decline is due, paradoxically, to the

very technology that has made cameras small enough to fit in a shirt pocket or a cell phone, the digital imaging chip. Although they are convenient, the low resolution of many of these chips makes reliable image interpretation a challenge, if not an arcane (and occasionally arbitrary) “black art”. And the more pixels crammed onto the chip, the higher the noise level, which affects image detail and black level.

However, equally often, as the devious HAL 9000 supercomputer complained in *2001: A Space Odyssey*, “This sort of thing has cropped up before... and it has always been due to human error.”

When I read complaints last year from one investigator, bemoaning the poor quality of many UFO photographs, the idea for this article took shape. Drawing on almost 50 years’ professional experience with photography, photo lab management, special effects cinematography, video and film production, I’ll make some simple (but not always cheap) suggestions that you can use to improve your odds of getting that one-in-a-million shot where, as Arthur C. Clarke sarcastically remarked, “... (Y)ou can read the Martian license plates.”

To begin with, my qualifications:

■ My first camera, an Ansco Cadet, was made so long ago that you can now only get the film for it from Croatia. I won’t say what year that was, but my age and the ASA (now ISO) of Kodachrome were both the same, that is, 10.

■ For six years, in the 1980s, I ran the technical side of Superposter, a photo lab in Seattle, Wa. We specialized in optically enlarging 35mm and smaller B&W negatives into 2x3-foot posters with modified, off-the-shelf darkroom and graphics arts equipment. One of my retail customers was the late (and eccentric) cryptozoologist, Jon Beckjord. During that time, I saw every kind of problem – and made every mistake you can make – processing photographic film and paper.

■ I studied special-effects cinematography with an eye to becoming a cameraman, one of my singular effects recreating the eruption of Mt. St. Helens in a 250-gallon fish tank.

■ I learned digital photography as a reporter in the 1990s, working with professional photojournalists, long before good digital cameras became cheap or widely available. My news photos won several regional press awards.

That should demonstrate that I know what I’m talking about with regards to photography. Regarding UFOs, my father was a radar



engineer at Ft. Monmouth, NJ, in the 1950s. He had an open mind about the origins of UFOs and I still have some of his books by Jessup, Adamski and others. I have been fascinated by the subject of extraterrestrial life and the larger question of non-human intelligence and perspective since my childhood.

Herewith, my suggestions:

1) GET A TRIPOD! Yes, I know they’re a drag to lug around, but at least keep one in the trunk of your car! I’ve seen so many swaying, wobbling videos of something – *something* – tantalizing out there that I’m on a permanent Dramamine drip. Is the object moving or is it the camera operator? Or both?

Modern lenses on camcorders can zoom 20x or more optically. Add digital zoom and the magnification can run to 100x. Even the image stabilization systems can’t keep up that enormous magnification.

Lacking a tripod, learn to think like a sniper. Try to rest the camera on something solid and motionless – a wall, a windowsill, a balcony railing. Brace yourself against a doorway, elbows on the hood of a car or leaning up against a tree. This can be very effective, even with a long, heavy telephoto lens!

2) FOCUS MANUALLY or, at least, learn how to shut off the autofocus system!

The autofocus modules in most cameras were designed to focus on typical subjects under common daylight or indoor lighting conditions. Therefore, when confronted with points of light at night at a distance, they hunt and seek.

Most cameras have some way to defeat autofocus, the problem is interpreting it from

the supposedly “universal” symbols used by camera makers! Often, there’s an auto/manual focus switch. Manual focus might be indicated by a hand icon. A couple of jagged peaks, like mountains, indicate “far focus”. The numeral 8 on its side, ∞, always indicates “infinity” focus on a lens. And that’s far, as in, “To the moon, Alice, to the moon!”

3) SHOOT FILM. In old, manual-everything cameras. Think about it – modern digital cameras (and even modern film cameras) rely on batteries, printed circuit boards and electric micro-motors. What is one well-established characteristic of a close encounter of the second kind? Two words: *electrical interference!* Whatever the UFO phenomenon is, it frequently garbles radio signals and stops spark-ignition engines in their tracks. Headlights and flashlights, which are both direct current, have been known to fade and die in a CE2K. We may take a lesson from the fact that diesel engines, which rely for ignition on compression, not a spark, have reportedly kept on running.

Old, all-metal, manually-focused, hand-wound, mechanical-shutter film cameras are not only durable, but equipped with the right optics – which can frequently be had for pennies on the original dollar – they are powerful image-gathering tools.

With a decent lens, a frame of fine grain 200 speed 35mm color negative film, when properly scanned, can record the equivalent of a 15 or 20 megapixel imaging chip! It holds better detail in highlights and shadows and lacks the “color noise” that characterizes low-light digital images. In terms of exposure, film is far more forgiving than digital imagery. Getting that performance in a digital camera would set



you back about \$1,000 – and you wouldn't want your abductors getting their slimy tentacles on our advanced Earth technology, would you?

4) TAKE OFF THE FILTER! If you don't keep a filter over the lens, why not? It prevents dirt, dust, fingerprints and all kinds of other crud from soiling the front element of your lens, which has been polished to gem-like perfection and coated with multiple layers of rare, anti-reflective coatings.

If you're shooting into any kind of light source, whether it's the sun coming up at midnight or a suspected runaway paper lantern, a filter will produce a secondary or "ghost" image of the highlights. The relative brightness of this secondary image depends on how good the filter is, which is usually a direct function of price. Even expensive filters do it a little - cheap filters do it a lot.

This happened to a UFO enthusiast who used my photo lab. He brought in an amateur's negative with mysterious "lights in the night sky" for enlargement and analysis. I noticed an inverse correlation between the pattern and location of car headlights in the foreground and the UFOs above, which meant they were a reflection. I demonstrated it to the client on a print, marking with a straightedge and grease pencil. When he still didn't believe me, I told him to ask the photographer one question: Was there a filter on the lens at the time the photo was taken? The photographer said "Yes" and we didn't hear much from the client after that.

5) FREEZE TIME. By that, I mean choose a fast shutter speed to stop the subject's movement and your own. On many point-and-shoot cameras, both digital and film, this can be done by setting the mode dial or menu panel to the little "running man" figure, also known as "sports" or "action" mode. This tells the camera to select the fastest possible shutter speed for the lighting at the expense of overall sharpness and noise. Several recent UFO photos I've analyzed

have turned out to be swooping or diving birds, blurred into obscurity by a slow shutter speed.

If you're hand-holding a manual camera, to prevent blur from camera movement, choose a shutter speed at least equivalent to the focal length of the lens you're using, i.e. 1/250 sec. is the slowest hand-holdable speed with a 200mm (or equivalent) lens, 1/500 with a 400 or 500mm, etc. The advantage is you'll get a clearer, more detailed image.

6) GET A BETTER CAMERA. Imaging chips can be as small as 1/6" (4mm) diagonally.

Convenience and image quality are often a tradeoff. In general, physically larger imaging chips produce higher quality image files than small ones, but large chips also require larger optics, bigger batteries and bodies. The best camera in the world is useless if you leave it at home! Many manufacturers now offer cameras that are splash-proof, weather proof and even waterproof to depths of 33 feet (10m).

7) IGNORE "SPIRIT ORBS". Paranormal investigation has its fads, and one of the recent ones is "orbs". Orbs appear to be glowing, soft, unfocused blobs of light in a photograph. Paranormal explanations run the gamut from angels to souls to invisible aliens.

Actually orbs are nothing new and underwater photographers have been trying to avoid them for decades. They're called "backscatter" and are caused by small particles suspended in the water (or air) between the lens and the subject. When light from a flash hits the particles, it reflects into the lens, making the particles appear to glow. The closer the flash is to the lens, the brighter the glow.

Orbs can be caused by blowing dust or, more commonly, mist. They appear more often in digital photos because the short focal length lenses on these cameras bring the orbs into partial focus and because the flash is often directly over the lens. I produced the "orb" pictures that accompany this article with a plant mister and a cheap digital camera (Silicon Valley Products DC 1251).



8) REALLY SHOOT THE INVISIBLE! You can capture images in the invisible spectrum – infrared and ultraviolet light – with the proper equipment. Regular high-speed color or B&W film is also sensitive to ultraviolet, which often appears in photos taken at high altitudes as a bluish haze. To get an exposure with ultraviolet light, a UV visible cut off filter is required, which blacks out an SLR viewfinder, so an external viewfinder is recommended. If using a digital camera with a real-time monitor, you'll be able to see the monochrome image.

Infrared film is available in B&W and so-called "false color" slide film, which is used for reconnaissance, scientific and agricultural imaging. Since it's also sensitive to blue light, it must be used with an orange, red or IR visible cutoff filter. Regular light meters don't measure infrared light, so exposure tests are in order.

If all that sounds like too much trouble, some firms will convert a DSLR to shoot infrared or ultraviolet. Or try a digital forensic camera, like the Fuji IS-1 or a modified Finepix S3 Pro, which will shoot both infrared and UV photos in autofocus and autoexposure!

However, no amount of technical savvy or technology can replace dogged investigation and an inquiring, skeptical attitude. We must always seek the truth, whether it reinforces our most cherished theories or not.

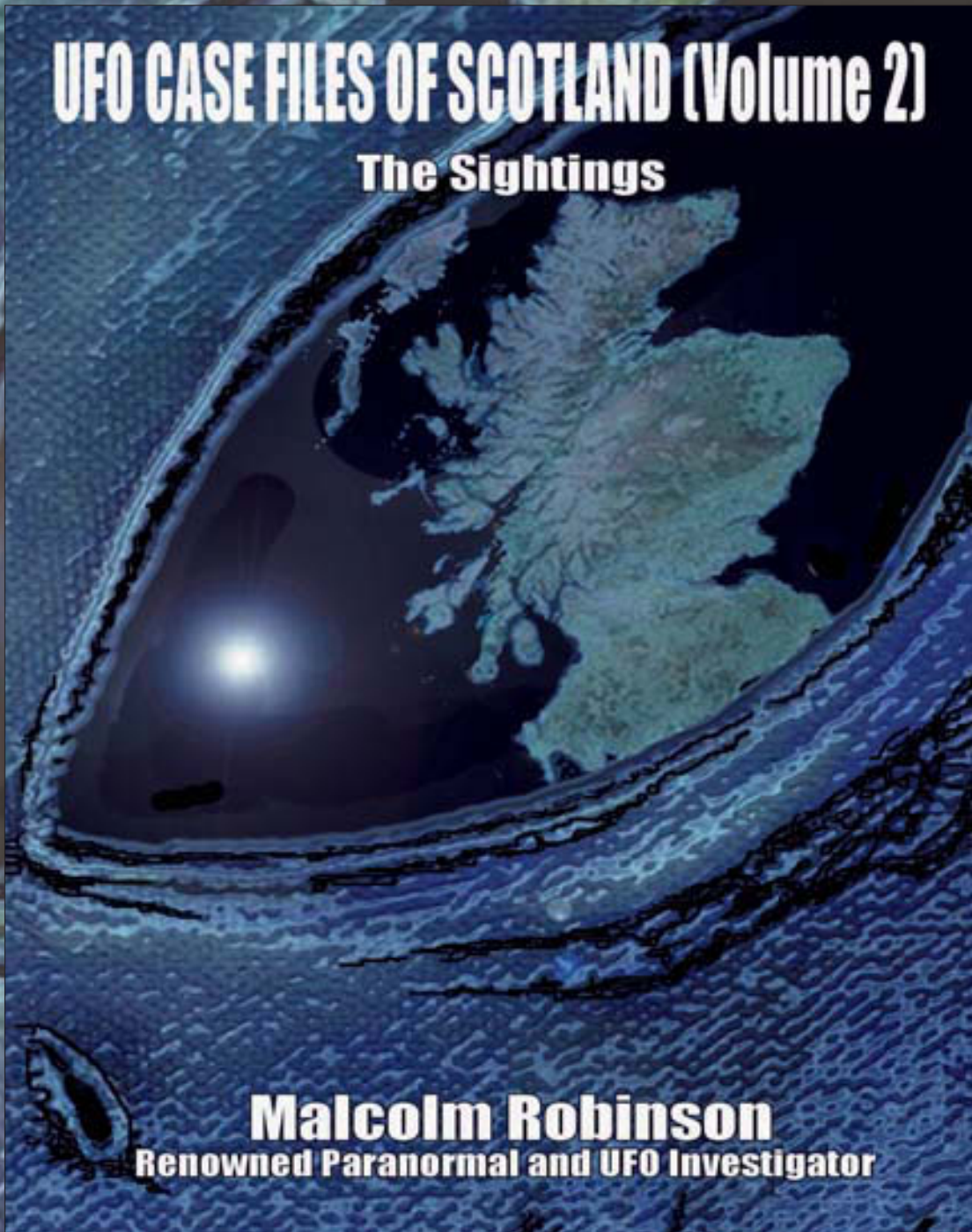
UFOlogy is riddled with creeds and opinions that transcend "belief" and verge on becoming religion. I see profound disappointment and anger in some writers because "disclosure" (whatever that means) is not forthcoming from the new administration. It seems obvious to me that whatever contact is taking place (or will take place) is happening on the terms of what Whitley Strieber calls "the Visitors", not on our terms.

To wait indefinitely is difficult; to invent fanciful scenarios and point to every speck of dust or blurred bird as evidence of extraterrestrial visitation is worse than unproductive, it is counter-productive. Only discrimination, rationality and the thorough application of science hold out any hope of a solution to the UFO mystery. We have no assurance, however, that our beliefs lead us anywhere at all.

Malcolm J. Brenner is a Florida-based freelance writer/photographer and the author of the novel, *Wet Goddess: Recollections of a Dolphin Lover*, available at www.wetgoddess.net



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The Senator and the Aliens

“Get Me the Hell Out of Here!”

By Don Schmitt & Tom Carey

On Monday, July 7, 1947, New Mexico's newly elected, 32-year-old lieutenant governor, Joseph “Little Joe” Montoya was in the sleepy desert town of Roswell. There are no written records that will confirm the exact whereabouts of Little Joe that day, but, thanks to the long-term memories of a few *Montoyistas* (young political supporters of Montoya), we know, for a fact, that Montoya was in Roswell. And the town of Roswell—especially the air base just to the south—was anything but sleepy that day.

The brothers, Ruben and Pete Anaya, who would become lifelong friends of Joe Montoya, lived next door to one another on Albuquerque St. in the south end of Roswell in 1947. Both were active in local Democratic politics and both were card-carrying *Montoyistas*. Though U.S. Senator Dennis Chavez was the highest-ranking elected Hispanic politician in New Mexico at the time, many in the state's Hispanic community felt that Chavez had become too

“establishment” from his years in Washington and, as a result, did not adequately represent their interests and concerns. “Little Joe”, as they affectionately referred to the then lieutenant governor, was their man and the rest is history. Almost.

It is not entirely clear how Joseph Montoya came to be on base at the Roswell Army Air Field (RAAF) on the exact day and moment that wreckage from the downed UFO began arriving there. Also arriving was the first set of “little bodies”, including a possible survivor from the crash site just north of town. The site had been accidentally discovered 35 miles northwest of Roswell in Chaves County earlier that day by a group of civilian archaeologists, who telephoned the sheriff's office and fire department in Roswell from a service station in the nearby hamlet of Mesa. This site was closer to Roswell than the debris-field site in Lincoln County that the RAAF's Maj. Jesse Marcel and

Capt. Sheridan Cavitt had gone to the previous day with sheep rancher Mack Brazel. Marcel and Cavitt were, at this time, still in the field and had not yet returned to Roswell.

The central depository for the retrieval operation, including the bodies, was Hangar P-3 (today known as Building 84) located along the flight line at the east end of the base proper. One account has Montoya being called to the airbase in Roswell, as the highest-ranking state official in the area at the time, to view the wreckage and the bodies [NOTE: It is now known that New Mexico Governor, Tom Mabry, suddenly took an “impromptu vacation to the mountains” at this time; he had been scheduled to publicly sign an Air Force Proclamation with the RAAF's Col Blanchard in Santa Fe on July 9th, but the signing was deferred until July 14th – after the Roswell events - with Joseph Montoya signing in place of the governor! It is also now known from President Harry Truman's daily

THE SENATOR AND THE ALIENS

appointment logs of the day that New Mexico's senior senator, Carl Hatch, requested an emergency meeting with the president on July 7th; the requested meeting finally took place on July 9th.]. The other account, told to us by the Anaya brothers, put Montoya on the base with other public officials for a regularly scheduled special event—the dedication of a new airplane. After the dedication, according to the late Ruben Anaya, Montoya went over to the hangar area to greet some local, civilian *Montoyistas* who were working there and who

wanted to meet him. He arrived in the vicinity of Hangar P-3 just as the first military vehicles were bearing down with wreckage and bodies from the crash site north of town. What then ensued was something that would cause Montoya to admonish his friends to never say anything at the threat of being called liars, something that would bring Senator Chavez and Chaves County sheriff, George Wilcox, into the case to enforce the secret and something that Montoya's family refuses to discuss by claiming that he was not involved.

“ From what I could see, they had four long, thin fingers [on each hand]. They had large [for their size], bald heads. I wasn't close enough to see what color their eyes were, but they were larger than normal ”

The final ["Impact"] site where what was left of the exploded UFO came to rest 30 miles north of Roswell.

Hangar P-3 today [now known as Building 84]



Our investigation was first made aware of Ruben and Pete Anaya in 1991, during a book signing in Roswell for the then recently-released *UFO Crash at Roswell*, when Ruben Anaya's daughter introduced her father to co-authors, Kevin Randle and Don Schmitt. It was in a number of interviews that we had with Ruben Anaya, Pete Anaya, and Pete's wife, Mary, in 1991, 1992, 1994 and 2002, that we learned the details of Joseph Montoya's extraordinary encounter in 1947. Ruben Anaya was also interviewed separately, in 1993, by anti-Roswell researcher, the late Karl T. Pflock, for his 2001 book, *Roswell: Inconvenient Facts and the Will to Believe*. The Anayas were also interviewed in 1997 by British researcher, Tim Shawcross, for his book of the same year, *The Roswell File*. The following narrative of the 1947 events involving Joseph Montoya represents a synthesis of the details gleaned from these interviews.

The first inkling that Ruben Anaya had that something was amiss was a panicked knock at his front door. It was his father, informing him that Joe Montoya had just called him (neither Ruben nor Pete Anaya had a telephone) from the base to tell him to get Ruben to come out to the base as quickly as possible. Ruben Anaya went to his father's house and returned the call to find out what Montoya needed. Anaya recalled that Montoya sounded "real excited" and "panicky-sounding" over the phone, "like he had seen a fire or something". Talking as fast as

N.M. Lt. Gov. Joseph Montoya at airplane dedication at RAAF on July 7, 1947.



he could in Spanish, Montoya told Anaya, "I'm at the big hangar. Get your car, Ruben, and pick me up. Get me the hell out of her e! Hurry!" Returning home with alacrity, Ruben Anaya went next door to his brother's house to confer with Pete Anaya, who had been chatting with two fellow *Montoyistas*, Moses Burrola and Ralph Chaes. All four then piled into Ruben's car and headed for the base.

The Anaya car had no difficulty in passing through the main gate at the RAAF because

Ruben worked on the base as a cook at the Officers' Club and, as a recently discharged WWII veteran, was also a member of the NCO Club. Because of these affiliations, his car had an official base sticker prominently displayed, which the guards at the main gate recognized, so they waved the car on through. The base also had not yet gotten its act together in dealing with this unprecedented emergency and, therefore, had not yet gone into "lockdown mode". Not wanting to be seen in this situation by anyone who would recognize him, Montoya had told Anaya not to drive near the base headquarters, located in the center of the base, because there were too many people there. Following these instructions, the Anayas finally arrived at the large water tower, which still looms ominously over Hangar P-3, but could go no further, as their route was blocked. It was then they noticed the burgeoning excitement around the hangar and that there were MPs, as well as some city police, controlling the entrance to it. Just then, the side door of the hangar opened and out sprinted Little Joe Montoya "...like a bat out of hell", according to Ruben Anaya. Montoya quickly got into the back seat of the car and exhorted, "Come on, let's go. Let's get the hell out of her e!" Ruben Anaya noticed that Montoya was very pale, "...like he had seen a ghost or something" and was shaking uncontrollably. Anaya concluded that something must have frightened his friend severely. "He was very, very scared," Anaya would tell us years later. Pete Anaya would also attest to Montoya's strangely frightened appearance that day. Ruben then asked Montoya if he



Sheriff George Wilcox Gravestone [today]

wanted to be driven to the Nickson Hotel, where Montoya normally stayed when he was in Roswell, but Montoya instead responded, "No. Just take me to your house. I need a drink bad." On the ride back, Montoya, at least initially, was still in a state of high excitement and anxiety as he kept shaking and twitching while rocking back and forth and muttering to himself, "They're not human! They're not human!" Later, he sat quietly, just staring out the window during the remainder of the drive back to town.

When they arrived at Pete Anaya's house, Montoya collapsed in a heap on the sofa. He was handed a small glass of scotch, which he quickly downed, but with no apparent effect. Montoya wanted something else. He was then given a bottle of Jim Beam, three-quarters full, which he then drank straight from the bottle in three big gulps, "boom, boom, boom", as Ruben would later describe it. They told Montoya to take it easy. "No. I've got to calm myself down. You are not going to believe what I've just seen. If you ever tell anyone, I'll call you a damned liar."

Still excited, Montoya launched into his account. "We don't know what it is," Montoya allowed. "There was a flying saucer. They say it moves like a platter—a plane without wings. Not a helicopter." Ruben Anaya revealed to us that when Montoya got excited, he tended to speak in Spanish; therefore, his "close encounter" was described to them mostly in Spanish—*un plato muy grande con una machina en la media* ("a big saucer with a machine in the middle"). "I don't know where it's



Chaves County
Sheriff, George
Wilcox [1947]



Water tower - where Lt. Governor Joe Montoya met the Anaya brothers and told them, "Let's get the Hell outta here!" - as it appears today.

from. It could be from the moon. We don't know what it is."

We don't know if Montoya actually saw the craft or was simply told about it by crews returning from the crash site. We suspect that it was the latter, because the recovery had just commenced and other eyewitnesses only described seeing pieces of wreckage being brought into the hangar at this time—not an intact vessel—along with something else. Montoya seemed to confirm this himself, a little later, by stating that he had seen wreckage being brought into the hangar when he was there, but that there was nothing that resembled an intact ship, just pieces of metal he didn't get close enough to examine.

Montoya wasn't finished. He then told the Anayas that he had also seen "four little men".

He described how small they were, along with the stunning fact that "one was alive!" There is a question as to the exact number of "little men" Montoya said he saw that day. Pete Anaya confirmed his brother's belief that Montoya had said there were four, but Pete's wife, who had been an interested bystander in the living room, thought he had mentioned only two. We believe that the correct total under discussion is four - three dead and one alive. Montoya described the beings as, "Short, only coming up to my chest." Ruben Anaya added that, "Montoya stood up as best he could and held his hand up to his chest with his palm facing down to indicate how tall they were. Montoya was a little guy himself, which would mean that they were about three and a half feet tall." Continuing with Montoya's description, "[They



Newlyweds, Pete and Mary Anaya, in 1947.

were] skinny with big eyes shaped like tear-drops. [The] mouth was real small, like a knife-cut across a piece of wood, and they had large heads.”

He then described for the Anayas the scene inside the hangar. Each of the little men, including the one that was alive, was stretched out on a table brought over from the mess hall and set up for that purpose. “I knew that one was alive, because I could hear it moaning.” Montoya said that it was moving with its knees up on the table and that these, plus one hand, were also moving. “They were so skinny that they didn’t look human,” Montoya told them. As with the wreckage, Montoya could not get as close to the little men as he would have liked, this time due to the press of doctors and technicians around the tables. He got close enough, however, to see that their skin was a pale white and that they had no hair. Each wore



New Mexico Sen. Joseph "Little Joe" Montoya [circa 1960's] was New Mexico's Lt. Governor in 1947



Sheriff Wilcox's wife, Inez [1947]

a silvery, tight-fitting, one-piece flight suit. “From what I could see, they had four long, thin fingers [on each hand]. They had large [for their size], bald heads. I wasn’t close enough to see what color their eyes were, but they were larger than normal.” Just prior to his dash from the hangar, Montoya said that the little men were taken over to the base hospital. Exhausted from his ordeal, and exasperated at Ruben Anaya for asking so many questions, Montoya had reached the end of his tether. “I tell you, they’re not from this world!” Upon hearing this, Ruben Anaya recalled, “We thought, ‘This guy, he’s out of whack.’ That’s when I shut up.”

After finishing the recounting of his day’s “not from this world” activities, Montoya finally began to relax. He lay back on the sofa and fell asleep, but it was a fitful sleep. He kept jerking

and twitching himself awake, as if he was under a great deal of stress. After a while, he woke up and asked Ruben Anaya to call his brother, Tom Montoya, who worked at the Nickson Hotel in downtown Roswell, where he was staying, to come over and pick him up. Anaya, after placing the call from his father’s house, arrived back about the same time that a car driven by another *Montoyista*, Fred Willard, was pulling up to his brother Pete’s house (Tom was unable to leave his duties at the hotel and had called Willard to go to the Anayas’ in his stead). Montoya came out of the house and Willard got out and helped him into the car. The group of loyal *Montoyistas* just stood there in a state of semi-shock, watching in awed silence, as the car sped away.

The following morning, Ruben and Pete



Anaya drove to the Nickson Hotel to check on the lieutenant governor. A now more composed Montoya gave the brothers a little update as to what was going on: "Confidentially, they shipped everything to Texas and those little guys are in the hospital." Montoya then reiterated for the Anayas his admonishment of the previous day, that if they talked to anyone about what happened at the base the day before, he would call them liars. With that, the Anayas left and went home. That evening, the Anayas had an unexpected visitor. Because the two Anaya brothers and their families lived next to each other, a tired and stressed Sheriff George Wilcox was thankful to have a "twofer" on his hands. The Anayas had no idea why the Chaves County sheriff's car would be stopping in front of Pete Anaya's house. Both families went outside and met Sheriff Wilcox on the front lawn. Wilcox had a message for them. Unknown to the Anayas, Wilcox had delivered the same message to certain other civilians in Roswell that day at the behest of the Army Air Forces. He told the Anayas in no uncertain terms that if they talked to anyone about what the lieutenant governor had told them, everybody, including the children, would be killed! After delivering his civil-rights-violating threat, Wilcox returned to his cruiser and drove off, leaving the stunned and outraged Anayas to contemplate their fate. On several subsequent occasions, Ruben Anaya said that he, his brother and Moses Burrola did, in fact, try to discuss the episode with Montoya, who was, by this time, talking about much more than just calling them liars. "It's too dangerous to talk about. The FBI will do away with you," he said. Could that be what Wilcox meant? Anaya

wasn't sure, but the warning was again clear. In a later discussion, Montoya repeated the warning: "If you talk about it, someone, maybe not the FBI, but someone in the government will get you."

A different appeal was tried on the *Montoyistas* by Joseph Montoya's longtime New Mexico adversary, Senator Dennis Chavez. Sometime after Montoya's experience in the hangar, as Ruben Anaya recalled it, Senator Chavez summoned him, his brother, Pete, Moses Burrola and Ralph Chaes to the Nickson Hotel, where he was staying, to discuss something. After preliminaries, Chavez bluntly told them, "Joe Montoya is a damn liar! He didn't see anything. It was a secret project and it could hurt us with Russia and Germany if word of it got out."

By the decade of the 1970s, when Joseph Montoya was a sitting U.S. senator, the "UFO crisis" of those early days had long passed. UFO

sightings were still being reported, to be sure, but the Air Force was officially out of the UFO business, having closed its Project Blue Book in 1969. And, out of fear of ridicule, there was no longer any talk of "crashed saucers" or "little green men". It was in this milieu that John Anaya, the son of Pete and Mary Anaya, joined the staff of Senator Montoya in Washington, D.C. We had an opportunity to talk to John Anaya at his parents' home in September, 2002, when we were videotaping his parents for our Sci-Fi Channel documentary, *The Roswell Crash: Startling New Evidence*. We asked him if he had known Little Joe Montoya. "Yes, I knew him well," he said. "I worked for him for 10 years." We went right to it and followed up the first question with, "Did you ever ask him about what your parents are testifying about today?" "Yes, I did," he said. "I asked him if it was true. He said that it was, but that if I ever told anyone, he would deny it."





personal pilot back in 1947 and might know something. Schmitt followed up on the lead by talking to Glenn, who informed Schmitt that he wasn't Montoya's pilot until much later and that Montoya's pilot in 1947 was a fellow by the name of Fred Willard, who was still alive and living in Roswell. According to Glenn, Willard had been Montoya's driver, pilot and all-around coordinator of Montoya's itinerary whenever Montoya was in Roswell.

We had always assumed that it was the Anaya brothers who had driven Montoya to the Nickson Hotel or back to the base to catch a flight after leaving Pete Anaya's house. And Karl Pflock, in his 2001 book, stated that it was Montoya's brother, Tom, who had picked him up and drove him back to the Nickson. Before approaching Willard, we ran this new information by Pete Anaya, as Fred Willard's name was new to us and had never come up in any of the previous discussions with the Anayas about Joseph Montoya. "Yes. It was Fred Willard. I had forgotten, but it was Fred who came and got Montoya that day." We then approached a friend of ours, Bruce Rhodes, who works at the UFO Museum in Roswell, and who was, by coincidence, a friend of Willard's, to try to arrange a meeting. Rhodes suggested that, because Willard was known to have his

Ruben Anaya passed away in 2002. Moses Burrola died many years ago, but, before he passed, he told his wife about that unforgettable day in July of 1947, when Little Joe Montoya came to Roswell. She confirmed for us that her late husband had, indeed, known Montoya and had been good friends with the Anayas. She could not remember any details of that day, however, only that something very

unusual had happened. Ralph Chaes was never located or interviewed and is presumed to be long gone. In 2004, we received a tip from someone who called the International UFO Museum & Research Center (IUFOM&RC) in Roswell, suggesting that we talk to a Roswell resident by the name of William "Bill" Glenn, the owner of Glenn's Furniture in Roswell. The caller said that Glenn had been Joe Montoya's



New Mexico's junior senator, Dennis Chavez [1947]

“By the decade of the 1970s, when Joseph Montoya was a sitting U.S. senator, the “UFO crisis” of those early days had long passed. UFO sightings were still being reported, to be sure, but the Air Force was officially out of the UFO business, having closed its Project Blue Book in 1969.5 And, out of fear of ridicule, there was no longer any talk of “crashed saucers” or “little green men.””



Pete Anaya [2002]

morning coffee the same time every day at the midtown Denny's restaurant, located not far from the UFO Museum, we could probably meet there. We gave Rhodes the go-ahead to set up a meeting.

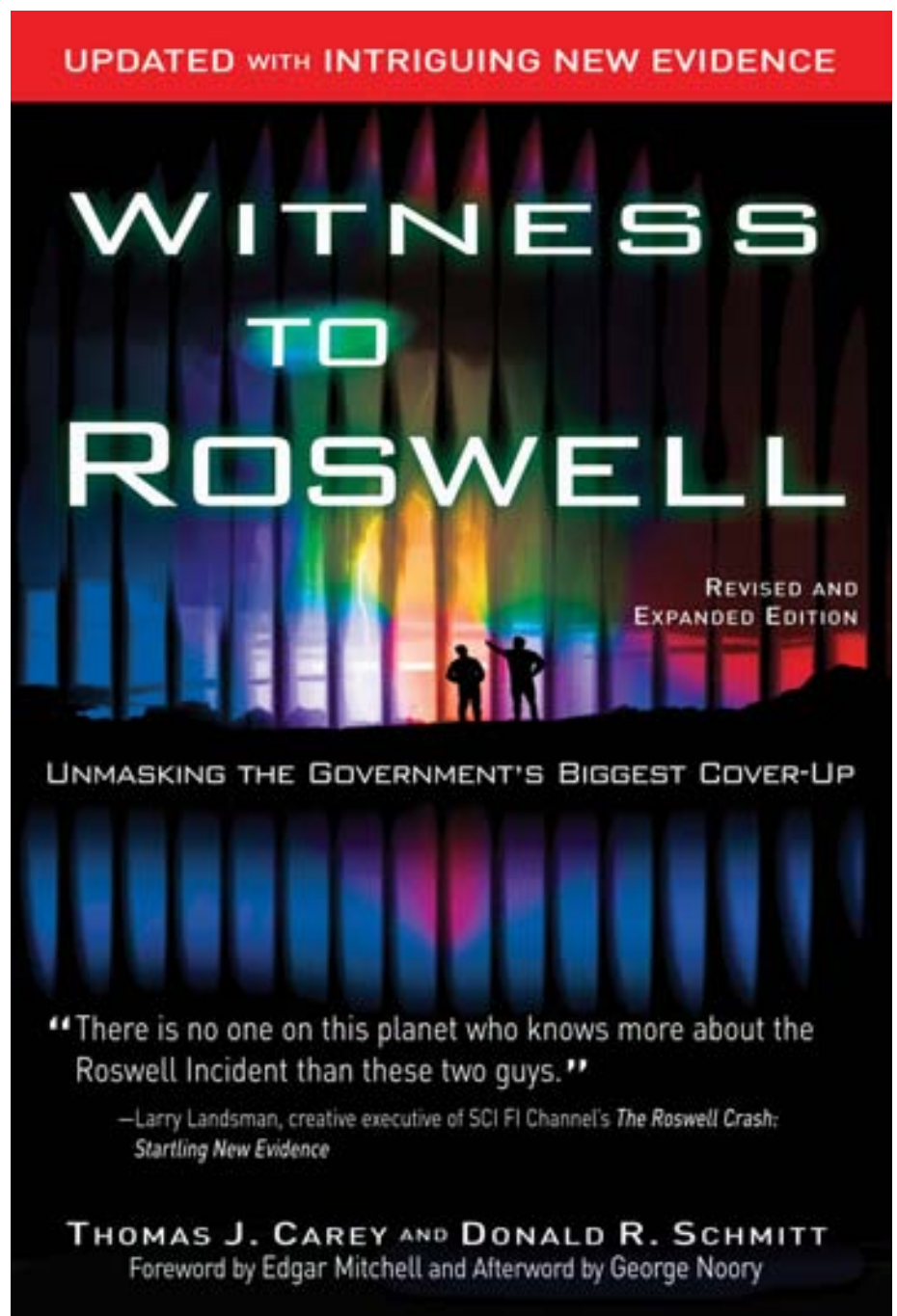
As we waited with Bruce Rhodes in our booth at Denny's for Fred Willard to show, it crossed our minds that maybe he wouldn't. After all, it wouldn't be a first. Rhodes had told Willard only that we were going to ask him some general questions about the Roswell Incident, whether he knew anything about it or not. Joseph Montoya's name had not been mentioned as a possible topic of discussion. Sometimes that was enough, in our experience, to cause the Roswell-related affliction, *cold-feet-itis*. "Here he comes," said Rhodes, who waved him over to join us.

After exchanging pleasantries and a few softball questions about Roswell and the 1947 incident, we got down to business—in a pleasant way, of course. Willard acknowledged that he had been Montoya's coordinator and personal driver whenever Montoya was in Roswell and that he later became Montoya's personal pilot, as well. Most importantly, he acknowledged being Montoya's driver in 1947. As our questioning began focusing on his relationship with Joseph Montoya, we noticed that Willard was becoming noticeably agitated and less and less talkative. We then dropped the big one on him and asked if he knew anything about Montoya's "close encounter" out at the base in 1947. "No, I don't. Never heard that one." "He never told you about it? You were his driver in 1947. Wasn't it you who picked him up at Pete Anaya's house and drove him back to the Nickson after his episode out at the hangar?" At this line of questioning,

Willard's entire demeanor began to change. He began to appear unstable in his chair. His lower lip began to quiver uncontrollably and his right hand started to tremble as he tried to stir his coffee. His face turned visibly pale as he lowered his head to avoid our eyes by staring at his coffee cup. We were looking at someone whose life appeared to be passing right before him (and us) as we sat there. Willard never answered the questions or spoke coherently again that day. We left the restaurant feeling truly sorry for him, but also feeling that our questions had, indeed, been answered.



Mary Anaya [2002]



ON ASSIGNMENT

By Peter Robbins

The UFO Ridicule Factor in American Politics

It's something of a given in American politics: being perceived as someone who takes the subject of UFOs seriously is tantamount to political suicide, doubly so if you've been reckless enough to go on record as maintaining that some UFOs may represent advanced technology under the control of other intelligences from parts unknown. The biases against public figures who voice rational interest in this explosive topic are longstanding, but particularly so for political figures and there are no real signs that we will see this change soon. Even so, understanding the dynamics which feed this warped view may, ultimately, assist us in transforming this cult of ridicule.

Since the summer of 1947, the American media, military and numerous other branches and offices of the United States government have done a superb job of implanting the false notion that a serious belief in the reality of UFOs is equivalent to delusional thinking and mental illness or, at the least, simplemindedness. Some past presidents and presidential candidates have expressed genuine sympathy for UFO openness, only to recant later, then retreat into silence or the mob of naysayers. Let's take a look at some outstanding examples.

Michigan Republican, **Gerald Ford**, took a courageous stand for UFO openness during his days in the House of Representatives. A spate of unexplained sightings inundated his district during the mid-Sixties and a number of the witnesses were people Ford had known for years. He took their accounts seriously and acted decisively in recommending that a committee be created to investigate the phenomena: "I think we owe it to the people to establish credibility regarding UFOs and to produce the greatest possible enlightenment on this subject." Such a committee was established in 1968, only to wither and die because of a lack of any serious implementation. Ford's UFO activism vaporized once he assumed the Presidency, as did any public comments on the matter.

Jimmy Carter is another. His UFO sighting occurred in January, 1969, during his run for the Georgia governorship. Carter remembered it as "the darndest thing I've ever seen. It was big, it was very bright, it changed colors and it was about the size of the moon. We watched it for ten minutes, but none of us could figure out

what it was. One thing's for sure, I'll never make fun of people who say they've seen unidentified flying objects in the sky." His completed MUFON sighting report is one of Ufology's most interesting artifacts. During the 1976 presidential campaign, he went on record as saying that he would release then-classified UFO information if elected, with one possible exception: "I don't see any reason to keep information like that secret, but there may be some aspects of the UFO information, which I am not familiar with, that might be related to some secret experiments that we were doing that involve national



security or new weapons systems. I certainly wouldn't release that." "Defense implications" were indeed cited as the reason he did not make good on his pledge.

We now know that President Carter wanted to transfer responsibility for UFO affairs to NASA, but its highly-respected director threatened to resign if he did so. The director's stated reason was that saddling the already financially overburdened space agency with responsibility for this routinely mocked subject would only result in popular, as well as official, ridicule that would jeopardize much-needed funding. The president considered his options – then backed down, never to raise the issue again during his time in office. In later years, Mr. Carter kept his distance from the subject, possibly because he'd grown tired of being asked about his sighting and earlier outspoken views. In 2007, he was quoted as saying, "I think it is impossible in my

opinion – some people disagree – to have space people from other planets or other stars to come here. I do not believe that is possible." Then again, that same year, he allegedly confided to Shirley MacLaine, "that, basically, the president or the Executive Branch is not on a 'need to know basis.'" Whatever opinions you may hold on Ms. MacLaine or her views, the statement she relates is an extremely important one.

Ronald Reagan was something of an exception to the rule. He remains the only American president to have discussed the possibility of extraterrestrial invasion in public, though he was always careful to do so in allegorical terms only. There is no contesting his having taken the subject seriously, though. Reagan had had a stunner of a UFO sighting when he was Governor of California, multiply witnessed from the governor's plane. In a 1987 appearance before the 42nd General Assembly of the United Nations, he asked, "In our obsession with antagonisms of the moment, we often forget how much unites all members of humanity. Perhaps we need some outside, universal threat to make us recognize this common bond. I occasionally think how quickly our differences worldwide would vanish if we were facing an alien threat from outside this world. And yet, I ask, is not an alien force already among us? What could be more alien to the universal aspirations of our peoples than war and the threat of war?"

Governor Bill Richardson, of New Mexico, would like to know some of these secrets, in particular, those pertaining to what actually happened in his state in the summer of 1947. In 2004, he wrote, "It would help everyone if the U.S. government disclosed everything it knows. With full disclosure and our best scientific investigation, we should be able to find out what happened on that fateful day in July of 1947. The American people can handle the truth, no matter how bizarre or mundane, and contrary to what you see in the movies."

But the governor no longer takes the subject seriously, in public at least. The seeming reason for his change of heart goes back to the autumn of 2007, when Richardson was still a serious contender for the Democratic presidential nomination. It was then that Senator Dennis

Kucinich was outed by the late political analyst and television commentator, Tim Russert, as having actually observed a UFO of some sort – this in the company of his wife and their friend – horror of horrors - Shirley MacLaine. For weeks to follow, Kucinich was unable to make a media appearance without being questioned about the sighting. He soon tired of defending his perceptions and began responding to such questions with some humor, as in this interview with a Michigan radio station: "I later learned, after this story surfaced, that 40 million Americans have seen things in the sky that they thought they couldn't identify. I also learned that President Reagan and President Carter, at one time or another, saw UFOs. So it may just be that seeing a UFO is a prerequisite to becoming president."

But, once the pundits and talking heads grew tired of working over Kucinich, they turned on Bill Richardson. Their reason? He was Governor of New Mexico and we all know what is supposed to have happened there in the summer of 1947. The governor acted quickly to control political fallout and, within days, disavowed any public pretense of taking the subject seriously, but not in a mean-spirited or undiplomatic manner: "... I promote Roswell as a tourism issue, but there is no credible evidence... I've never seen one. I doubt their existence, but I admit, I'm the governor of the state and I push the tourism promotion side..." Put yourself in the governor's place for a moment and you'll begin to appreciate why such a response was, regrettably, both rational and appropriate.

These are a few examples of professional politicians whose careers intersected with a subject encumbered by such a virulent ridicule factor that even a passing association with it can leave the individual fighting for their political life. Perhaps America may, someday, have a president who, through one channel or another, learns enough and becomes passionate enough about the subject in the process of learning about it, that he or she decides to put himself squarely on the line and then cross it, 'need to know' be damned. This is, of course, dependent on the possibility that such an independent, executive undertaking has even the possibility of succeeding.

But the ideal in a democracy would be for the House and/or Senate to spearhead such an initiative. The key to this possibility is education, but that necessitates a willingness to be educated. My guess is that taking time from their busy schedules to study the evidence



supporting UFO reality holds a low priority for the overwhelming majority of current office holders. But, in the 1990s, one of the wealthiest men in America undertook his own campaign to bring something of the truth to American elected officials.

Laurence Rockefeller's name was first publicly linked with the subject in 1995 with the publication of a series of newspaper articles. His interest quickly accelerated into activism, the end result of which was the *Unidentified Flying Objects Briefing Document: the Best Available Evidence*. This was accomplished with the aid of two old friends who shared his passionate interest, Sandra Wright and Marie Galbraith – wife of America's then-Ambassador to France and daughter-in-law of the economist, John Kenneth Galbraith. They were assisted in their efforts by members of The Fund For UFO Research. The document's actual writers were the Fund's Don Berliner, Galbraith and veteran ufologist, Antonio Huneus.

In December, 1995, copies of this handsomely-bound, 170-page report were delivered to every congressman and House member and, as I understood it, the president, vice-president, cabinet level officials and other Washington movers and shakers. But, its impact was considerably less than Laurence and his colleagues had hoped for. Whatever disappointment they may have felt was compounded by the outing which Rockefeller and Galbraith received on the front page of a newspaper called *The New York Observer*. On April 8th, 1996, this weekly published an extremely mocking article entitled, "Rockefeller Greets Aliens! A Rich Guy's UFO Dream." It was accompanied by a huge cartoon of Laurence and Marie running through Washington,

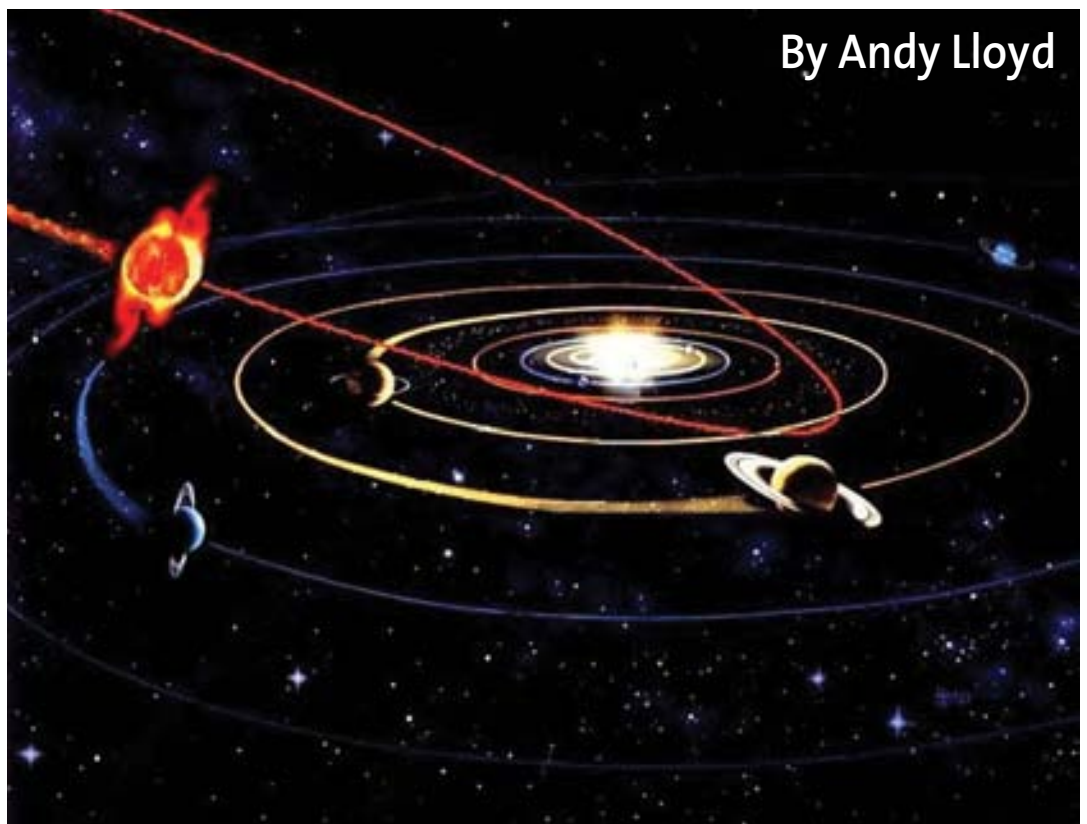
shielding themselves from a sky filled with flying saucers and aliens. Even billionaires are subject to embarrassment and Mr. Rockefeller was no exception. Both he and Galbraith withdrew from any publicly expressed interest in the subject and returned to their private lives. The ridicule factor has spared few who sought the public airing of UFO-related information. Rich men, presidential candidates, presidents, it doesn't matter.

The declassification of compelling UFO documents would go a long way in allowing elected officials to, once and for all, break through the ridicule barrier and take the subject seriously in public discourse. An effort similar to that undertaken by the Ministry of Defence (as well as the militaries of a number of other nations) would play well in the States, even if the documents aired have minimal strategic value: at least it would be *something*. Yet the chances for declassification and dissemination are limited, at best, if politicians and influential public figures remain fearful of taking an open and courageous stand. How close are we to a golden era of UFO openness? Not very, I'm afraid. Unlike some of my more optimistic colleagues, I do not see such a time waiting just around the corner. This is no excuse to grow glum, though. For the time being, at least, it has been left to us, those who study this subject and are not afraid to speak out on it, to educate others to the reality of the UFO phenomenon and no amount of ridicule will get in the way of our continuing to do so. Count on it.



Peter Robbins: (USA) On Assignment. Peter Robbins was born in New York City and grew up in the village of Rockville Centre, about thirty miles east of Manhattan. He attended the University of Bridgeport in Connecticut and graduated from New York City's School of Visual Arts with a BFA in painting and film history. Robbins has been involved in UFO studies for 30+ years, as a researcher, investigator, writer, lecturer, activist and author. He is co-author of the British best-seller, *Left at East Gate: A First-Hand Account of the Rendlesham Forest UFO Incident, Its Cover-Up and Investigation.*

Who Wants to Live Forever?



Who wants to live forever? Brian May's lyrics for the *Highlander* movie posed an age-old question. What would life be like if we were essentially immortal?

It is a question which is becoming increasingly relevant. Scientific research is bounding ahead in this field. I'm not just talking about the latest nutritionist nonsense in the *Daily Mail*. Genetic research aims to provide answers about why our bodies age. More importantly, this knowledge could give scientists clues about how to stop, or at least slow, that natural process.

Science fiction? Not really. The big pharmaceutical companies are standing by, with bulging wallets, to invest in any research work that even hints at a potential elixir of life.

Imagine a pill which stops the ageing process? Then imagine the cost of such a life-long course of treatment! Take the latest super-moisturiser and extrapolate upwards. Immortality would be affordable to the super-rich only. A race of gods would emerge amongst the rest of us mortals. For the elite few, the three scores and ten would be a thing of the past. For the rest of us, resentment.

The pharmaceutical companies would be under intense pressure to drop their prices and make their pills widely available. If that happened, then the world might experience

increasing populations or, at best, a period of chaotic readjustment. People would simply stop dying. Grandparents would look the same age as parents. Forever.

"What has this to do with UFOs?" you may ask. Meet the Anunnaki. Depending upon what books you read, the Anunnaki are either a demonic faction of demigods from the religious pantheons of Mesopotamia, a race of malevolent, reptilian, shape-shifters infused among us or ancient astronauts, who from heaven to earth came. You pays your money, you takes your choice. I like the last possibility,



based upon the rather scholastic writings of Zecharia Sitchin.

In his first book, *The Twelfth Planet* (Sitchin, 1976), he posits the idea that we should take the ancient texts and symbolic images, which have been unearthed from Mesopotamia, literally. These were not merely simplistic myths, providing us with fabled metaphor. Instead, the epics spoke of historical events. The gods of

science. Perhaps they had simply escaped the scourges of ageing, as our current scientific advancement hints at. Or perhaps the environment of Nibiru was less damaging to the body's genetic store and ageing was not automatically triggered by, say, the harmful rays of the Sun, like it is on Earth.

Either way, from our point of view, they were gods. They had learned the secret of immortal life, either naturally or through their scientific achievements.

The Anunnaki on Earth were small in number and incapable of fulfilling the task of mining that they had been set by the elder of Nibiru, Anu. So, their medical expert, Enki, introduced Anunnaki genes into the African hominid population and created humans. Their purpose? To work as slaves, so the Anunnaki could put their feet up. It appears to have been



would have a very slow increase in population – a manageable steady-state, perhaps – the humans they had created would be, well, breeding like rabbits. And the genetic enhancements of heightened intelligence and technological skills would make humans the top of the local food chain. The balance of biology on Earth was catastrophically adjusted.

Eventually, these gods residing on Earth felt threatened. So they should. We are hardly a peaceful species, let's face it, and the Anunnaki themselves were capable of great treachery and conflict, according to the stories in the ancient Sumerian texts. There came a day when they desired to get rid of us. A great natural flood was predicted by Enki – more of a world-wide tsunami, really. His brother, Enlil, the leader of the colony, decided that this was a great opportunity to cull the over-burgeoning human population. After all, early settlements tended to be at coastal locations or, at least, by rivers in sizeable valleys. So, the Anunnaki decided to get themselves into orbit when the cataclysm came, leaving the ignorant local slaves to fend for themselves in the face of the Flood.

This is where it all gets fairly Biblical. Indeed, it has emerged from biblical scholarship that much of the Genesis story originated in earlier, Mesopotamian texts, borrowed by the Jewish people during their incarceration in Babylon. In the Bible, the Anunnaki are known as the Nephilim – the Watchers. This is perhaps the last

“ The big pharmaceutical companies are standing by with bulging wallets to invest in any research work that even hints at a potential elixir of life. Imagine a pill which stops the aging process? Then imagine the cost of such a life-long course of treatment! ”

Mesopotamia, according to Sitchin, walked among the people. Indeed, they created the people, fashioning humanity from the indigenous proto-human species by the use of genetic engineering.

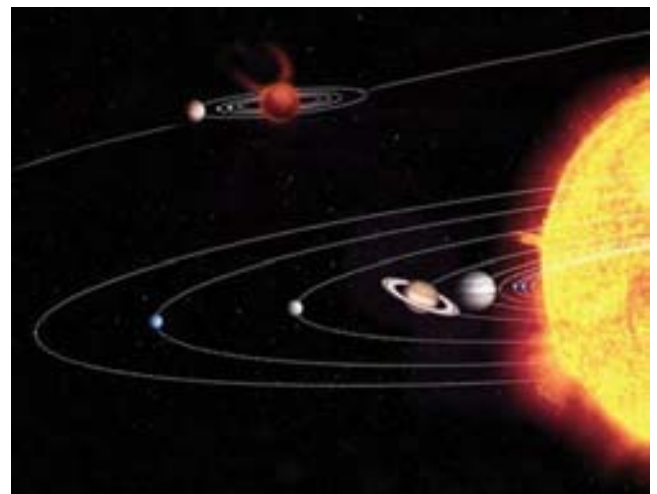
A short magazine article cannot do the complexity of the case made by Sitchin justice or to the arguments put forward by his many critics. His genius is not in re-writing the ancient texts, but simply by looking at them in a new way. A glorious story emerges. Earth was colonised by ancient astronauts called the Anunnaki. They came from the planet, Nibiru, remotely located among the comets. Nibiru appears to move around our Sun in a highly elongated orbit. It is perhaps better known these days as Planet X.

Life on Nibiru was good. The Anunnaki had lifetimes of many thousands of years, although it is not entirely clear why. Sitchin thinks that, because the Nibiruan year was exceedingly long, their lifespans reflected this cosmological variation. But a more pragmatic solution might be that, if they were capable of travelling to Earth and colonising our world, then they were also likely to be highly advanced in medical

a controversial move among these alien colonists. For a while, the introduction of a hybrid race worked well. But then humans began to do what comes entirely naturally to us and the populations expanded out of all proportion.

It makes sense that this would happen. If your lifespan is short, you need to reproduce fast. Richard Dawkin's selfish gene requires its continuity in perpetuity. Small lifespans require exponentially expanding populations. However, if your lifespan is very long and, more or less, guaranteed, then your genes are not as concerned with the requirements to move on to the next generation. All that work bringing up children could take a backseat for a few centuries as you enjoyed the heyday of eternal youth.

So, where the Anunnaki



hint of polytheism left in the Bible, but it is written as clear as day in Genesis. You really can't miss it.

Were these gods of the ancient world - these Anunnaki - really colonists from an alien world? Where's the proof? Where are their mines, their abandoned technology, the remains of their settlements? Again, this might depend upon your perspective. It is evident to anyone inspecting the achievements of ancient peoples, that they often managed feats well beyond their assumed ignorant barbarism. Ancient monuments provide us with many

puzzles, particularly the colossal, monolithic ancient structures spread throughout the world. Over thousands of years, we can expect much evidence to be lost through natural, erosive processes and decomposition, but the stone monuments are almost unique in their ability to withstand the long passage of time. Their value to us should not be underestimated.

And what of their planet, Nibiru? Where is it and why do we not hear of it from our astronomers? This is my particular area of research. I've introduced the concept of a Dark Star to this story - an idea which has taken hold

over the last ten years or so (see my book, *The Dark Star*, published in 2005). A remotely-located sub-brown dwarf 'star', orbiting the sun, could bring life to a closely-bound system of planets or moons. Think of the moon, Pandora, in *Avatar*. Think Europa around Jupiter. Then think of these dominant gas-giants becoming smouldering furnaces as they take on quasi-stellar properties and you'll get the idea. This object should now be detectable through the latest infra-red survey, going by the acronym W.I.S.E.

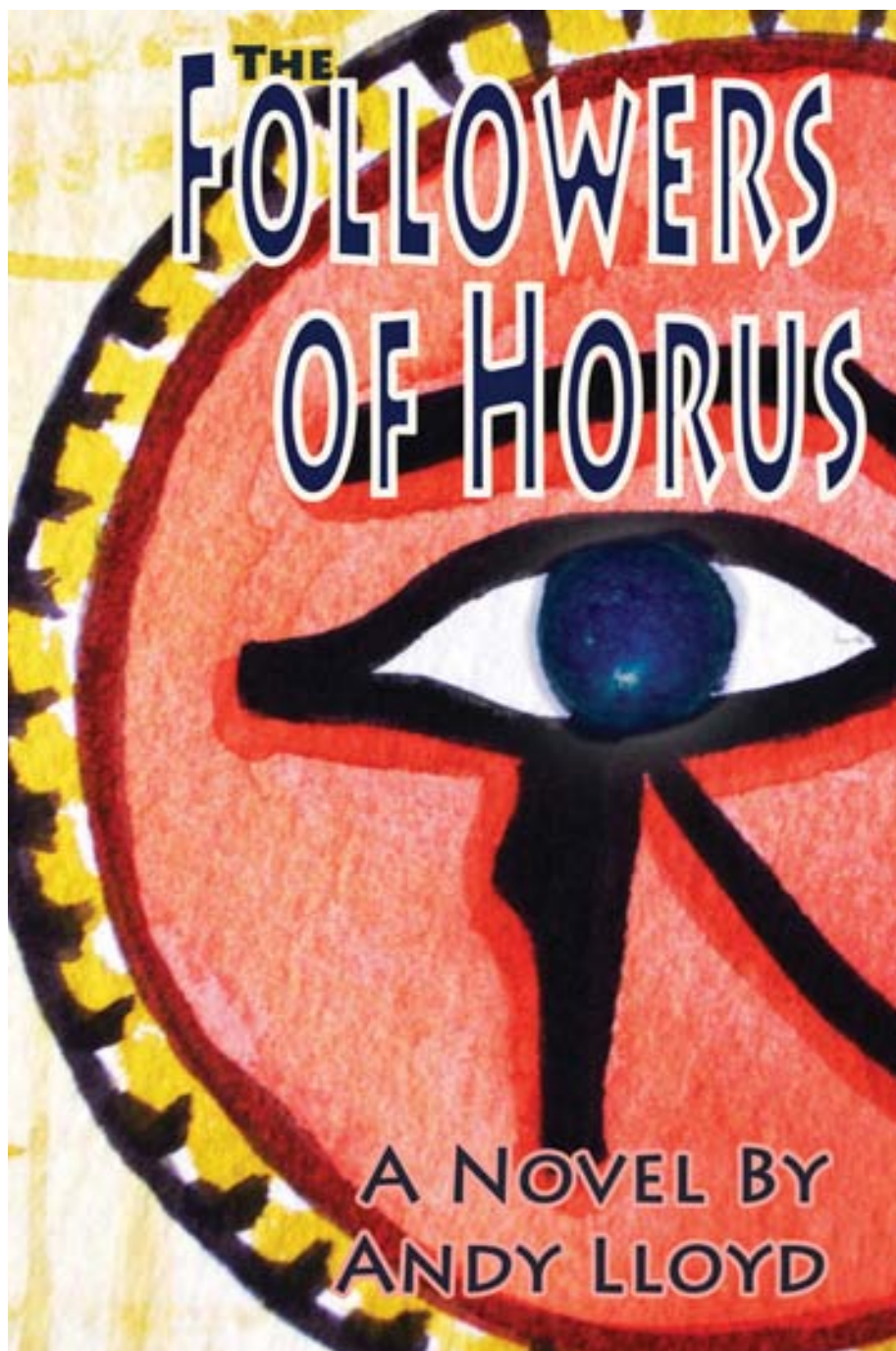
But I'm also intrigued by these Anunnaki. Why did they leave? Was their mission complete, their mines dry or flooded? Was their experiment to create earthly slaves a rampant disaster?

Did some of them stay? If so, how have they adapted to life amongst us? Like the fictional character, Connor MacLeod, in *Highlander*, do they create relationships with the mortal humans, only to see them implode due to the ravages of time? Do they desire to return home or to have their fellow aliens revisit our world? And how would we react to their presence or to the startling knowledge of their intervention in the story of our species?

These perplexing questions cannot be answered through the evidence currently available to us. Perhaps some of the alien visitors to our world, in their UFOs, might be the Anunnaki. The Nordics would fit the bill, certainly. But the evidence from the Contactees does not readily fit the picture outlined by Sitchin. In fact, the evidence from the Contactees is of dubious value all round. So there is little to go on there.

For me, the account of the Anunnaki carries value by presenting us with these fundamental questions. To explore those questions, I have started writing novels, starting with a conspiracy thriller set in Britain, entitled, *Ezekiel One* (while you've got your Bible out, check that verse out, too!). In that book, I introduce the Anunnaki to our 'real' world. The sequel, *The Followers of Horus*, takes us into dark science-fiction about these ancient astronauts, their UFOs, their planet and their power struggles. In that book, modern humans feel what it is like to rank only second place in the natural order. It is not a position any one of us would relish.

I have one final question for you to ponder, dear reader. What would happen, do you think, if these gods of the ancient world returned to Earth and brought with them the secret of immortal life? Would this 'gift of the gods' buy our cooperation? Our capitulation? Or our enslavement?



ARCHIVE FOR UFO RESEARCH

By Clas Svahn

When the Norwegian UFOlogist, Kolbjörn Stenödegård, died a few years ago, he had no relatives. A man from the municipality that had been asked to clean out his apartment was struck by how many books and papers he had. And everything was about UFOs.



at work in the AFU archives in Sweden

Bookcases and file cabinets of reports, journals and other material filled the rooms. A thought went through his head that this would certainly be valuable for someone interested in UFOs, but since he did not know how to make contact with such a person, he decided to just do his job, packed everything into big, black

garbage bags and drove off to the dump.

With that, Norway's early UFO history was lost for all time and hundreds, if not thousands, of reports of UFOs destroyed.

This example is far from unique. The same story has been repeated on many occasions around the globe. Uncomprehending relatives

have thrown away or burnt invaluable UFO material when the man or woman, who has devoted his life to collect it, has died.

There are currently few organizations dedicated to preserving our knowledge of the UFO phenomena and making it available to UFOlogists and researchers all over the world.



AFU photo: Håkan Blomqvist and Anders Liljegren at AFU, looking through a newly arrived collection of French UFO books.

One of these has, since inception in 1973, grown to become the world's largest archive of UFO material and I am proud to be a part of it.

Archives for UFO Research, AFU, is situated in five premises along an ordinary street in the outskirts of Norrköping, south of Stockholm, in Sweden. From having started in the city of Södertälje in 1973, with a single book case in a private apartment, it has now grown to become a 270 square meter deposit of knowledge used by researchers from all around the globe.

When I walk around in one of the well-stocked premises, I am constantly surrounded by books and magazines in lots of different languages and from many parts of the world – English, of course, but also French, Spanish, Chinese, Russian, German and so on. The topics are diverse: cryptozoology, parapsychology, folklore, new age and general Fortean mysteries. But the bulk of the collection, more than 80 percent, are books and magazines directly connected to UFOs. The numbers are mindboggling:

- 8,000 books.
- 27,000 magazines.
- 30,000 Scandinavian case files.
- 2,000 audio tapes.
- 10,000 pictures
- 600 VHS and DVD films about UFOs.
- Tens of thousands of newscippings about UFOs, mainly from Sweden, USA and Britain.
- Posters, stickers, models and hundreds of other UFO paraphernalia.

On one shelf, stands all of the American Air Force Blue Book files on microfilm and, in another room, I can browse through any of the 200 files from UFOlogists or UFO groups that are put in well-ordered boxes. High up on one shelf stands original letters from contactees, George Adamski, Daniel Fry, Howard Menger and many, many others.

To keep this huge archive in order, AFU has, for many years, relied on volunteers that put in many hours a week of their free time to keep the archives running. But since last year, things have improved significantly.

Thanks to an unemployment program and good will from the Municipality of Norrköping and the local employment office, eight persons have been offered the opportunity to work at AFU, several of them for a period of two years. Together with those who already do voluntary work, a total of 13 are now eagerly engaged in recording, cataloguing, scanning and taking care of the incoming material from countries around the world.

The funding rests mainly on private contributions from Swedish and a few international UFOlogists. Every month, these sponsors send anything from 5 to 50 pounds to keep the archives running.

In one of the projects, taped interviews with UFO witnesses, from the 1950s to the present day, are transferred into digital form by an employee working from his home in nearby Linköping. Every week, he delivers newly-transferred tapes and collects new ones at the archives.

AFU's photo archive, which is one of the largest archives of its kind in the world, is also being digitized. If funds could be found, all of this will be made available on the AFU website, afu.se.

Another huge undertaking is to scan magazines that are hard to find and make them available to researchers. To be able to do this, AFU is constantly exchanging magazines with collectors and other archives in America, Italy, Russia and other countries.

In recent years, the archive has received large collections from countries such as USA, Norway,



Håkan's case: Witness illustration (Helén Lundström) of the Håkan's case.

France and Russia. When this article was written, a 600kg large collection was on the road with trucks from Austria.

It is easy to be seated in a corner with a book or magazine or, maybe, a box of fascinating UFO reports. AFU keeps, for example, several thousand pages of the Swedish military's investigations of the so-called Ghost Rockets from 1946, one of the largest and best documented waves of unknown flying objects in the world. The Ghost Rocket phenomenon has not yet received a satisfactory explanation and Swedish UFOlogists, including myself, have spent considerable time interviewing witnesses and military investigators while they are still alive. Today, few people have any first-hand memories of the strange "rockets" which flew over Sweden,

Umeå, came to visit her parents. She parked her car in the yard, turned off the engine and got out.

"When I stepped out of the car, I heard a muffled engine noise that came from above, so I looked up. And then I saw a strange object above the house. It moved slowly across the sky. It was cylindrical, white, pointed in the front and truncated in the rear. It was like a tube," said Helén, when I interviewed her, soon after the observation.

"At first, I thought it was an air plane, but there were no windows or wings - nothing. Then I ran to the house and shouted at my father and mother so that they would come down and watch."

Together, the three of them could see the

by the security police, who conducted a thorough interview.

According to I20, it was no Swedish aircraft in the area at the time of the observation and one wonders why they would launch an investigation into it if that had been the case. When I talked to the intelligence officer at the Intelligence and Security Department at I20, who dealt with the case, he was very secretive and would not say if they had come up with any solution. He stated that the military did not send any investigators to the scene, but did not mention that I20 asked the security police to go there. However, he described the observers as "very reliable".

I managed to interview the security police officer who interviewed all involved. The girl was questioned at her workplace in Umeå, while their parents were visited at home.

"I have spent much time and energy in this case and I would never have done that if the witnesses were not fully credible," said the security police officer, who conducted the investigation, to me. "But I do not know what it was they saw. Perhaps a missile, but it could also be something else. This was a difficult case."

The incident in Håknäs has everything a good UFO report should have: Credible witnesses, good weather and daylight, sounds from the object and the relatively long observation period. In addition, the incident was investigated by the security police. Results: There are no indications that the story is fictional. An unknown subject violated Swedish border shortly after 7pm on August 25th, 1991.

The Håknäs incident is still, after nearly 20 years, unsolved. The object has never been identified.

The AFU files are a part of our common history. A history that could only be told if files like Kolbjörn Stenödegård's are not put on the city dump, but are saved for the future.

Clas Svahn



Clas Svahn (Sweden) Clas Svahn was born in 1958. Chairman of UFO-Sweden since 1970 and a board member of the world's largest UFO archives,

Archives for UFO Research in Sweden. Svahn started investigating UFOs in 1974 and has written nine books about UFOs and other topics and co-authored many more. He is editor for the magazine, *UFO-Aktuellt*, a frequent speaker and often used as expert by Swedish media.



Part of the library at AFU

Norway and Finland and repeatedly struck the lakes - but the military could never find a single piece of them. I will return to this fascinating phenomenon in a later article.

The files also contain ample evidence that rocket-like UFOs are still observed in Sweden. In one of the cases, still labelled as an unknown, that rests in the files of UFO-Sweden, that are placed at AFU, it is clear that, although the Ghost Rocket wave is history, these kind of events are not. The incident I am thinking of happened in the outskirts of the small village of Håknäs, not far away from the town of Umeå, in the northern part of Sweden.

It was just after 7pm on August 25th, 1991, as Bengt and Aina Lundström, a married couple, were sitting in front their TV, watching the local news report. It was still almost two hours before sunset and the sky was blue and clear outside the window.

But the TV evening was to be interrupted as the family's daughter, Helén Lundström from

strange, white object gliding over the blue, evening sky.

"Yes, it was almost unbelievable," said Bengt Lundström. "Actually, I think it would be impossible for a craft like this to be able to fly. I saw no wings or fins and no opening. I saw only one tube."

The observation continued for at least 30 seconds after Helén first spotted the object from the yard. Bengt Lundström tried to find a pair of binoculars, but couldn't locate them. When he got out again the cigar had disappeared.

The three observers were surprised to see how the object slowly disappeared to the northwest, before it vanished into one of the little clouds that were on the horizon. Then it was so far away that the engine noise could no longer be heard.

The Intelligence and Security Department from nearby military installation I20, in Umeå, launched an investigation into the incident. A few days later, the observers were also visited



Starchild

The Rock Opera

By Philip Mantle.

Patty Rayfield is a singer/songwriter; she has been songwriting for a good while. She has appeared on international television on Sir Harry Secombe's show, *Highway*, performing one of her songs called, "People of the World", for which she had previously won an award. She has also had two songs published. In the late Eighties, *Starchild* was born. Patty had always had an interest in flying saucers, since her father told her about an incident when she was young, and this reflected in the concept album. *Starchild* has now grown into a rock opera, which she co-wrote with the show's producer Steve Du Melo, with 32 tracks and

additional score. *Starchild* is ready to go on the road, possibly with a celebrity cast, subject to suitable backers coming forward to finance the stage production. Currently, she has just finished writing an acoustic album, which she will be recording shortly, and Steve Du Melo is making a psychological horror film. It has often been quoted that the best way to keep such subjects alive is to keep them in the public eye and to integrate them into popular culture. Well, if this project does come to fruition it could do just that.

I recently caught up with Patty to discuss this new venture:

Interview

Q: Who is Steve Du Melo?

A: Steve Valentino Du Melo is a musician, composer, writer and film maker. Along with making his own movies, he has worked on films starring the likes of John Michie, Martin Kemp, Rupert Vansittart, Eddie Izzard, John Macintosh, Clare Grogan and Rhona Mitra.

In 2009, he produced the musical version of *Starchild: The Rock Opera*, along with writer, Patti Rayfield, a musical about a UFO crash-landing. The musical features 32 original songs.

He is currently producing and directing a feature film, a psychological thriller/horror called



Blood Red. Principal photography starts in March and features an orchestral score by film composer, Mark Jensen, which is being recorded in Prague.

Q: You've said you've always had an interest in flying saucers, could you elaborate on this please?

A: My interest in flying saucers was a result of having seen a good few sightings and unusual events as a child. I was brought up on the Sussex coast as a coastguard's daughter.

Q: How was *Starchild* born, I assume this is your concept album? What was the inspiration for this?

A: Yes, *Starchild* was my concept album. The reason it came into being was partly because I had a strange dream about being onboard a UFO one night and reflected it in my songwriting.

Q: And, from this, how did the idea of turning this into a rock opera evolve?

A: The *Starchild* rock opera was born following meeting up with Steve Du Melo again (Steve was also involved with the *Starchild* album as well). We decided, with the current high levels of interest in the UFO topic, it was time to write some new songs in addition to the current *Starchild* songs in order to create the rock opera.

Q: Can you give us some idea of the storyline for this show?

A: The story begins in a small town near Chihuahua in Mexico, less than three hundred miles from Roswell. Maria, an archaeologist, has uncovered a strange object near an ancient, Mayan temple. Together with reporter, Josh, they uncover the mysteries of this finding, which leads them into an epic, musical adventure and an ancient, alien civilisation of the Star Children.

Who are the Star Children and what does this mean for the Earth and who are the sinister Men-in-Black that follow our heroes' every move?

From the pyramids of Mexico, the lavish dances of the Mexican gypsies, to its extraordinary conclusion, *Starchild: The Rock Opera* is a romantic comedy and exciting journey of discovery in both love and the cosmos.

[We] have created over 32 songs and score with a modern and engaging style. [We] aim to produce a unique, spectacular voyage with a blend of both sight and sound that has never been seen on stage before, to discover another world of dance, romance, comedy, adventure and music that is out of this world.

Q: Can you elaborate a little more on the plot, give us a bit more of an insight of what to expect?

A: The plot revolves around an archaeologist called Maria. Maria is working in Mexico on an ancient site near an Aztec pyramid. Some time ago, her brother, a pilot in the RAF, went missing. Unofficial reports suggested that he was abducted by a flying object. The team unearths a strange, metal object under the dig.

A freelance reporter, Josh, down on his luck, hears about the strange object and goes to the site to investigate. He meets Maria, but finds that he is not the only one that has an interest in this site. Maria, who has a love-hate relationship with her new friend, Josh, finds a weird crystal on the site. They then cross paths





with a gypsy woman, who tells Maria she will soon meet her brother again, as he is returning, and that a big world event will take place. Later, the Men-in-Black take over the dig and uncover a huge UFO under the ground, but cannot activate the machine.

Josh and Maria discover that the crystal is the key and, after some hazardous encounters with



the Men-in-Black, enter the alien ship to find the crystal activates the device. A message on the craft alerts Maria of her brother's return and to be prepared as something big is going to happen. They also learn from the message that there once was an alien culture on Earth - descendants of a race not of this world. The alien craft conveys that, at a time of great trouble, they will return to find their ancestors, the Star Children.

Josh and Maria have a strange link to each other and find themselves destined to be a part

of the final event. The Men-in-Black, led by their head, Taurus, try to capture Maria and Josh to find their secret. The race is now on to find the site of the mothership before the government agencies discover it first.

Q: Has the Starchild skull, researched extensively by Lloyd Pye, had any influence on this work?

A: Not directly, although it is a very interesting project. Our ideas have developed independently. *(For those not familiar with the story of the Starchild skull please go to: <http://www.starchildproject.com/> - Editor)*

Q: So where do you go from here, Patty. You have the album, the new songs and everything in place, what next?

A: We're currently seeking financial backers to develop the concept and turn it into a live show production. We hope to include a celebrity cast once the show has gained momentum. For the meantime, we are opting to put on local productions in the UK. With any luck, this will spark some major interest and we can further the show - i.e. shows in the US, Europe, Japan etc., and a celebrity.

Q: Have you put on any local shows yet? If you have, what has been the audience reaction? If not, are there any planned for the future?

A: No, we have not done any shows yet, as we have not got enough funds available to do that. When we get funding, then we can arrange to put on a show. If anyone wants to contact us to discuss the *Starchild* project, they can either contact us at

“ We hope to include a celebrity cast once the show has gained momentum. For the meantime we are opting to put on local productions in the UK ”

starchildmusical@googlemail.com or patty.songs@yahoo.co.uk to arrange a meeting.

If you want to know more about this quite unique project and listen to some of the music, then simply go to www.starchildtherockopera.co.uk and it's all there for you.

END

There is, of course, no better way to keep the public's interest in this subject than by keeping it in the public eye. There is the occasional UFO movie that makes it to the silver screen, some good, some bad. Documentaries on TV come and go and, of course, there is a list of books and periodicals available. However, I'm not aware that there has ever been anything like this planned rock opera before. It is certainly unique and I see no reason why it should not succeed, given the right capital injection.

I'd like to thank Patty for taking the time to take part in this interview for us and wish her every success with this and all her other projects. I would recommend you log on to the website highlighted above and listen to some quite unique music.

Philip Mantle



Encounters in OZ



Despite decades of research, the UFO phenomenon remains ridiculously elusive. Even here in Australia, where the weird and unusual (Min-Min lights, Yowies and Bunyips, to name a few) have become part of our national psyche, UFOs have managed to retain their distance, remaining as mysterious as they ever were.

It doesn't help that it's also a phenomenon with little constancy – well, okay, it has one constant: it is continually changing. What held true in the early days of Ufology no longer holds true today. The silver saucers of the 1940s and '50s gave way to the cigar shapes of the '60s and '70s, which gave way to the delta-shapes of the '80s and the spheres of the '90s. Over a span of fifty years, the beings encountered in relation to UFOs morphed from tall and handsome to short and ugly and the nature of contact changed from serene and helpful to distressing and absurd.

If the aim of the occupants of UFOs was to confuse us, well, they have succeeded admirably! All these changes of appearance

and behaviour has made it difficult for researchers to gather any satisfactory data and any theories that may be postulated have to be abandoned almost immediately as the next wave of UFOs floods over us and demands other, newer theories.

In Australia in recent years, two major patterns have emerged: 1: sightings of light-balls are on the increase and 2: a large number of nocturnal UFO sightings are reported these days by smokers.

Unfortunately, we can't explain the increase in light-ball sightings, but we do know that societal and legal changes have led to most smokers being forced out of restaurants and houses to indulge their habits and are spending

quite a lot of time staring at the sky. (Unless, of course, tobacco companies have been putting new and unadvertised additives into their products and didn't tell anybody!)

In Australia, light-balls tend to be orange or white and follow the same kinds of behaviours as those reported from other countries. Sometimes, though, they follow other patterns, exhibit different colours or travel in large groups. Case in point: in late January, 2009, a white ball of light was reported travelling rapidly in a northerly direction when it split into two parts, one part heading west and increasing in magnitude, the other continuing on its northerly trajectory. These two initial light balls were later followed by twelve more balls of



light at regular intervals and, the following night, five more of these light balls were seen travelling north over the same area.

Earlier that January, at 8.30pm, a very bright, white light followed a car, travelling along a forest road at Maryborough (Qld). It travelled at tree-top height for quite some distance, only veering off when another car approached in the opposite direction. And also in January, in the heart of Brisbane city, a paralegal and his girlfriend witnessed a silent, circular, white object, moving low in the sky over the central business district.

White-ball sightings continued throughout February and into mid-March, when the pattern changed and a blue ball of light was seen shooting through the sky and upwards into the upper atmosphere. Also in March, a family, travelling in a car at the Gold Coast, observed a 'really big light show' – orange lights 'spiralling around in a circular formation' for about ten minutes. The witnesses observed something else peculiar during this sighting – the clouds that had dotted the sky were suddenly evaporated, 'like fog being sucked out of a jar.'

In late March and early April, things changed again when triangular-shaped UFOs began to be reported. Three 'unusual' orange lights in a triangular formation were observed for five minutes over Dalby, travelling north-east and increasing in altitude. And in Townsville in April, an enormous, dark-grey, V-shaped object was seen gliding very slowly across the sky. It was silent and low in the sky and had rows of dim, blue-grey coloured lights around its rim.

Later in April, another V-shaped object was observed west of Brisbane, travelling north to south, and it was seen again over Brisbane city a few days later. This object also had lights around its rim, but, despite the lights, the craft was barely visible against the night sky. In May, over Toowoomba, a triangular-shaped craft, with three white lights at each point, was seen moving very slowly and silently in the night sky. It passed directly over the witness at the height of a two-storey building and, despite having a clear and unobstructed view of the underside of the craft, the witness still had difficulty discerning its outline, leading them to conclude that it was manufactured of a very

dark material.

The white lights returned in June, being reported regularly from Queensland and New South Wales. In Gilgandra, two witnesses observed a white light moving erratically across the sky that travelled north, north-west, south and south-east, totally confusing the observers. In Dubbo, two days later, a pair of witnesses saw two craft travelling from north-west to south-west. It was daylight and the objects were round, silver 'things' with very short 'tails'. And in Alice Springs, not far from Pine Gap, another white, daytime UFO was observed.

Something more unusual was seen over Paddington (Qld) in July, when a yellow-white light was observed around midnight. It had rays of light shining from it, which changed to red and blue – like the colours 'in 3-D glasses'. The object came closer to the witness before its lights cut out, after which time, a black, disc-like outline could be seen. In August, an object, with flashing red and green lights, was seen hovering at Cloncurry. It was observed for a period of some hours, during which time it would move then stop, move then stop.

Orange-red lights were seen over the Gold Coast in August and, later, in November, a circular light that was a mixture of oranges and reds was seen travelling horizontally over Boronia Heights.

In Cairns, in late August, a woman and her husband were eating dinner when a neighbour telephoned them to quickly go outside. A group of about ten neighbours gathered to watch a formation of six star-like objects, all of which were bigger and brighter than Venus, travelling in a hexagonal pattern. The lights changed formation to two lines of three and the ten witnesses were able to observe them over a period of thirty minutes, during which time two of the objects moved closer together, almost seeming to merge. The Air Force, Navy, police and local air port were all telephoned during the sighting and all reported that there was nothing visible on radar.

In October and November, the V-shaped objects returned, with the first being seen on October 23rd over Ipswich. It had three lights – a red light on one side, a green light on the other and a 'rounded panel of bright clear lights' in the centre. The witness was travelling in a car at the time of the sighting and pulled over to wind down the window for a better look. They could see a clear, triangular outline, but reported the object had a rounded 'nose' and that it was 'just very weird'. A little over a week later, on November 5th, a boomerang-shaped object was seen a few hundred kilometres away, passing over Gympie. It had an arrangement of four blue-white lights and was travelling north to south at an estimated altitude of around five thousand metres.

Daylight UFO sightings seem to be becoming increasingly uncommon, although 'accidental' photographs of UFOs are on the rise as digital camera ownership increases. We have seen numerous UFOs showing up unexpectedly in the background of wedding photographs, although the vast majority of these UFOs turn out to be insects or birds, caught mid-flight, in the background. A bird photographed mid-flap (with wings retracted) at high-speed looks distinctly disc-shaped, causing great consternation to the photographer who later discovers the anomaly in his photograph. Couple this with the increasing number of hoax photographs we receive (thanks, Photoshop!) and it's becoming

harder and harder to find UFO photographs that are able to be used as evidence for the phenomenon.

The *good* thing about the digital camera revolution is that genuine UFOs are more likely to be photographed and, in some cases, even filmed. We were lucky, in 2009, to receive some footage of a group of orange UFOs filmed at a speedway track in November - again, they were silent and exhibited unusual movement before disappearing behind trees.

Perhaps one of the more unusual sighting reports we received in 2009 came from a night



fisherman who, along with his fishing partner, observed an orange 'flame', a metre in size, that hovered silently, twenty metres above the ocean. The 'flame' travelled slowly north, until it came in line with the fishing boat and then abruptly turned skywards at a thirty degree angle. It was a clear night with a full moon and visibility was excellent. Understandably, the fishermen were seriously disturbed by what they had seen and could come up with no rational explanation for the sighting.

Another unusual UFO was seen over Hoppers Crossing (Victoria), when a formation of three light-brown, rectangular shapes passed slowly over a housing estate. There were no flashing lights, no sounds and the objects disappeared into the west. Surprisingly, this is not the first square, brown UFO report we have received – a few years ago some passengers travelling on a train observed a brown, rectangular object materialise suddenly over Brisbane city, hover for about a minute and dematerialise just as suddenly.

'Green flashes' were reported twice during 2009 – the first event occurring in February at the Gold Coast, when a bright green flash was seen in the sky above a hill. It was described as being a very intense green and circular in shape. The second report came from Albion (Qld) in June, when a nurse driving home from work at 2.50am saw the sky suddenly turn green, the glow moving from the east to the west. At the same time as the glow travelled across the sky, all the street and traffic lights were extinguished for a period of five seconds.

As the years pass, it is becoming clearer that UFO sightings do occur in waves. Weeks will pass in which not a single UFO sighting report is received, but then the same, or similar, type of UFO will be reported from a variety of locations in a short space of time. Do UFOs follow migration patterns? Are there cycles of behaviour? When the crews of triangular UFOs have done their stint in Europe, do they then head Down Under for a holiday?

When SETI prepare their list of 'Questions to ask ET', we hope they include that one!



Lee Paqui: (Australia). Close Encounters Down Under: Lee is the editor of UFO Encounter magazine and has been involved in UFO research in Queensland since 1995, although her interest in the subject was stimulated many years earlier after her own UFO sighting, and when, as a member of Melbourne's Astronomical Society, she was privy to firsthand accounts of

UFOs witnessed by astronomers. <http://www.uforq.asn.au/>

Sheryl Gottschall: (Australia). Close Encounters Down Under: Sheryl is the President of UFO Research Queensland Inc and has interviewed approximately 3000 people who have reported UFO sightings and close encounter reports. She has been very actively involved in UFO research since 1988, is also a certified clinical hypnotherapist, and facilitates close encounter support groups. <http://www.uforq.asn.au/>

UFO MATRIX

UFO SIGHTINGS

READERS' UFO SIGHTINGS AND UFO PHOTOGRAPHS.

We welcome our readers' UFO sightings and photographs and we will endeavour to publish as many as possible. If you have a sighting to report or have photographed a UFO, then please send your submission via email to the editor.



Hello Philip.

I have just returned from Laughlin, Nevada (UFO CONFERENCE) and thought I would send these two pictures to you with the account of the 'event'.

It is important to note that I was sitting down outside, facing west and there was a severe, southerly wind blowing. I had been sitting down for a minute and got out my camera when this black object came over the building from the north, to the left of where I was sitting. The object dipped lower and then went in a straight line. When it was in front of me, it stopped, rotated and then moved in a straight line to the other building, opposite and to the right of me.

The object stopped briefly, so that only half of it was showing behind the building to my right. The path of the object was going against the wind, flying southward from the north. In other words, it was flying *into* the strong wind.

The object appeared within one minute of me sitting down.

I have only seen something like this the first time I was in Laughlin, 13 years ago. That time, I was looking down on the object from the 8th floor of my hotel room. I didn't take a picture at that time, because I was so stunned. It seems to be the same object, as it looks like the same shape.

Camera: Nikon Coolpix 5900

A bit more background to the black object... you can write it up as you see fit.

Indeed, you well may have thought I have taken leave of my senses, sending you a photo of a bunch of balloons... Far be it from the truth... in this game one has to display a high level of cautiousness.

Let me transport you to the first Congress I attended in Nevada, 13 years ago.

The event took place on the last Saturday of the seminar. The time was about 4pm, in down time... in between the last lecture and the 2-

hour break whilst getting ready for the banquet.

Having nothing particular on the agenda, I decided to look through the window in my room, elbows on the windowsill, hands under my chin. I was just looking at the goings-on down below in Casino Drive.

To my surprise, I noticed a black object, literally floating up the street towards the hotel. I was on the 8th floor and, consequently, was looking down on this object. I have to say, the black sphere (with some kind of protrusions around the edge) seemed to have a mind of its own. It stopped, hovered, started again... then went in the direction of the river... but came back again. It literally seemed to be a sentient being.

Quite taken aback, I just watched in amazement. I couldn't get a photo of it, even if I wanted to, due to the angle of the window.

I promptly forgot all about the incident and told no-one.

Two hours later, off I go to attend the banquet and, halfway through, there was an announcement that a black object had been seen very low, nearing the hotel. Many, many people saw it. It then disappeared behind one of the nearby hotels and went over the river. One of the AV guys managed to get it on video. I have to say, I was shocked, as it sounded like the same object I had seen and also the same time frame.

Moving forward in time, to Sunday 21st February, 2010, I decided to go out to the pool area on my own to take a few photos. I had sat down for only one minute, when I noticed this black, *very* black, object. This is where one has to look at conditions of the weather. At the time, there was a raging gale blowing. It blew my Aricebo bag off the sun lounge, hair going all over the place. The wind was coming from the south. Now this object came in from the north, flew into the wind, stopped and then went in a straight line. When it was in front of my chair, it stopped again and rotated. Then went in a straight line to the other building, stopped again and then slowly went behind my tower block.

I was taking pictures, just hoping I had something...

I showed the picture to a few of the presenters and they, indeed, had something similar in their footage (from another country).

So, was this the same object which came back to visit me, this time giving me a chance to take a photograph? I have no idea.

Regards,
Kathy D.

[I was born] in Ontario, Canada, and was raised in Scarborough, Ontario. My parents are immigrants from Greece and the United Kingdom. My educational background is Forestry from Sault Ste Marie, Ontario. I have always had a compassion for all nature and the environment since childhood. I am married with two sons and have served my community in Oshawa, Ontario, for many years since 1997. I have been a positive person throughout my life. I have strong family values of love and truth in teachings~ out of love. I believe in God that is inside of us all in light of truth.

Since age 8 to present, I have witnessed unknown, strange aerial anomalies. I have witnessed solid, translucent objects and pure light anomalies as bright as a welder's torch, ranging in size from a basketball to miles in diameter and that paralyses one's mind in afterthought. Once witnessed, it raises serious mental questions: "What the heck was it I just witnessed? That defies logic."

I have had nine sightings between 1967 and 2002. On August 4th, 1977, I had a close encounter of the first kind - it was *very* close. I could have hit it with a rock. All nine sightings were in the month of August only. All were at night-time, except 1967. On August 3rd, 2002, at camp [off Lake Ontario] at nearly 2:30am, I signaled two slow-moving, white lights in tandem formation. They later responded with a movement that was not conventional, after flashing them with my flashlight. IT WAS SHOCKING. I later discovered in the media about crop circles being found that same date [August 3rd, 2002] in Howick Quebec. What struck me dumbfounded was the same "formation" that the crop circle revealed. The formation is the same pattern of lights witnessed at the back of the craft in my 1977 sighting. Is there a connection, maybe, with the fifth planet, Jupiter, along with its four large moons?

Then, in 2003, everything changed for me, in thought, about my life and surroundings. The best way to phrase it is that I had 'awakened'. In 2003, I had witnessed 16 sightings along with 18 witnesses. Fourteen of these sightings were in daylight. The first started on March 3rd, 2003. This sighting was in Scarborough and happened at exactly 12:01pm. It was a sight of astonishment coupled with awe. Two brilliant, white angel/cross-shaped objects, high above my work roof, to best describe them in appearance, against a clear blue sky. Each following year after to the present, I have continued to witness off-scale sightings at

“ I had been sitting down for 1 minute, got out my camera...when this black object came over the building from the north, to the left of where I was sitting...the object dipped lower...”



about two per month, on average. Today, in truth, I have lost count - at least over 150 sightings and over 200 witnesses. I have found that my witnesses are not so eager to help verify testimony of these paranormal events in public, due to fright and/or ridicule. I decided, in 2005, that I would start collecting photographic evidence.

I wanted to share one of my sightings with you, Philip, and all your readers.

This is, again, a bizarre series of events that occurred to me on September 17th, 2009.

I have compelling photographic evidence to this story, submitted to Philip Mantle.

Everything I'm revealing to you is a sequence of unknown aerial events. I can provide associated stories throughout that day on September 17th, 2009, in Oshawa and

“I'm still in double shock of the two sightings in one day and wondered if there was a connection”

Scarborough, Ontario. In addition to the photographic evidence of two of these, three sightings have been captured on film. One that actually morphs, or changes form, as I filmed this object, classified as a UFO. Here's how it started for me that early morning on September 17th, 2009.

I had woken up earlier than usual, at nearly 5:20am. I made a tea and stepped outside on our deck, which faced west, towards Whitby, Ontario. I looked up at the dark, night sky and noticed how clear the night appeared. I then looked up again at the night sky and thought, 'Show me a sign if you're watching me.' Instantly, a single, white flash appeared above. Then, two seconds later, three or four more rapid white flashes appeared. There was a pause for two seconds and then I saw another single, white flash. I stood staring, stunned, at the same spot of the sky. I was looking for signs a plane's running lights or even sound. There was no other display and it was gone. I was instantly in a state of shock. What was that? I shook it off like others that I have witnessed and/or filmed.

I went to work at 7:00am, still wondering

about what I had seen in the back of my mind. What did the sequence of flashes mean? Was it some sort of Morse code? I got to work in Scarborough, Ontario, which is about 45km ride from Oshawa. I worked until it was time for a late lunch. I left my workplace and went into the parking lot, which was on the east side of the building, at about 12:51pm. I was shocked to see this very strange dark, object in the sky. It was coming towards me from the east. It was about 100 yards away and 200-300ft high. Without hesitation, I put my bag down and pulled out my camera from my pocket. The first two pictures revealed what I'm witnessing – a UFO! An Unidentified Flying Object. I then switched my camera to video mode and the object transformed its shape and size. I then quickly changed back to pictures and took more of this strange object. I noticed it had changed direction to the north as I started to film it moving off. I yelled for a witness and had three watching this thing with me now. It was about 10-15 feet long and 4-5 feet across. It was moving slowly north and was quite low. One fellow said it looked like a big piece of garbage. The other two said nothing, staring at it without

a word. I then got into my car and drove off in the direction it was flying over. I turned into the side streets looking for it and gave up after two minutes. I could not see it anywhere. So I decided to head for lunch.

I went west on Comstock to the lights at Warden. I'm still in double shock of the two sightings in one day and wondered if there was a connection. I then looked to the north. High in the sky, while sitting at the red traffic light, was another UFO! This one was a brilliant white in colour, moving slowly westward. This one was approximately a quarter to a half-mile away and high in altitude. I again grabbed my camera and filmed this strange, white thing, high in the sky. I then took a short video clip and the traffic light changed. My mind was numb with shock. "What's going on here?"

Remember this started for me when I asked, in my mind, for 'them' to show me a sign that morning. I do wonder if the black one was connected to the white one or were they simply looking one another over? In honesty, I really do not know what they are in origin. Whatever it is that I'm feeling and noticing, I'd swear something is trying to contact me now. In truth, I'm now open for contact or, at least, ready to make me understand I'm NOT alone. I just want to share to you that I do believe in what I have witnessed throughout my life is higher intelligence in many levels. The human race should be aware of this subject and this is something that means a great deal to me. Health love and peace to you all!

Paul Michael Shishis ...



25 & 27/03/2008 - Derby - Pink Domed Disc & Black Orb UFO Sightings

Hello Philip.

You may be interested in my two most recent sightings, which may be worthy of an article in the new magazine. As you will read, I can be very specific about what I have witnessed, especially as regards time and date and entity description etc. Please get back to me if you need any more information or any points clarifying. From the description given below of the small dwarf-like entity 'absorbing' into the black orb or globe, it was like someone walking into water, it simply transited through the surface of the orb and disappeared within it.

Best Regards,
John Shelton.

Please find enclosed descriptions of my two most recent experiences.

At 2.30am, on Tuesday 25th March, 2008, I was standing in the rear bedroom of my sister's house in Bargate Road, Belper, Derbyshire, when I noticed, in the upper left hand of the window, an object descending at a 60-degree angle from the southwest, heading towards a grassed area of land to the rear of Bargate Road. The object resembled a Mexican sombrero hat, but was pink/fleshy-coloured and had a very pronounced raised centre. I estimate it to have been around 7 feet across at its base. Its centre was raised up into a pinnacle and it glowed a strong, pinky, fleshy colour and was clearly visible against the backdrop of stars. From an initial height of about 150 feet up, it descended in a slow and controlled manner, at about 10 mph, with its edges moving in a fluttering pattern, not unlike a jellyfish swimming. It came to rest on the ground to the left rear of the property. It stayed motionless by a tree for a couple of minutes before moving to the right at ground level, so as to cause it to be directly behind number 5, Bargate Road, and in direct head-on line of sight. The object stayed motionless for about 10 minutes and then began to glow. As it did so, it rose up a couple of feet off the ground and transformed into a white streak of light, which shot skywards, vertically, at high speed. I was awake and aware at the time because I have previously experienced a tone in my ears similar to an electrical transformer noise. I have heard this tone several times during 2005 and, on each occasion, experienced a sighting of some kind.

At 11.30pm, on Thursday 27th March, 2008, I was in the rear upper bedroom to my sister's house, getting changed into my pyjamas for bed, when I began to experience a loud tone in my ears, as described above. I looked out of the window skywards and noticed, to the upper right edge of the window, that a small, black orb- or balloon-like object, about 10 feet across, was descending from about 50 feet up towards our rear garden. It came from the east and descended slowly at about 5mph and at a 45-degree angle into the centre of the garden, which is grassy and open. The object settled down. I then ran downstairs to the rear door, which is a two-pane, uPVC double-glazed unit with full-length side windows. As I approached the door, I looked down and saw a small entity, about 2 feet tall, at the rear door, looking inwards at me. It was a fleshy-brown in colour, had the body of a young child in appearance, but had an enlarged head with a deeply-furrowed brow, similar to an elderly person or a worried person. It had two small eyes, a conventional, child-like nose and ears and mouth. What struck me was the foetal-like appearance of the body, with the elderly-appearing features of the large head superimposed upon it. As I approached the door, the entity suddenly turned away from the door, ran up the path and absorbed into the balloon/orb-like object. This then rose off the ground and lifted off vertically at about 5mph. I watched it until it was no longer visible against the starlit sky.



Full Disclosure:

The release of the MoD's UFO files

Dr David Clarke is the consultant for The National Archives' ongoing programme to open up the Ministry of Defence archive of UFO files. The fifth tranche of files, covering the period 1994-2000, was released in February and, in this article, he summarises the highlights and explains how and why the decision to release the archive came about.



Since the end of the Second World War, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) has kept what it knew about 'unidentified flying objects' and other aerial phenomena locked away in its archives.

Unlike the USAF, who ran an officially-funded 'UFO project' for two decades, the British MoD preferred to quietly monitor the subject and preferred to say nothing publicly about its UFO policy or the results of investigations of reported sightings. Responding to a USAF enquiry in 1965, the MoD said: 'Our policy is to play down the subject... and to avoid attaching undue attention or publicity to it. As a result, we have never had any serious political pressure to mount a large-scale investigation such as Project Blue Book.'

This policy was more a product of Cold War paranoia than evidence of a conspiracy to conceal evidence of an extraterrestrial presence from the British public. Secrecy surrounded many aspects of military operations and intelligence during the Cold War and UFOs were no exception to this rule. Furthermore, the fact that, until recently in Britain, many official papers on UFOs have been withheld for a minimum of 30 years has provided a steady supply of fuel for conspiracy theorists. The facts are that, before the arrival of the Freedom of

Information Act (FOIA) in 2005, the British public had no automatic right to examine *any* government papers. Those relating to UFOs were no different to any other category of public record, from nuclear accidents to MP's expenses.

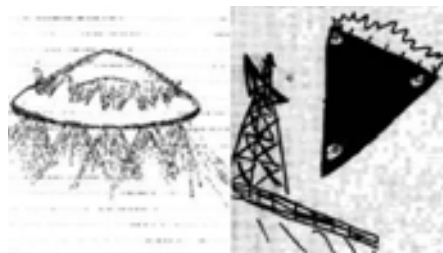
A sea change began in 1994, when Prime Minister John Major introduced a limited right to access to records younger than 30 years. This legislation was known as 'The Code of Practice for Access to Government Information' and was a precursor to the full FOIA. By this time, a large number of UFO records – now older than 30 years – were being prepared for release at the Public Record Office (now The National Archives). By 2007, some 200 or more files, from a variety of government departments, had been opened, covering a variety of UFO incidents and official correspondence from the Second World War to the mid-1980s (see my book *The UFO Files* for more details).

From 2000, I began to use the existing 'Code of Practice' to negotiate the advance release of the MoD's file on the infamous Rendlesham Forest incident in 2001 and, later that year,

obtained a copy of the 50-year-old report of the 'Flying Saucer Working Party'. The latter, referred to in the famous Air Ministry letter to Winston Churchill, had long been designated as 'missing, presumed destroyed'. The report, it emerged, had not been destroyed; it had simply been misfiled in the Whitehall archives before my request to the Departmental Records Officer led to its rediscovery.

The growing momentum of releases culminated in the implementation of Britain's Freedom of Information Act on 1 January, 2005. Since that time, the MoD has been inundated with requests for information on UFOs. It emerged the subject was the third most popular in terms of numbers of requests received in the first 18 months of the Act's existence. As a result of the pressure placed on resources, a decision was taken, during 2007, to transfer all the remaining UFO records from Whitehall to The National Archives. The collection contains some 180 files, covering the period from 1980 to November, 2009, when the decision was taken to discontinue all MoD involvement in UFO investigations. In a statement to UFOlogist, Joe McGonagle, the MoD describe the release as the largest single release of records younger than 30 years in the department's history. The decision, they added, was taken to counter what officials described as 'the maze of rumour and frequently ill-informed speculation' surrounding their alleged involvement in UFO research and investigation.

Key highlights from the fifth collection of files



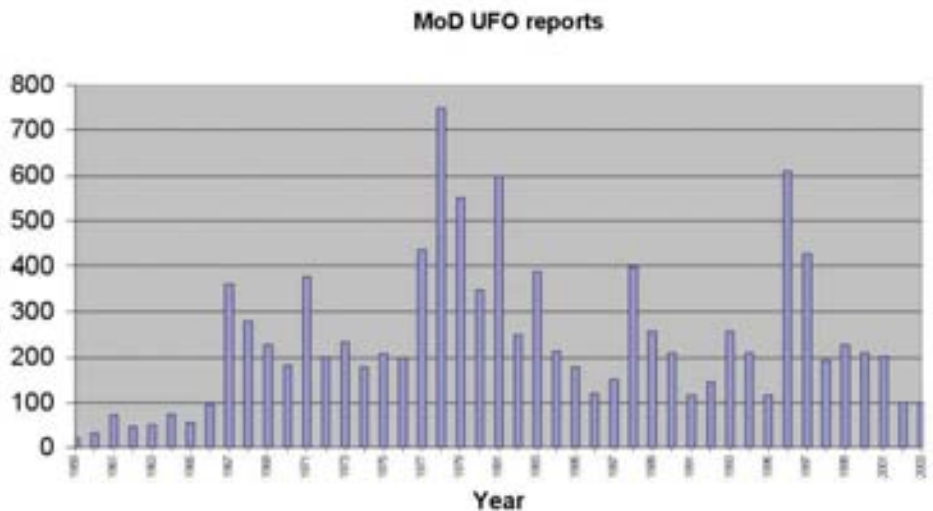
are described below, listed by theme with file references and page numbers for ease of reference:

UFO encounter causes illness

DEFE 24/1988/1 (p266-67) – reports that a man, driving home through Ebbw Vale, on 27 January, 1997, saw a ‘tube of light’ come down from the sky towards him, surrounding his car for up to 5 minutes. During this time, both his radio and mobile phone stopped working. The man reported feeling “very frightened and ill”. Later that night, he vomited and developed “a skin condition” and was advised to see a doctor. He reported the incident to the local police and to the RAF. The report said the car appeared to be “covered in dirt or dust” when he returned to it during the incident.

Gun Camera Film

DEFE 24/1966/1 (p220-222) – contains a letter to the MoD from Ralph Noyes (d. 1998), a retired senior MoD official who had responsibility for UFO incidents. In his 1994 letter, he describes seeing gun camera film of unidentified aerial phenomena captured by RAF fighter pilots during the 1950s. He claims this was shown at a secret sub ground film-show, arranged for Air Defence staff at the MoD Main Building in 1970, when Noyes was head of DS8 (one of the branches responsible for UFOs). Noyes’ letter says a representative from the Meteorological Office was also present. “...we were shown some slides, purportedly from aerial photographs taken by air crew. The highlight was a couple of brief clips of what I understood to be gun-camera material obtained as far back as 1956... the material was, on the whole, unimpressive: fuzzy, greyish blobs in the daylight shots; small, glowing, globular objects in the night films. We were invited to comment. A civilian – the Met Office man, I think – suggested that we were witnessing unusual meteorological events. No conclusions were reached... Reflecting on this episode, I now rather feel that somebody in [Air Defence] had become uneasy about the occasional reports from air crew of unusual aerial objects, but did not wish to expose himself to ridicule. The small, informal gathering in the cinema was an opportunity to test the reactions of a few of us to the unusual objects caught on film. The lack of much response from any of us probably persuaded [him] to drop the subject.” Despite a search of the archives by MoD staff in 1993-94, no trace of these films could be found and Noyes adds: “Quite possibly,



the photographic material was simply scrapped or ‘pinched’ for somebody’s private collection of curiosa, or conceivably passed to the Met Office.”

UFOs on Radar

DEFE 24/1977 – contains papers on the Boston Stump radar incident (p227-238). Unusual phenomena seen on radar are oft-cited by UFOlogists as examples of hard evidence for the existence of “structured craft of unknown origin.” The key case in these papers occurred during a UFO flap over East Anglia on 5 October, 1996. Police reported seeing flashing, coloured lights over The Wash and alerted the coastguard, who contacted the RAF. This call led radar operators to link the UFO scare with an unidentified “blip” they could see hovering above Boston in Lincolnshire. But as this “UFO” did not move for nine hours - until dawn broke - cool observation confirmed it was a “permanent echo” caused by the 273ft (83m) spire of St Botolph’s Church, known locally as Boston Stump. The lights seen and captured on video by the police were easily explained as bright stars which faded in the dawn sky. This illustrates how easy it is, even for experienced operators, to misinterpret natural phenomena seen on radar as something extraordinary, particularly when a UFO flap is under way.

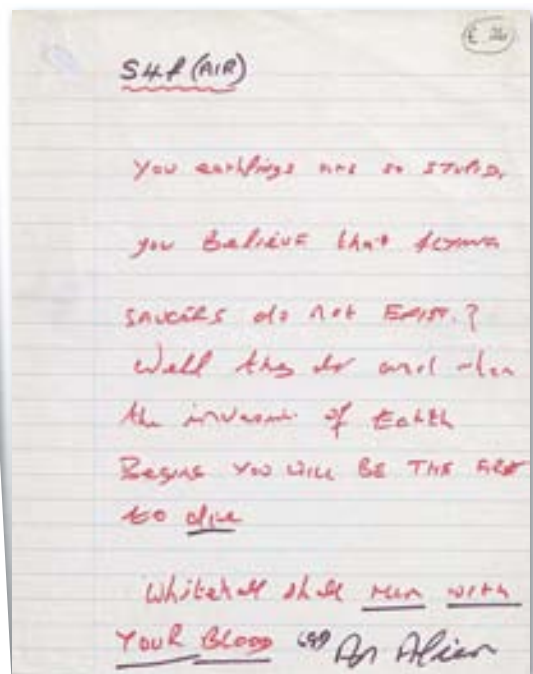
DEFE 24/2008 – UFO on radar, Prestwick Airport, Glasgow (p344). Air traffic controllers at Prestwick in Scotland tracked a huge UFO on the morning of 15 February, 1999. The blip appeared to be ten miles wide and two miles long and travelled at a speed estimated at 1000 knots across the Irish Sea. This report triggered an investigation by RAF Air Defence experts. They examined the video tape from Prestwick

control tower and compared its contents with recordings from RAF air defence radars. This revealed there were no aircraft in the area at the time and nothing unusual was detected by RAF radars. The conclusion was: “recorded radar data replays do not support the sighting”.

DEFE 24/1989 – Radar/visual UFO (p154). Even more intriguing is a brief report of a sighting made by the crew of a fishing trawler in the North Sea, 19 miles northeast of Fraserburgh. At lunchtime on 15 August, 1997, one spotted a “round, flat-bodied, shiny object” at a distance of less than a mile from the ship at low altitude. The object was visible for 30 minutes, during which time it was picked-up on the ship’s surface search radar and was observed by the other three crew members. The UFO approached the trawler and then moved out to sea before it “vanished almost instantaneously”.

Physical Evidence – Angel Hair

DEFE 24/1988 – (p189,185-86). In March, 1997, mysterious “angel hair” was dumped by a UFO on a suburban garden in Birmingham. Angel hair is a cobweb or jelly-like substance that drops from UFOs and has also been reported during experiences with the Blessed Virgin Mary. Like fairy food and ectoplasm, it quickly evaporates before it can be examined. In this case, the observer was alerted by barking dogs to the presence of a large, blue, triangular-shaped object, hovering silently over his garden at 4am one morning. As he went outside, the UFO suddenly shot off into the sky and disappeared, leaving behind “a silky-white substance on the tree-tops”, some of which he collected inside a jam jar. There is nothing in the file to suggest MoD were interested in



obtaining this sample for further analysis. This became just another routine call logged by the UFO desk and forgotten about.

Politicians and UFOs

Some UFOlogists are obsessive letter-writers and this release contains a number of files dealing with "persistent correspondents" who have plagued the MoD and politicians with demands for information about UFOs. DEFE 24/2016, for instance, runs to 318 pages of correspondence between a Welsh UFOlogist, Dr Colin Ridyard, and the MoD. His campaign began in 1996 and ended in 2000, when Ridyard made an official complaint to the Parliamentary Ombudsman after his requests for disclosure of UFO documents were refused. During this four years, Ridyard wrote 35 letters to the MoD, encouraged his MP to submit three Parliamentary Enquiries and organised a petition that was submitted to the House of Commons.

Other files feature a series of letters from UFO believers addressed first to the Tory Prime Minister John Major and then, from 1997, the newly-elected Tony Blair. These ask for the Prime Minister's views on UFOs and alien life and appeal for the release of secret documents they believe the MoD are withholding (for examples see DEFE 24/1967 -p11, DEFE 24/1968- p107, 104-5, DEFE 24/2011 -103-105, DEFE 24/1969 - p212-16).

DEFE 24/1994 (p174-210) contains details of one of the most intriguing UFO stories of 1997. This concerns a supposed UFO sighting in the vicinity of the Kent home of the former Tory Home Secretary, Michael Howard. The basis of the story was that a journalist and others had seen a triangular-shaped object, hovering near Howard's home, one night in March. The connection with Howard was tenuous, to say the least, and inquiries by the RAF found there was no unusual air activity or any security alert in the

area at the time.

DEFE 24/2017 - Councillor Billy Buchanan, of Falkirk District Council, wrote to PM John Major in 1994, asking for an inquiry into a series of unexplained UFO sightings around Bonnybridge, a small town between Glasgow and Edinburgh. Press reports had described this region as "the Bonnybridge Triangle". In his letter, Cllr. Buchanan claimed more than 600 separate incidents had been reported over a two year period. In response, MoD said there was no need for them to investigate anything, as they had received only a handful of reports from the Falkirk area. They felt most could be explained by air craft overflying the area. In 1997, Cllr. Buchanan wrote to Tony Blair, again requesting an investigation, but received a standard response from the MoD.

Alien Abduction and Cattle Mutilations

DEFE 24/1979 (p 102, 96-97) contains a policy statement on reports of "alien abductions" prepared by UFO desk officer, Kerry Philpott, in 1996, in response to a letter from Welsh UFOlogist, Chris Fowler. As the existence of intelligent ET life is not proven, the subject is "a non-issue" as far as MoD were concerned. The letter adds that "any form of abduction is a civil police matter, but can only be investigated if there is any evidence to support the claim." Similarly, in response to a letter asking if MoD had investigated links between UFOs, BSE and unexplained cattle mutilations, Philpott responded: "Criminal aspects of animal mutilations are matters for the civil police, who would investigate any claims based upon the evidence available."

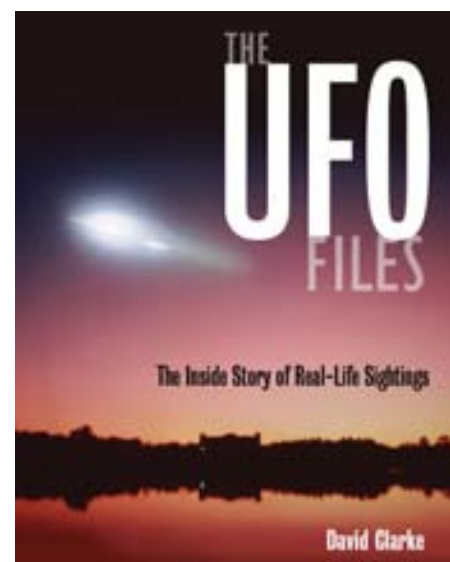
UFO crash at US listening post?

DEFE 24/1981 (p 77, 81, 211, 309-10) contains a letter linking RAF Menwith Hill, North Yorkshire,

the controversial joint US/UK base for electronic eavesdropping, with UFOs. In 1997, a UFOlogist wrote to the base, claiming that two farmers nearby had seen a disc-shaped object inside the base perimeter, escorted by guards. The farmers were ordered to move away from the perimeter fence. In a joint statement, the base and MoD said, "No UFO/flying saucer has landed in the vicinity of Menwith Hill and the base had no connection with UFO research."

A total of 72 files can, as of February, 2010, be downloaded from the National Archives website at <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ufos>

Each tranche is accompanied by a research guide, a highlights guide and an audio-visual presentation that provides the visitor with basic historical and social context for each of the releases. A more detailed account of the British government's investigations into UFOs, from the First World War to present, can be found in my book, *The UFO Files*, published by The National Archives in September, 2009 (reviewed in this issue).



The More Show

Something special is happening after dark in Cardiff in the wee hours, when the radio broadcast landscape has too often been littered with political talk or pre-recorded shows.

Most people have drifted into unconsciousness, but 30 percent of the UK still stays awake. They're lorry drivers, insomniacs, night-shift workers, or just people who like to stay up late. They tend to adhere to a different set of norms. For one thing in an age of digital distraction they connect with enthusiasm to their analogue radios and they tend to listen to radio for longer periods with less distraction of the working day. They tend to listen alone whether in bed or on the road. They find a voice in the darkness which offers a bond with a wider community of people that think the same way.

The More Show has burst on to the late night radio scene. The More Show is spontaneous, captivating and unpredictable, providing an alternative media outlet. Its topical breadth defies categorisation whether interviewing heavy weight authors on unusual topics. Most shows are focused toward discussing crop circles, unexplained natural (or not-so-natural) phenomena, or Star Wars technology, suppressed news, the occult, remote viewing, hauntings, shadow people, psychic predictions, conspiracy theories, UFOs, crop circles, new science and science fiction literature, and just the plain strange subjects that main stream media won't cover.

The More Show is the right kind of talk for late at night. Every Wednesday and Sunday from 11pm Kevin Moore takes listeners on a trek through the universe with guests ranging from the alternative to the well-known authors. Wondering what lurks somewhere out there, you're invited on the journey.

The More Shows singular mission is a seeker of answers to mysteries on this planet and the universe. We may not find the answers, we may not find Bigfoot or the Lochness Monster. We may not believe all independent researchers, we may not find out who was really responsible for killing JFK or Princess Diana. Whether the crash in Roswell in 1947 was a downed alien space craft or if life after death really exists. But we're going to keep looking, asking, and probing and debating, and one day you know what? We may get some of those answers. Remember, the truth is out there somewhere.

Due to the fact that it is often totally impractical for guests from all over the world to appear live in the studio, the majority of interviews are conducted over the phone. Kevin feels that it is

important for his expert contributors to be given adequate time to discuss their ideas, while listeners can interact live via twitter and email and discuss topics fully during the phone-in. The More Show is very much an open forum for the expression of often controversial and suppressed views and ideas. However on rare occasions interviews may be cut short when it becomes clear that guests are being dishonest, unethical, unintelligible, abusive or patronising.

Kevin is a man with a passion for talk radio. He now has the first paranormal talk show of its kind in the UK on multiple FM stations, with plans to expand into England, and also further his business opportunities by pushing a new kind of corporate business under the idea of one-ness. From his broadcasting room at Radio Cardiff, his show is repeated on six stations while still at university. He has faith in his listeners, and his listeners have a surpassing faith in him. Kevin grew up in Slough, the middle child whose father worked at the electricity board and mother worked as a child minder. He parents raised him with no set religion but were both very spiritual.

Kevin's paranormal odyssey began appropriately when he had moved with his family to Lincolnshire. After not being sure which way to turn in life he approached a local medium who over the years left within him both a conviction and a compulsion – a feeling that something unseen animates the world we live in and the impulse to investigate it lead him into talk radio.

After relocating for work with a long term girlfriend to the Netherlands, he experienced a very painful relationship break up and moved back to the UK. Kevin then decided he wanted to help people, so went to university in Wales to study radio broadcasting and pursue his dreams as a paranormal radio talk show host. Kevin feels more alive when entertaining strange cosmic designs and connecting conspiratorial dots, endowing the most mundane of everyday events with numinous possibility. "But how much I totally believe, I still don't

really know myself"

Kevin explains... "After starting the show my thinking has changed so much I think that there are groups on this planet far above government who control the governments. I think that there are players on this planet who are so wealthy and so powerful that the game for them is control and manipulation. They make Prime Ministers, Kings and Queens, and Presidents. There's a huge shift underway and people are beginning to realise that they can't fully trust government anymore. I want to create a central point where we can all meet together which happens to be my radio show, and to be able to trust me so the listeners have sense of trust with me, so they know they can speak what's on their minds and I'm not going to berate them or make them feel little – like a little person.

People are looking for answers, and they are looking for them anywhere they can find them. They see a world which is very troubled and getting scarier by the day. I think they are looking for some escape and it is not a case of promoting fear i.e. fear of the unknown, fear of invasion, fear of being taken over by some kind of evil force. By looking at the world in a different way, with a more spiritual outlook, and unconditional love I hope to promote this through the More Show."

THE MORE SHOW.co.uk

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BACKLIGHT

IN BACKLIGHT, MIKE HALLOWELL REVISITS SOME OF THE MOST BAFFLING ENCOUNTERS OF THE PAST AND UNCOVERS WHAT THEY CAN TELL US ABOUT THE UFO ENIGMA



In *Paradise Lost*, the poet John Milton employs a curious but powerful phrase which forces the reader to use every intellectual tool at his or her disposal to understand its meaning. "No light, but rather darkness visible", said Milton and we are left to ponder over his words: *No light, but rather darkness visible*.

Milton used the phrase whilst describing the ultimate condition of the Devil after his defeat at the hands of the Almighty, but, in a different time and context, he could well have been writing about the UFO enigma. Ufology, as we know, is a subject which generates very little light. And yet, within the intellectual and

philosophical gloom, there lies a veritable mountain of data just begging for analysis. Some of that data - the "darkness visible" - is being withheld from us. Much is freely available, but open to a plethora of different interpretations.

But data isn't everything. Chewing over facts and figures is a little like reading a recipe. You can gain an accurate understanding of the ingredients, but to truly understand the *essence* of the cake you have to then bake it and taste it. Recipes are data, but eating the cake is something infinitely better: *the experience itself*. Similarly, studying the data accumulated during

“ Chewing over facts and figures is a little like reading a recipe. You can gain an accurate understanding of the ingredients, but to truly understand the essence of the cake you have to then bake it and taste it. Recipes are data, but eating the cake is something infinitely better; the experience itself ”

a UFO investigation is good, but it falls far short of having actually been there at the time.

The passage of time inevitably covers events with a varnish or patina which transforms living, breathing experiences into somewhat wooden, two-dimensional packages that can never truly capture the essence of what really transpired. All we can do is imagine. And yet, it is only by studying the events of the past that we can gain any insight into what actually took place. If we are to really understand the UFO phenomenon to any appreciable degree, we need to look back at past cases and study them. What can they tell us that might lift us out of the "darkness visible" and help us grasp the true essence of one of mankind's most baffling enigmas?

The month of December, 1964, was a relatively uneventful period, historically speaking. It was a bad time for celebrities, however. The comedian, Lenny Bruce, had been convicted of obscenity in November and was sentenced to four months incarceration as a result. Brian Wilson, the musical genius who played keyboard for the Beach Boys, suffered a nervous breakdown during a plane flight, which precipitated the termination of live performances with the band. Whilst the public avidly digested everything they could read about Bruce and Wilson, President Lyndon Johnson had more pressing matters to consider. He had to decide whether to go ahead with the bombing of North Vietnam.

But perhaps the strangest event – and it was

one which made very little impact upon the media, relatively speaking – occurred on Monday, December 21st.

Horace Burns was a resident of Grottoes, West Virginia, and made his living working as a gunsmith at the city of Harrisonburg, 12 miles to the north. Harrisonburg is a pleasant location which nestles comfortably in the Shenandoah Valley. Towards the end of his working day, at around 5pm, Burns was travelling in a south-easterly direction along Route 250, between Staunton and Wanesboro, when he saw something which

truly astonished him. There, above the road and low on the horizon, was a huge cone-shaped object travelling from north to south. Later, Burns would estimate that the object was travelling at approximately 15mph. Burns noticed that the object was "tipped" slightly, so that the apex of the cone was pointing forwards along its direction of travel.

The object was only 200 feet ahead of the gunsmith, so there was little doubt that he could see it clearly. The weather was clear and, although darkness was setting in, his view of the craft was not compromised in any way. Disturbingly, as the object passed directly in front of him, his car engine immediately failed, forcing the man to bring his vehicle to a halt at the side of the road on the hard shoulder. It is difficult to overestimate the impact this must have had upon Burns, for, in his later recounting of the event, he said that the object was so large it filled the entire windscreen of his vehicle as it glided by.

To the right of Burns was a small meadow. As the object approached the trees, it began to descend and landed. Later, Burns described the object as having "landed gently, like a bubble". The gunsmith, by now overwhelmed with curiosity, alighted from his vehicle to get a better look.

According to Burns, the object was at least 125 feet in diameter and between 80 and 90 feet in height. The body of the cone was not

flat, he testified, but consisted of six concentric, wheel-shaped sections, stacked upon each other. On top of the smallest section, at the cone's apex, he could see what looked like a dome. Despite being able to see the object in some detail, the witness was unable to determine exactly what material it was constructed from. Later, he did say that it appeared to have both the texture and appearance of dull metal.

Burns could see no decals or apertures on the craft such as windows, although we cannot

“The gunsmith was no more than 150 yards away from the object and we do not know whether he even considered walking towards it to make a closer inspection. Even if he did, his intention was thwarted because, after a period of no more than 60 to 90 seconds, the craft took off. Suddenly, it rose vertically from its resting position until it had achieved an altitude of several hundred feet. Then, for the first time, it made a noise. The witness heard a soft "whooshing sound", similar to the exhalation of air, before seeing the object shoot off in a north-easterly direction at high speed.”

preclude the possibility that there may have been some on the distal aspect of the object. However, he did note that approximately 6 feet from the base of the craft there was a band of bright, blue-white light. This band, he recalled later, was sharply defined and between 12 and 18 inches in depth. During the entire period of the observation, the light did not flicker, dim, increase in brightness or blink on and off. No landing gear was visible and, as far as he could tell, the craft was simply resting on its slightly convex base.

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north-easterly direction at high speed. Once again, he noted that the point of the cone was tipped slightly forward in line with its direction of travel. Within a few short seconds, it had disappeared from view.

Burns returned to his car and found that the engine started normally as soon as he turned the ignition key. On arriving home, he told his wife about his encounter, but swore her to silence. He stated firmly that he had no intention of telling anyone else about what had occurred, believing – somewhat

understandably – that to do so may have engendered doubts about his sanity. Before long, however, events would force him to rethink his decision.

Several days after the man's encounter, it was announced on a local radio broadcast that a new UFO investigation group was being formed at Eastern Mennonite College. The group would be operating under

the direction of Dr. Ernest G. Gehman, a languages professor at the college. Burns' wife seemingly heard the broadcast and suggested to her husband that he make contact with them and relate the details of his experience. Fortunately, he took up her suggestion.

Gehman was intrigued and decided to visit the site where Burns had his bizarre encounter. On Thursday, December 31st, the professor set off unaccompanied, but took with him a Geiger counter. Making a sweep of the entire area, he obtained what was later described as "a very high reading". Unbeknownst to Gehman, two research engineers from the DuPont plant at Waynesboro had also heard about the case. They, too, had decided to visit the site out of curiosity. When they arrived, they found Professor Gehman already *in situ*, Geiger counter in hand.

DuPont had long been an established part of the area, economically. In 1928, the company purchased over 150 acres of land at Waynesboro and built a plant there, which specialised in the production of rayon fibres.

Just over a year later, The Rayon Technical Division Acetate Research Laboratories moved into the plant. The DuPont Company provided much-needed employment for local residents and is still there today.

To the best of my knowledge, the DuPont engineers had no hidden agenda, although it is almost inevitable that suspicions will arise that, with or without their knowledge, their visit to the site was part of some kind of covert operation to determine more about the craft Horace Burns had seen. The phrases "research engineers", "fibres" and "UFOs" make for an explosive mix. Personally I think that their visit was just what they said it was: an opportunity for two DuPont employees to engage in a quick jaunt into the unknown out of nothing more than curiosity. Apparently, the engineers verified Gehman's statement that Geiger counter readings in the locale were unusually high.

Looking at the documentation available, it seems that Gehman was not sure of the exact location of the landing. However, by using his Geiger counter as a guide, he managed to identify the spot where the readings were highest. Burns later confirmed that this was the exact place where the object had descended.

What makes this encounter interesting, at least from my perspective, is that the object seen by Burns was obviously not a conventional aircraft of any kind. Apart from the whooshing noise when it departed, it flew in complete silence. Both its shape and general appearance were truly bizarre and misattribution can effectively be ruled out as a rational explanation. The truth is that Horace Burns seemingly witnessed something that defies mundane explanation. We are left, as far as one can see, with four possible explanations.

The first possibility is that Burns was lying, but, unlike the UFO in question, this theory won't fly, as they say. If Burns had made up the entire incident, he must have had a motive for doing so. However, the fact that, in the initial days subsequent to his encounter, he was determined to keep it secret makes this difficult to believe. To make up such a bizarre story, but then determine that no-one but his wife should hear about it just doesn't make sense. Remember, the setting up of the UFO investigation group at Eastern Mennonite College was only announced by the media after the incident took place. Burns had no knowledge of this in advance and so it really can't be figured into the equation as a possible reason for Burns to lie.

The second possibility is that Burns hallucinated, imagined, the encounter or was subjected to some sort of brief episode of mental illness. In other words, he really believed he'd seen the bizarre object that flew across his route that day, but, in reality, had experienced something entirely subjective. The UFO may only have been real to *him*. This theory doesn't work either, however. Had Burns merely imagined his encounter, how are we to explain the unusually high radiation readings reported by both Professor Gehman and the two DuPont engineers? Whatever Burns encountered, it enjoyed some kind of objective reality.

The third possibility is that Burns witnessed an experimental aircraft – designed and built by the US military, or, just possibly, by a private institute or corporation – on a test flight. At first I thought it might be interesting to take a look at any nearby military bases in Virginia, but, on reflection, I concluded that this wouldn't achieve very much. An object that can manoeuvre so deftly and fly at such high speeds, as described by Burns, could, quite literally, have come from anywhere on the planet – or maybe even beyond. Just because it landed in Virginia certainly doesn't mean that it had its origin there. Although cone-shaped UFOs are not unknown, I have never heard of one of this specific appearance or description being associated with covert military experimental aircraft. We can't rule out the possibility that it was an experimental aircraft of some kind, but the problem is that we have no evidence which allows us to rule it in.

The fourth possibility is that Burns saw an object or craft of alien fabrication which was constructed elsewhere in our solar system or beyond, but certainly not on planet Earth, unless, of course, we allow for the possibility that aliens already occupy secret bases here on (or more likely underneath) *terra firma*. This idea, although derided by some as completely fanciful, is not beyond the bounds of possibility. In any event, we are left to consider that extraterrestrial, and not human, hands built the strange object seen back in the winter of 1964 by Horace Burns.

Perhaps too much time has passed for us to come up with any firm or definitive answers. Who knows, though? Those ever-elusive "government files" – if, indeed, any exist on the case – may contain information that would allow us to determine exactly what happened that day and why. Have we any way of determining which of the two more likely

possibilities is the real one? Was the object seen by the witness a covert military experimental aircraft or something truly extraterrestrial?

A paucity of evidence doesn't allow us to be dogmatic or even reasonably certain. I can only offer you what my gut instinct tells me: Had the craft been one of those oft-seen, but still-elusive, sinister, Black Triangles or something even vaguely akin to other allegedly experimental aircraft, then I'd probably be leaning towards the notion that it had its origin here on Earth. However, what makes me gravitate towards the belief that the craft was really of extraterrestrial construction is its appearance. The object wasn't just radically different to any conventional aircraft, it was more than that. Its bizarre construction – like a pile of differently-sized doughnuts – hints at something not just beyond our technological ability, but completely disconnected from our collective cultural experience. In short, what Horace Burns saw that afternoon just didn't look like anything of human origin.

Again, I have to say that we just can't be certain, but, just as Burns would never forget his experience, we will never be able to discount it as a sign of alien life visiting our planet. Not unless we can get our hands on those files, that is if, indeed, there are any.



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Fighter Jets Chase UFO Down The M5 (Or Do They?)

By Nick Pope



Introduction

YouTube and ufology are inextricably linked at present, with many of the biggest UFO stories revolving around brief video clips that subsequently get picked up by the mainstream media, such as the Russian Halo cloud, the Moscow pyramid or the Iran cloud split. These brief descriptions will doubtless mean nothing to those who are unfamiliar with the cases, but to those in the know, the footage will come to mind instantly. The most recent case to capture the imagination first of ufologists, but then of the wider public, is the M5 jet chase footage. So what's the story and why did a 30-second film clip become an international news story?

The Footage

The footage itself was apparently taken at a lay-by or a service station alongside the M5 motorway. We see some trucks in the foreground and hear traffic noise. The camera then focuses on a disc-shaped object in the sky, before showing two military jets, close together. While the jets and the UFO are never seen in the same frame, the implication is that the jets are flying towards the UFO, perhaps to try to identify it or possibly even to engage it.

The Sun

It's difficult to overstate the role and influence of *The Sun*, in relation to ufology. Britain's bestselling national daily newspaper has championed the UFO issue over the last couple of years, even running a UFO story as their main front page headline on two separate occasions. Following the termination of the MoD's UFO project at the end of 2009, *The Sun* launched its own initiative to act as a focal point for people to send their UFO stories, photos and videos, filling the gap left by the MoD's withdrawal. *The Sun* ran this story on 10th April, 2010, under the headline "Fighter Jets Chase UFO Down The M5". I was quoted in this story, saying that the footage was interesting. West Midlands Police issued a brief statement saying, "We are not aware of any reports of unidentified aircraft near the M5." In a move that added to the mystery, MoD refused to comment, though they confirmed that it would scramble jets to meet "an air threat".

The Story Takes Off

The Daily Mail also ran the story and once two of the UK's national daily newspapers ran the story, numerous other media outlets followed.

Tracking the story on Google News - including duplicates and stories in foreign languages - showed that hundreds of mainstream media newspapers and websites all around the world had run the story. I was also interviewed on British Forces Television about the case. The story was posted and discussed on almost every UFO-related news website, forum and email list in the world. One YouTube clip of the film alone had been viewed 60,000 times. The total number of views is much higher, but difficult to count, given the fact that the video has been posted several times on YouTube and on other video sharing websites.

Going Viral

For anyone producing something for the internet, the ultimate accolade is for your content to go viral. In other words, for word to spread via blogs and forums and email lists, for the clip to be repeatedly cross-posted and for the view count on sites such as YouTube to go stratospheric. *Obama Girl*, *Charlie Bit My Finger*, *lonelygirl15* and the various parodies of Hitler's ranting speech from the film *Downfall* are good examples. The "UFO Haiti" video is a good example of a UFO clip that went viral. Made by



a filmmaker showcasing his CGI skills, the clip has over 12 million views on YouTube. This, by any measure, is a big audience. So whether you have what you believe is genuine footage of a UFO or whether you want to fool the world, the internet – and, in particular, sites such as YouTube – is the key to getting out your message.

The Controversy Begins

With the M5 film footage having been featured in the mainstream media and going viral on the internet, the debate began. Hundreds of comments were posted on YouTube and in almost every other site where the footage was featured. A number of people highlighted factors they believed showed the film was a CGI fake. The trucks were too clean. The aircraft (there was considerable debate over what type they were) were flying too close together for this to be an interception. The person who took the film had inexplicably stopped filming after 30 seconds. No further witnesses had come forward and no additional imagery had emerged, despite this being a UFO sighting in broad daylight, lasting some time, in a public place – in a situation where most people's

mobile phones now have the capability to take photos and videos. Others defended the footage, pointing to MoD's enigmatic "no comment" when a quick denial would have killed a story on one of the Department's least favourite subjects. One person even suggested this was a CGI rendering of a real event and that the original footage was probably in a secure vault somewhere in MoD Main Building. These sorts of debates go on with all video clips of this nature.

More Footage Emerges

As debate about the footage reached fever pitch, a second clip emerged. This was 57 seconds in length and, while it was essentially just more of the same, there were a couple of interesting extras. Firstly, in this clip, the jets and the UFO did appear in the same frame. Secondly, there's an indistinct voiceover where, at one point, a male voice utters something that sounds like, "I told you they're going to blast it down." In this clip, the aircraft apparently make two passes and this led to debate about whether the jets would have been able to turn as quickly as they did for the second pass – if not, surely this was more evidence for this being

a fake? Meanwhile, in an encouraging sign of the thoroughness of people's research, someone had looked into the serial numbers on the sides of the P & O truck and attempted to correlate it with the serial number on pre-existing 3-D CGI renderings of such a vehicle.

Conclusion

On the balance of probability, I think the video is a CGI fake. MoD's "no comment" sounds like a standard press office response to most – if not all – UFO-related inquiries from the media. It probably reflects nothing more sinister than a desire to avoid getting drawn back into the UFO debate so soon after having extricated themselves from it by virtue of releasing their UFO files to the National Archives, then terminating their UFO project.

Final Thoughts

As a freelance journalist, I'm familiar with the saying "today's newspaper is tomorrow's fish and chip paper". In the internet age, this is less true than it used to be. While the mainstream media has moved on to the next UFO story, ufologists will continue to discuss and debate this. The media stories are still available in the Google News Archive and elsewhere on the web. The clips themselves are still on YouTube. This story will run and run. Again, wearing my freelance journalist hat, I find this fascinating. Because what all of this shows is that, in the internet age, the way stories like this spread is as much a part of the story as the footage itself. And while this may be heresy to some, we end up in a situation where it almost doesn't matter if the video is real or fake. Because, while this is a story that might tell us something about UFOs, it's really a story that tells us something about ourselves.



PROFESSOR YEFREMOV'S KGB FILES

By Paul Stonehill

SCIENTIST, WRITER, PHILOSOPHER

Ivan Antipovich Yefremov was born in 1908 (the true year of his birth), the son of a peasant's daughter and a Russian government official.

Doctor of biological sciences, a brilliant sci-fi writer and a bold visionary, Ivan Yefremov had written more than 100 scientific works.

Yefremov's encyclopedic, comprehensive knowledge encompassed biology, physics, astronomy, sociology, philosophy and medicine.

He coined the term taphonomy (the science that studies the process of decay and fossilization) and founded the study of taphonomy in 1940 (and, by doing so, has turned paleontology into exact science).

Yefremov was able to predict the discovery of diamond deposits in Yakutia and, because of

his ideas, a Soviet scientist, some years later, was able to discover practical holography. The KGB later whined that Yefremov knew where the diamond deposits were located, but would not tell the authorities and, instead, revealed the state secret through his story.

Yefremov was equally at home among the

stars, in the open ocean, in the cataclysms of distant geological epochs or in the nonexistent world of anti-matter. This is according to Professor Olson, a former member of the National Academy of Sciences, and recipient of numerous medals and awards, who knew the Russian scientist and corresponded with him. Olson described his colleague as a person who, seemingly, did not feel boundaries of time and space.

IMMEASURABLE EXTENT OF KNOWLEDGE

Yefremov wrote about alien artifacts found during paleontological expeditions (his novel, *Star Ships*, was not published until 1948, because of the ideas presented there that there are many inhabited planets in the universe, that the evolution of sapient beings is quite similar, that all sentient beings are humanoid in appearance). He was convinced that all claims to the effect that we will not be able to understand civilizations that have arisen on other planets in different conditions were groundless. The fact, in his words, was this: the universe is built according to the same plan, from the same bricks or elements, with the same properties and cause-and-effect relationships. Consciousness, thought and intellectual matter throughout the universe are structured in accordance with these laws and, as much as they originate from them, represent their product and reflection. Therefore, we would definitely understand each other's minds - we cannot fail to...

Yefremov was only able to publish a story he wrote back in 1943, about genetic memory, in 1968 (*A Secret from Hellas*, too "mystical" for the regime...).

There had to be knowledge in his possession that has not been revealed fully. In one novel, Yefremov wrote that Imhotep was directly seeking information and receiving accurate answers from the Egyptian deity, Thot, in his sanctuary in a place known as Ra's Souls... The wise Imhotep, a great mind, statesman and scientist of ancient Egypt, came back to his pharaoh with the accurate answers and much more: he was shown wonders that no previous pharaohs had ever been shown.

Imhotep was given knowledge back in approximately 2880 BCE, in the period when many other centers of newly-gained knowledge sprung up in China, Crete, Sumer and India, a time when men received

knowledge from "gods" who arrived on our planet... Imhotep kept objects, similar to powerful modern computers, in a special sanctuary.

Professor Yefremov was fascinated by Minoan civilization, ancient Crete and its mysterious, vanished inhabitants. He seemed to know much more than was revealed in his novels...

He knew English, French and German and he knew and discussed Agni Yoga, an esoteric teaching founded by the Russian painter and philosopher, Nicholas Roerich, and his wife, Elena. Yefremov also knew well a very curious book (unavailable in the USSR), *Le Matin des Magiciens* (*The Morning of the Magicians*), really, the progenitor for most of the "New Age" literature.

Throughout his novels and stories, he was greatly influenced by ancient Greece. Yefremov was a lover of life and he constantly emphasized beauty, especially the beauty of the human body, the beauty of healthy Eros. He hated religious fanatics, all those who destroyed beauty and human psyche.

He possessed incredible knowledge of hypnosis. His "experimental" book, *The Razor's Blade* (1963), is notable for a huge amount of the scientific facts and dynamism (hypnotism, genetic memory, human psyche, Alexander the Great and his mysterious crown found at the bottom of the ocean, ancient India, nonstop adventures...), was always the bestseller of the Soviet black markets and is reprinted year after year.

Yefremov was quite familiar with Buddhist Hinayana and Mahayana systems, Pythagorean and Gnostic teachings and he learned five stages of Yoga and was interested in Nestorianism and Manicheism.

He was not an adherent of occult sciences. Yefremov was an atheist and believed in his version of Communism. He was not a mystic, but neither was he dogmatic. Allan Yefremov revealed that his father was greatly interested in Hinduism. At the same time, he possessed a great talent: he could accurately diagnose diseases, surprising doctors. He told his son that nothing pointed to Nicholas Roerich's speedy passing away...

According to P. Chudinov, PhD of Biological Sciences and Professor Yefremov's student and assistant, the man had possessed a fantastic sense of being one with Nature. It seemed, to people around him, on occasions, that he had visited the areas where his expeditions arrived in, although they knew for certain he had

never been there before...

Yefremov believed in the spiritual power of a man, psychological and physical self-improvement; he created a vision of a magnificent, brilliant, breathtaking future of humankind, of space exploration, of cooperation between ours and the extraterrestrial civilizations through the use of the Great Circle, a marvelous association that consolidates isolated planets (like Earth) in the interconnected totality by remarkable methods of communication.

Long before it became an issue, Professor Yefremov demonstrated concerns about the ecology of the planet and harm to the environment during the nuclear arms race.

Towards the end of his life, Yefremov was interested in everything (except political science), according to his son, and the extent of the man's knowledge was immeasurable.

A DIFFERENT COMMUNISM

Ivan Yefremov had his own vision of Communism: the stupendous future he described in *Andromeda-the Space Age Tale* and *Cor Serpentina* (*Heart of the Snake*) (1958) was drastically different from the dreary contemporaneous reality. This did not bode well with the Soviet leaders and the KGB.

Soviet people loved his novels; many of them (including cosmonauts) chose their professions and education because of the influence of Yefremov's books (translated into dozens of languages of the world).

Yefremov never mentioned Russian Communist leader Lenin in his futuristic novels, although he was pressured to. In the 1930s, the Communist Party would not accept him for membership because of his father's "wrong" social class and, in the 1950s, Yefremov declined to join it, stating that his father's social class had not changed...

The authorities tried to silence any mention of Yefremov's achievements (even in paleontology...) after his death and, for a number of years, they did succeed.

A STRANGE KGB INVESTIGATION

One month after his death, in October of 1972, the KGB sealed off his modest apartment on the Spasoglinischevsky Pereulok, full of books, diaries, scientific treatises, maps, notebooks and many other items.

Eleven officers searched the apartment for over 13 hours, using X-rays and a metal

detector. They intended to open the urn with Yefremov's ashes, but his wife, Taisia Iosifovna, would not to let them. When she tried to find out later what was the reason for all this, the KGB said that they found an anti-Soviet article someone (who left no return address) mailed to the writer. At the same time, the widow was repeatedly questioned about her husband's wounds and all details of his life, from birth to death. The prosecutor's office wanted to know how many years she actually knew Yefremov. She asked the KGB a direct question: what are you accusing him of? The direct reply was that they are not accusing him, as he is a dead man.

Yefremov's wife kept a copy of the KGB search report. It stated that they were looking for "ideologically harmful literature". They confiscated Yefremov's old photographs (from different periods of his life), his letters to his wife, letters from readers, photos of his friends and receipts. No author's manuscripts were taken, but they did take

homeopathic medicine bottles, some minor things, a book about Africa in English (it had dry leaves inside), his geological minerals, a cane with a "sharp metal object inside" and a stick made from colored metals. They never returned the last two objects.

The KGB had continued the investigation of Ivan Yefremov's life and activities for eight years after the writer's death. The "Yefremov's Dossier" comprised forty (40) volumes.

ENIGMATIC FILES

Three Russian investigative journalists tried to uncover the truth. One of them, A. Izmailov, published his findings in *NEVA* magazine (Issue 5, 1990). Two others, Nikita Petrov and Olga Edelman, published their findings in 2002 at http://www.ruthenia.ru/logos/number/2002_02/02.htm. They were able to see the files pertaining to the case, files from the Office of the Prosecutor of the USSR. The Prosecutor's Office was empowered to oversee cases initiated by the state security services (KGB) and every criminal case had its twin file in the Prosecutor's Office, where updated information from the case was filed. The case had this designation in the Russian archives: ЦГАРФ. ф. Р-8131. Оп. 36 Д.

5653 (according to the Russian historian, N. V. Boyko, who presented his information in 1997, at the First International Yefremov Symposium).

The contents of the file provided no clear answers and raised even more questions. The cause of death was not determined and Yefremov might not have been the person he appeared to be. That is what the files stated and, because of the above, a criminal case was opened and an investigation ensued in

“What remains is the mysterious verification of identity, the accusation that Yefremov was not who he pretended to be. The investigative journalists came to a conclusion that for some unknown reasons, the KGB needed a formal cover-up to initiate a criminal case against the Russian writer”

January of 1973. No mention of the November search of the deceased author's apartment was found in the file (although the Prosecutor's Office authorized it, as the journalists learned later). The criminal case was officially closed in March of 1974 and the Prosecutor's Office was informed. Fifteen people were questioned about Yefremov's identity and it was determined that he died from natural causes. But the KGB investigation went on.

Many years later, Izmailov was able to meet with the investigator, who told him there was no underlying denunciation against Yefremov. Habibulin, the original investigator, was very reluctant to talk about the case, even in the waning days of the USSR. In 1989, the journalist was able to get an official response from the Moscow KGB office that the search of Yefremov's apartment was due to suspicion that the author died a violent death. But the search had caused such suspicions not to be confirmed...

BRITISH AGENT HYPOTHESIS

According to the rumors that spread through Moscow in 1972, after the search, Yefremov was actually a British agent who "substituted"

the writer during the Mongolian expeditions. Some rumors mentioned that the KGB installed a recording device in the author's home and recorded his death... According to the former office of the KGB's Second Department (Counterintelligence), V. Korolyov, who published his article in 1991 (*Stolitsa Magazine*), their Moscow office had few activities to occupy the time. To justify their murky existence, Lt.-General Alidin decided to make Yefremov into a British agent. Why was

the case against Yefremov initiated by the KGB? The British espionage accusation is not in the files pertaining to the case. Accusation of "anti-Soviet" activities is nowhere in the files (unlike in most other KGB cases), unless more files are missing from the special division.

The Prosecutor's Office division that handled Yefremov's files would not even deal with major espionage cases. But, with his death, had Yefremov been suspected of being a spy, the case would have been closed.

Yet it was not... What remains is the mysterious verification of identity and the accusation that Yefremov was not who he pretended to be. The investigative journalists came to a conclusion that, for some unknown reasons, the KGB needed a formal cover-up to initiate a criminal case against the Russian writer. Inconsistencies did not bother the KGB operatives. When the need to continue the case was gone, they stopped the case.

EXTRATERRESTRIAL HYPOTHESIS

There remains one explanation of the case against Yefremov. A. N. Strugatsky, one of the most famous international science-fiction writers, proffered the explanation in his conversation with Izmailov. In the late 1960s and early 1970s, the U.S. Armed Forces and the CIA had created departments that had seriously studied flying saucers and possibilities of ET invasion of Earth. The Soviets might have had similar ideas.

Mysterious Sky: Soviet UFO Phenomenon (2006), co-authored by Philip Mantle and the author of this article, describes Soviet military research of UFOs, as well as the KGB interest in the subject (dating back to 1920s). Hence,

Strugatsky, perhaps unbeknownst to him, was right in the sense that the Soviets had similar agencies and programs. And the very unusual Soviet author interested them immensely.

At the same time, Soviet sci-fi fans came up with a persistent idea that leading sci-fi writers were agents of extraterrestrial civilizations. What if a KGB officer, who took over the newly created agency, believed in the absurd idea that sci-fi writers are ET agents... He ordered that Yefremov was to be under observation while alive, as they were afraid to capture a "live" alien whose actions could be unpredictable. But, when the author (or "alien") died, they could uncover some means of his communications with a civilization that was well advanced, in comparison with ours. Not knowing what the "means" would look like, the KGB grabbed whatever they could. Not finding what they were looking for, they later returned the objects.

This account explains the unusual KGB conduct: the search of the apartment after Yefremov's death, confiscation of certain items, their attempt to open the urn, the KGB concern that the author was cremated on the second day after his death (no autopsy was performed), even strange questions asked of his wife and the statement that Yefremov was not accused of anything.

LIFE-GIVING WATER

The Africa angle was not considered by investigative journalists.

Yefremov, according to his son, Allan (named in honor of Allan Quartermain, from H. Rider Haggard's novels and, himself, a geologist), loved Africa and had many books about the continent in English, German and French.

In 1942-43, Yefremov wrote and, shortly

thereafter, published a story titled, *Meeting over Tuscarora*. In its plotline, Yefremov was trying to tell the world something about "life-giving" water discovered in the ocean depths near South Africa, including the coordinates where it can be harvested from the ocean's floor.

Professor Yefremov had an obscure comment about the story in September of 1972. Commenting on his early stories, he wrote that the problem of the heavy water accumulation at the ocean depths outside of the thermal mixing still remains open... It is quite possible the ageing Politburo bosses would be interested in the source of his knowledge.

DINOSAUR BONES, GIANTS AND WORMS OF THE GOBI

In 1946, the Paleontological Institute of the Soviet Academy of Sciences sent expeditions to the Gobi Desert to search for fossils. The actual field expeditions of 1946-1949 were led by Ivan Yefremov. Great discoveries were made (the expeditions were poorly equipped and used inadequate means of transportation...). The final expedition took place in 1949. Yefremov and his colleagues, having explored more than 25,000 kilometers, discovered many new sites with a great number of dinosaur and other reptiles' bones. He made an assumption that Central Asia, during the Cretaceous, was a territory with numerous bogs, with water and luxuriant vegetation. Those conditions were favorable for dinosaurs. Therefore, one could expect to find their remains... and plenty of fossils (460 cases, more than 120 tons, taken to two museums in the Soviet Union and Mongolia) were discovered, just as he knew they would be... Yefremov's health had deteriorated

during the expeditions...

However, as reported in an article from an obscure Russian magazine, *Mir Zazerkalya* (Issue 11, 2002), Yefremov did discover something else in Mongolia. In a valley of burial grounds, he found one that contained a skeleton of a giant, measuring almost three meters. If true, this was a new revelation. The source named in the article is Vladimir Scherbakov, a well-known and controversial Russian writer, who wrote about ancient civilizations and similar subjects, and who passed away in 2004.

During his travels in Mongolia, Ivan Yefremov heard rumors and legends about the Mongolian Worm and published a story, in 1944, about a deadly encounter with the creature. *Allghoi khorkhoi* is said to possess an effective ability to kill people and animals instantly at a range of several feet. Yefremov described a creature that belonged to a completely unknown species. It was a great, thick worm wriggling over the mauve sand, repulsive and seemingly helpless. When approached by men, the worms turned into rings and their color changed and darkened. The worms killed the two men in the story who ran toward them. But how did they kill? Yefremov described some ancient Mongol legends; the natives were quite terrified by the creature and the worms were never examined by explorers. The creature kills at a distance and inflicts instantaneous death. It might do so by an exceptionally powerful, electrical discharge or some poison it emits. In 1972, Professor Yefremov wrote that there had been no confirmation that the worms actually exist today, that it was a creature that had become extinct, but kept alive in folk tales, but some explorers today would argue his conclusion.

In memory of the great writer, astronomers of the Crimean Astrophysical Observatory named, after Yefremov, one of the asteroids of the Solar System. This asteroid, called *Efremiana*, circles the Sun in about five years. A mineral, *efremovite*, was named in his honor, as well as some prehistoric animals. Yefremov's remains lie in the Komarovo cemetery near Saint-Petersburg.

“ In memory of the great writer, astronomers of the Crimean Astrophysical Observatory named, after Yefremov, one of the asteroids of the Solar System. This asteroid, called Efremiana, circles the Sun in about five years. A mineral, efremovite, was named in his honor, as well as some prehistoric animals. Yefremov's remains lie in the Komarovo cemetery near Saint-Petersburg. ”

Paul Stonehill
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Area 51 Wedding & UFO Congress 2010

By Dave Hodrien

It was back in December 2009 when my fiancée, Kate, came up with the idea. Why have a normal marriage in England, when we could get on a plane, spend a day in Las Vegas, visit the UFO Congress in Laughlin and get married at the “Black Mailbox” near to the most infamous secret base on the planet - Area 51?

Kate had managed to find a wedding package, which included photos at the Extraterrestrial Highway sign, a visit to both gates of the base, dinner at the alien-themed Little A’le’inn at Rachel and a sunset marriage at the mailbox - essentially a dream wedding for anyone interested in UFOs.

And so it was that early morning on Friday 19th February, we left Birmingham airport on a three tier flight to Las Vegas. We spent the following day exploring Vegas, taking in as many sights as we could with the limited time available. At 10pm, a minivan arrived at Las Vegas airport to take us to the Aquarius Hotel at Laughlin for the UFO Congress. We made some new friends from the off and had a great journey, sharing our views on UFOs and aliens. On our arrival, we were immediately greeted by the iconic figure of the UFO Congress – a massive, inflatable, green alien. The conference was set to start early the following morning.



The first day of the congress kicked off in style. We explored the entrance area and immediately bumped into Gary Heseltine and his wife, Valerie, who were planning to join us for our wedding. Soon after, we met Larry Warren, the famous whistleblower of the Rendlesham UFO incident. We decided to invite him for the wedding as well, which he immediately agreed on with much enthusiasm!

Before the lectures kicked off, I decided to have a quick look around the dealer room. It was certainly the biggest room full of UFO-related merchandise that I have ever had the pleasure of exploring! After checking everything out, I headed into the main hall, where the lectures were due to take place.

After an introduction by the co-founder of the congress, Bob Brown, it was time for the speakers to begin. I did not get to see every speaker of the week (we missed the Monday entirely for the wedding) and missed various other lectures to explore Laughlin instead. I do not have enough space to cover the lectures in detail, so will give brief details of some of the best the week had to offer.

My favourite lectures of the first day were Jim Nicholls, who talked about the supposed incident in 1954, where President Eisenhower met with extraterrestrials, and Gary Heseltine, who covered a number of impressive cases from his Police Reporting UFO Sightings (PRUFOS) database, as well as his own sighting which got him interested in the subject. Due to poor health, Wendelle Stevens could not be present at the congress, but, instead, a video of his lecture was played. He discussed the

numerous meetings that President Gorbachev is reported to have had with a humanoid, extraterrestrial species.

In the evening was the first of a number of contactee sessions hosted by Mary Rodwell. Due to my interest in this particular angle of the subject, she recommended that I came along. It was truly fascinating, listening to actual contactees discuss their experiences with one another.

After one busy first day at the congress, our wedding day had arrived! We met up with Gary, Valerie and Larry at 7.30am at the entrance to the Aquarius. A moment later, our hummer arrived and we met our driver, Dave, for the first time. We then set off on our journey, which would take us first back to Las Vegas to pick up Kate’s parents and then onward to Area 51, with a quick stop at a diner for breakfast. It was here that we picked up our minister, Reverend Ralph.

Before reaching the base, we stopped at the infamous Extraterrestrial Highway sign. Seeing it with my own eyes was truly an experience and it felt like we had finally reached our destination. We then began driving down the highway towards the first entrance of the base. As we got closer to the base perimeter, we suddenly noticed a vehicle coming down the road behind us. It was a white breakdown recovery truck. It overtook us and continued driving into the distance without incident. We were not sure if it was there to check us out or not, but the road we were on led to only one destination.

We arrived at the gate with the famous warning signs and stopped about 100 yards



from the perimeter. The truck was nowhere in sight, so we assumed it must have entered the base. To our right was a small hill, upon which another vehicle was parked. The vehicle contained two guards, who were looking at us through binoculars. Our driver said it was okay to take photographs, but not to get any closer to the perimeter. The presence of the guards was more than a little unnerving, so we only remained at the gate for several minutes before beating a retreat back up the highway.

Our next stop was the mailbox where we would later be getting married. We took some more photographs and checked out the graffiti on the box, before making our way to Rachel and The Little A'le'inn. It was fantastic to finally reach the infamous alien-themed diner. After checking out the merchandise and getting a bite to eat, we then chatted with the locals, who were thrilled by our impending marriage and asked whether they could join us for the ceremony. Among our new wedding guests was the mysterious "Agent 51", who rushed home to put on a sharp, black suit and shades!

With the afternoon quickly disappearing, we drove out to the second entrance to Area 51. As

we approached, a solitary guard came and stood at the inner gate and appeared to take a photograph of us before heading back inside. We did not have long, so we made our way back to the mailbox, racing the setting sun. We arrived just in time and stood next to the box for the wedding ceremony and I am pleased to say that everything went smoothly. We then began our long drive back to Laughlin. It truly was a superb day and everyone involved thoroughly enjoyed it.

Ross Hemsworth from the UK started Tuesday with an informative and amusing look at conspiracy theories. John Venture then gave a superb and detailed lecture on the various prophecies surrounding 2012. I missed the afternoon's lectures to take a look around Laughlin with Kate, but returned in the evening for the contactee session, which was, once

again, fascinating.

Chuck Zukowski kick-started Wednesday with a talk about a number of archaeological digs which he and a team had done at the various Roswell debris sites over the previous nine years. The team had uncovered a number of artefacts, including pieces of metal with certain strange properties. Donald Ware's lecture covered six extraterrestrial species which he believes inhabit the Earth. There was some fascinating information, including some details of close encounters with Bigfoot creatures. Dr C. V. Tramont ended the day with a talk about regression hypnotherapy.

Wednesday evening was the "Meet the Speakers Cocktail Party". This was held in the same room as the conference, with many tables laid out for everyone to sit round. There were free tacos and free drinks for a large part of the

“ Before reaching the base, we stopped at the infamous Extraterrestrial Highway sign. Seeing it with my own eyes was truly an experience, and felt like we had finally reached our destination. ”

event. During the party, Larry went up on stage and introduced a number of witnesses who had testified back in 2001 as part of the Disclosure Project.

Thursday's lectures were themed around contact experiences. Mary Rodwell was the first speaker and, in the first part of her lecture, invited a number of contactees to tell their stories over the microphone. Mary's lecture was fascinating and covered many angles of the subject, including abductions, star kids and the writing and speaking of alien languages. The final lecture of the day was by Stan Romanek and was easily the most controversial lecture of the entire conference. You may well have seen his footage, reported to show a Grey peeping in a window of his house. Stan claims to have had many experiences over the last ten years, including UFO sightings, abductions and encounters with both Grey and hybrid beings. He presented an impressive amount of



apparent evidence, but as much as I want it to be real, I remain wary of this case.

Friday morning began with one of my most awaited lectures – Travis Walton. I had only ever seen Travis speak once before, many years ago, so I was really looking forward to hearing him

again. The talk began with a video introduction featuring clips from the movie, *Fire in the Sky*, mixed with real footage of the actual people involved. Travis first gave an overview of what happened to him and described how it had affected his life ever since. Douglas Taylor is a contactee and artist. In his lecture, he described his experience, during which he got taken aboard a craft and met a number of humanoid Nordic-type beings.

In the afternoon, Barbara Lamb gave the only lecture of the week themed around the crop formation phenomenon. She described some of the evidence which points towards an extraterrestrial explanation and showed many photographs of formations from around the world right up to 2009. Richard Dolan ended the day with a well-structured lecture on exopolitics. Richard talked about the directions the subject needs to head in the coming years and how we should prepare for the inevitable



AREA 51 WEDDING & UFO CONGRESS 2010

disclosure of extraterrestrial reality.

As we got used to the fact that it was, sadly, the final day of the conference, Larry Warren and Gary Heseltine took to the stage in a fantastic joint presentation on the Rendlesham incident. Larry first discussed his part in bringing the case to the public's attention. Before handing the mic over to Gary, he got Kate and I to stand up and told everyone about our marriage to great applause. Gary's part of the lecture covered evidence that nuclear weapons were secretly being stored at the bases and that this was a probable reason for the entire incident.

Paola Harris was up next to talk and gave a lecture about the changing trends in exopolitics, moving from a strictly nuts-and-bolts view to take more metaphysical angles into consideration. Jaime Maussen and Santiago Garza gave a superb lecture, featuring a large amount of video footage and



photographs. They showed NASA footage of glowing objects, videos showing fleets of spherical UFOs, some odd flying snake-like objects and a small, unusual creature that had been found and studied.

The final lecture of the UFO Congress was by David Sereda. It covered complex research and experiments into anti-gravity by scientist, Boyd Bushman. He hopes that someone will fund his research further, which will enable him to create a saucer-shaped craft.

After a couple of hours, it was time for the gala dinner and EBE awards ceremony to end the congress in style. After a buffet and some glasses of wine, the speakers and then the organisers met up on stage for photographs. This was followed by some end speeches by organisers, Bob Brown and Nicola Irvine, and a video tribute to Nicola's departed mother. The EBE awards then commenced and numerous awards were given out for the many documentaries and films which had been



played on each of the evenings of the congress. We ended the evening at the hotel bar with some drinks and cigars.

Kate and I set off on a coach to Las Vegas airport the following morning. It truly was a spectacular week and we loved every moment of it. Next year, the UFO Congress moves to Phoenix, Arizona, and I hope that it continues to be as high quality as 2010's was. I'm sure I'll be back there in the future – either as an attendee or as a speaker.

Dave Hodrien

Birmingham UFO Group Chairman & Investigator
<http://www.bufog.com>

Editor's note:

Everyone connected with *UFO MATRIX MAGAZINE* would like to wish Dave and Kate all the happiness in the world and may they have a long and happy life together.





UFO

over Aldeburgh in

1916

By John Hanson, Dawn Holloway
& Brenda Butler
Illustration by David Sankey



During our research into reported UFO activity, covering the mid to the end of the 20th Century, a period of only just over 50 years, a mere microcosm of time, but already packed with all manner of strange phenomena, beginning with reports of strange, cigar-shaped and, occasionally, triangular-shaped objects, sometimes seen pacing Allied and Axis aircraft during the early 1940s, followed by numerous sightings of 'flying saucers' in the '50s, to those enormous, short-lived 'flying crosses' of 1967 and then, just ten years later, another wave of sightings, soon to be replaced by the sombre appearance of mysterious, gigantic, black, triangular-shaped objects, which prowled the landscape of Europe, during the early 1980s and 1990s.

The new century was to see a gradual decline in UFO interest, no doubt not as a result of falling

sightings, bearing in mind sightings of strange lights, 'flying saucers' and triangular UFOs are still being spasmodically reported around the UK, but do not attract the same interest, generally speaking, as the majority of sightings invariably involve formations of multi-coloured lights seen moving across the sky (not forgetting that similar sightings occurred in the '50s and the '60s).

Unfortunately, apart from raising initial interest by the local newspapers, such instances are often explained away by the release of Chinese Lanterns, the scourge of present-day UFO investigations.

Understanding that sightings of UFOs, whatever their guise or label, can be plotted way back into the history of man, what can we make of a strange report made by Aldeburgh woman, Mrs Agatha Whiteland, who was to often tell of what she saw one morning during the middle of the First World War, while looking out of the bedroom window at 10, Leiston Road, where she lived for 59 years.

It was a matter that was the subject of considerable curiosity by her son, Mr Alfred E. Whiteland, of Saxmundham, Suffolk, who, having felt convinced his mother had seen

something extraordinary, wrote a letter to the *Daily Mirror* newspaper, which was published on the 8th of August, 1968, and caught the attention of Charles Bowen, then editor of *Flying Saucer Review*, who published a short article, covering the sighting in an edition of *Flying Saucer Review* (Gordon Creighton, The Aldeburgh Platform, *Flying Saucer Review*, Vol. 15, No. 1, Jan./Feb. 1969).

My mother has often told the following story over the years and, as she is eighty-four, I would like to find out for her who these mystery men were and what they were doing. This is her story. It was about the middle of World War One and, on a weekday, she had gone upstairs, just before dinner, opened the casement window and looked out to see who might be on the road.

Having looked up and down and noticed there was no-one in sight, she was about to step back, when something urged her to look again. A little above the level of the house, eight to twelve men appeared on what seemed to be a round platform with a handrail around it. They were gripping the handrail tightly. She could see them so clearly. "They were wearing blue uniforms and little round hats, not unlike sailors."

She heard no sound from the machine as it came off the marshes. It turned a bit and went over the railway yard to disappear behind some houses. Have you any explanation for this?

The letter was to attract the attention of two readers, who wrote back to the newspaper, suggesting a possible explanation could have been an observation car lowered from an airship. Another man, Mr C Grove, then wrote a comprehensive letter to Mr Whiteland, asking a number of pertinent questions, which were answered in the following letter by Mr. Whiteland:

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your letter via [the] *Daily Mirror* and I will give you as much of the details as I can. My mother has answered your questions as I put them to her. Questions and answers, as follows:

Had they beards or moustaches? I asked her.

"I was looking at them and not thinking about their faces so much."

What about the uniform, was it like a tunic tight up to the neck or not?

"I'm not sure. There they were, but, somehow, it might not have been a dark blue uniform, a little bit lighter." (Grey, I said) "Yes, maybe a bit grey in it. The hats were pulled on like sailors with no rim, just a band and soft top."



WELLS IN STRAFING

of the men, whose bodies were found in the field, had died from injuries; the remaining man had died from burns received in the falling Zeppelin. The jury, whose foreman was the Vicar of the parish, returned a verdict in accordance with the medical evidence.



How quickly did it move?

"It might have been going as fast as a man can run after about three or four minutes, maybe longer. It seemed a good while, but it went straight away from me into the distance, until the trees or houses hid it. This was about 12pm and a bright day."

What time of the year?

"I don't know - must have been around summer time. I know it was a nice day and bright. I can see them now, how they came along and turned straight for here."

Not unnaturally, the article caught the attention of others, who wrote to Mr Maitland, eager to provide an explanation for what his mother had seen. They included a Mr Graham, who wrote to Mr Maitland, telling him that his own mother, who was then living at Aldringham Fen, about one-and-a-half miles from Aldeburgh, had herself seen "during the First World War" an airship lowering an observation device which was suspended some hundreds of feet below it.

Also, a Mr. Winslow, of South Lambeth, WC8, gave an interesting story about the platforms suspended beneath the baskets carried by airships, how they carried several men for accurate placing of the small bombs in use at that time and he, with others, did bury a crew at Harrow Billericay and some came down in the county of Hertfordshire.

Now I'm not much good at drawing, so you will have to excuse my sketches, but I think you can understand what I want to say.

Hoping this will be of use to you.

*Yours sincerely,
A.E. Whiteland.*



Mr Grove replied to Mr Whiteland with the following correspondence:

Dear Mr. Whiteland,
I saw your letter published in the *Daily Mirror* of Thursday, 8 August, and, as I am very interested in such reports, I have asked 'Live Letters' to kindly send this on to you.

I wonder if you might send me a somewhat more detailed account of the incident and if your mother might answer the following questions and provide additional information with regard to these points:

1. Would you please provide a drawing/drawings of the object, with as much detail as possible, and showing its size.*
2. Would you please provide drawing/drawings of one of the men.

3. Would you please provide a rough sketch map of the area, indicating your mother's position and the object's flight path, etc. (+ scale)

4. Did the men appear quite normal in facial appearance and in size?

5. How fast was the object moving, as compared with a car or a man?

Answer: It seems to be just higher than the telegraph wires and when it turned and went towards the station yard, I did think it would hit the shed roof or side (this was the cart shed ground floor and first floor with the top of ridge 25ft or so above road level).

6. How high was the object above the ground?

Answer: 30ft not much more.

7. Were the men doing anything? What were they looking at?

Answer: The men were looking straight out, as



all were clustered around the platform and "could well have been looking for anything".

8. What was it that 'urged' your mother to look again out of the window?

Answer: Mother had made the beds up and dusted the front bedroom she was in, had looked out, seen no-one and was on the point of going downstairs. "It was one of those things. You look again, hoping just to see someone or something moving." No-one was either side, as they were out at work, and there had been no-one to talk to, apart

from the younger sister, other than myself, who mother thinks had gone to school with my older sisters. At that time, as she said, I went off to school at 3 1/2 years (I was born 1910). She didn't quite know what made her take another look, but there it was, coming along from the marshes on her right, straight along the road "not wobbling" and then, right in front of her, it turned sharp right and went between the back of the Railway Hotel and the cart shed with a room above it (about 20ft - 25ft between), over the top of the other cart shed mentioned, over the railway, which had, on the railings of the station platform, a large, printed sign, about 8' long, [with a] blue background with white letters

ALDEBURGH. This may have been spotted by them and that is why they turned off so sharp, instead of going along the road. There was a camp for soldiers about 300yds further along, with trees around it. This might also have been the reason.

9. What were your mother's feelings as she watched the object?

Answer: "[I] had no real feelings [and] was more thinking about how it could move without an engine, as no sound was heard. I looked up in the sky to see if anything was holding it up. Couldn't see anyone kneeling between the men to work it and watched it go for a long while."

10. About how long was it visible? At what time was it first seen?

11. What did your mother think it might be? What was it made of?

Answer: "[I] thought it was something to do with Zeppelins, but, as no rope or anything was to be seen or heard, was quite puzzled." [I] did mention it to my father when he came home that night and next day to a neighbour. Both said that the Germans were supposed to have people looking round from Zeppelins and, as no-one else ever spoke or mentioned anything, it was only talked of when different happenings were read over the times that mother would tell of what she did see.

12. Did anyone else in the area see anything unusual during World War One? (Or in that general period.)

Answer: "Never did hear of anything like it or know of other people seeing it, or anything else

around here. There were plenty of soldiers about, why didn't one of them see it? I don't know why. Perhaps they didn't believe them."

13. Lastly, any other information relating to the sighting of the object or to anything taking place at that time that was at all out of the ordinary would be much appreciated.

* Note: showing size by comparison with a common object such as a car.

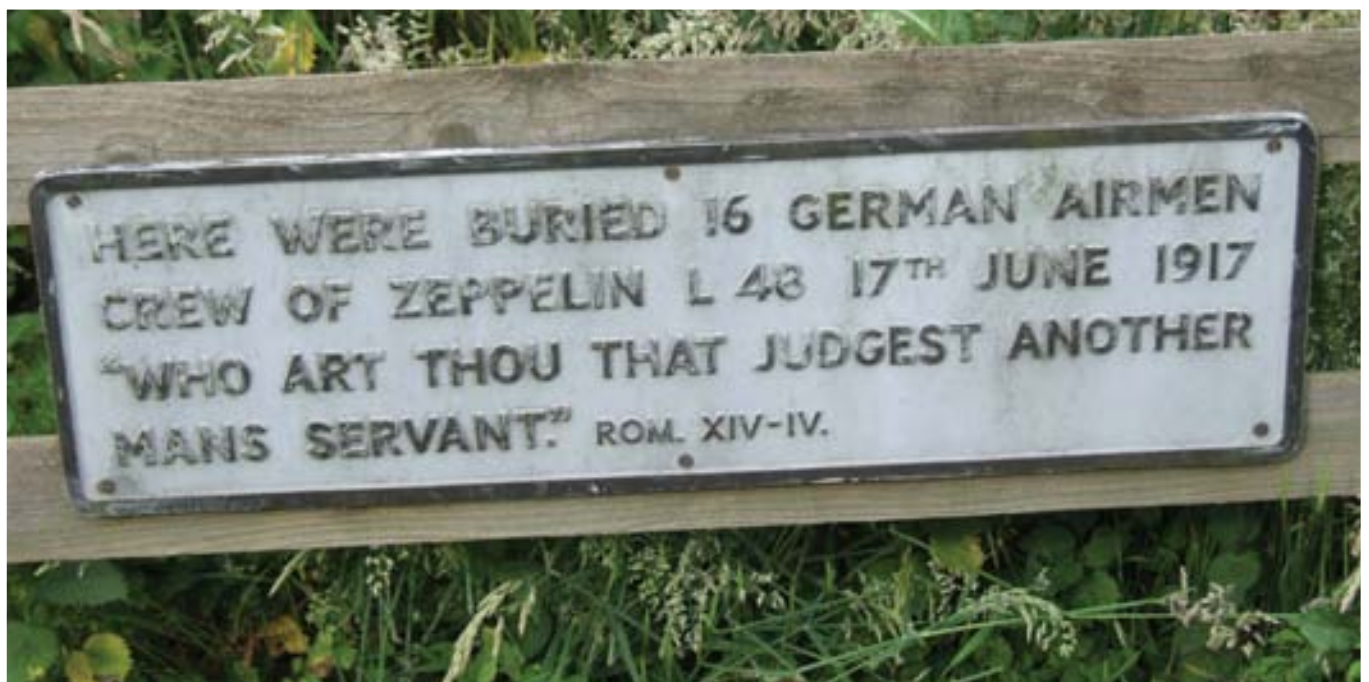
I realise that answering these questions will not be too easy and I hope I haven't caused you or your mother great inconvenience. Any other information relating to points I have not covered will be very helpful.

*Yours sincerely,
C. Grove*

Our Investigation

This was a case that fascinated us. What had Agatha seen? Was it a German Zeppelin? Or could it have been a UFO? Understanding that while one's first impression would be to dismiss the incident as being the over-flight of some German reconnaissance airship, one shouldn't forget the Germans did not have the resources to dominate the skies of England with airships, during an era when so many people reported having seen these cigar-shaped crafts moving through our skies.

We decided to obtain as much information about the role of the Zeppelin over England,



believing if we could eliminate the possibility of it having been a Zeppelin, we could at least consider it may have been something else, not necessarily a UFO, but something other than an airship.

Further enquiries revealed a sister, Agness (88), who was living in Suffolk. She very kindly allowed us to visit her at her home address in 2008, where she confirmed knowledge of the story. "It was my mother who told my eldest brother Alfred, who died in 1989, that she had seen an airship with a big basket hanging underneath. Alfred, at the time, told Norbet, then me. That's, I'm afraid, all I know. When Norbet died, I dealt with all his paperwork, but found no photographs or references to it."

The single biggest problem was being able to determine when exactly this incident took place. According to Agatha, it was mid-First World War,

which would make it 1916. What a shame we didn't have a date to work to, although we took note of what Alfred had said with regard to him starting school at three-and-a-half years of age, which could have meant an earlier period of, say, 1914, but one's impression is that, if this had been the case, surely Agatha would have remembered it as pre-war rather than more likely to have occurred during the war.

The fact that no rope or securing wire, was seen by the witness, appears to have been forgotten by many, who were adamant that Mrs Whiteland had seen an airship - a conclusion no doubt drawn from numerous reports of airships having been seen in 1909, five years before the First World War, airships that were, by the way, as we understand, only capable of short flights of 20 minutes or so - hardly capable, then, of flying over England and certainly not capable of

making sharp turns in the air, as pointed out by Mrs Maitland.

In a letter written to Mr C Grove by Charles H. Gibbs-Smith, the Aviation Historian at the Victoria & Albert Museum, during 1968, then regarded as the leading authority on aeronautical history in the UK, he was to state categorically, quote:

"There is not the remotest possibility that what Mrs Whiteland saw was anything to do with Zeppelins!" [He] enclosed a copy of an observation device, as used by the airships, which, according to him "was used when the airship was flying above cloud cover, never suspended near the ground, since they could be easily attacked by gunfire. There are many other reasons why the platform could not have been hanging from the Zeppelin. As you point out, a turn of 90-degrees would have been impossible. I find your remarks about the thickness of the rope required to support such a platform [of] great interest."

According to Douglas H. Robinson in *Giants in the Sky: A History of the Rigid Airship* (G.T. Foulis, 1973: ISBN 0-85429-145-8), cloud cars, or *spähkorb*, were used solely by German Army airships between 1914 and 1917. He describes them as follows: "A small, streamlined nacelle, hanging in clear air, half a mile below the Zeppelin and connected by telephone with the control car, it enabled an observer to direct the airship hidden in the clouds above. With its steel cable and winch driven off one of the airship's engines, it weighed over half a ton." (p.361)

The cloud car had been designed by Oblt. z.S.d.R. Lehmann and his executive officer, Freiherr von Gemmingen, Count Zeppelin's nephew. Robinson states that the cloud car was overrated because of its appearance in films after the war and that there was only one raid in which it was used for its specific purpose. The naval service rejected the cloud car on account of its weight.

Army airship operations were officially terminated in June, 1917, by the Oberste Heeresleitung, when incendiary ammunition used by the Allies and the increased accuracy of Allied interceptors made them obsolete. All remaining German Army airships were handed over to the German Navy so that they could be used for training.

We learned the East Coast of England was attacked soon after midnight on the 16th of April, 1916, by two Zeppelins, flying over Norfolk. Both airships were seen coming from Lowestoft, heading south-west towards London, where they dropped bombs at



Malden, thirty miles from London.

A dispatch to the *London Daily Chronicle* tells us an aircraft - apparently a Zeppelin - was seen over Dagenham at midnight, having come from over the sea and proceeded at a rapid rate towards East Mersea, where bombs were dropped at Lowestoft. Three raids were carried out on the 31st of July, 2nd of August and 8th of August, 1916, all made during the late evenings.

On October 16th, 1916, England was again under attack by Zeppelin bombers. On this occasion, one of the airships was shot down in flames over London. The authorities had ample warnings of the airships after the Dutch authorities had telegraphed England. Notices were then sent to police stations of some of the East and South Coast towns, notifying them of possible "aerial visitors".

Mrs Whiteland said it was summer, but could it have been spring? Unfortunately, while there may always be some confusion as to when this happened, there is no confusion as to the time,



midday, which means we should rule out the above airship attacks as being responsible. Again, common sense dictates the German airships would never fly during the day, as this would render them vulnerable to attack either by the RFC, the Army's Royal Flying Corps, or the Royal Naval Air Service (RNAS), although nine airships did make a daylight raid on the 13th of January, 1916, intending to attack Liverpool, but made a mistake and dropped bombs over Tipton, causing damage and loss of life.

We scoured the internet, trying to find just one report involving a sighting of some of the crew of an airship suspended from an observation platform, known as a sub cloud car or *spähkorben*, and eventually found a reference contained in a book, *Zeppelins of World War I*, by Wilbur Cross, when, during a raid over England, the winch mechanism used

to lower and raise the sub cloud car (weighing nearly half a ton) was damaged, leaving the observer dangling below (on a rope allegedly to be several thousand feet in length). As it began its journey homeward, the Zeppelin was unable to maintain its height, due to previous damage, and was forced to descend and deposit its cargo onto the ground, where the observer scrambled out and was arrested two months later in the Sussex area. Unfortunately, Wilbur Cross does not identify the name, date or location of where this incident took place, although we were able to identify it as being from the LZ90, found near Colchester on the night of the 2nd/3rd of September, 1916. The damaged winch was found near Bury St Edmonds. According to the Imperial War Museum, the car, which is on display in the museum, is 4.3 meters long and 1.16 meters wide and weighs 54 kilograms.

We were to discover the cloud car or sub cloud car was, essentially, a small, cigar-shaped, one-man observation platform, mainly used by the German Army Schutte-Lanz airships, constructed of wood, as opposed to the Naval Zeppelins, which were made of aluminium. The use of the German Army airships was generally discontinued by 1916, which tells us that whatever Agness saw, it was certainly not likely to have been any airship or sub cloud car, bearing in mind that there appears to have been only one raid over England involving the lowering of a cloud car (as stated above).

So, strictly speaking, for this present time, this was a UFO, as opposed to having any connection with a German Zeppelin or cloud car.

(Sources as stated above. In addition, thanks go to Rebecca S. Hawley, of the Imperial War Museum, and Cardington Airship Museum).



Incident at North Berwick:

The Skies Are Buzzing over Bonnie Scotland

By Jeff Nisbet

Anytime I find myself back in Scotland, I try to spend at least one day in North Berwick, a picturesque coastal town about 20 miles to the east of Edinburgh. The views of the offshore islands are glorious. The gulls cry, the waves lap and it's a great place to sample some of the fine local seafood. It is also one of the strangest places on the face of the planet.

I had known for some time that the area from North Berwick west to the town of Bonnybridge is considered to be a UFO "hotspot" which, considering the population, has had more sightings than anywhere else on Earth. In Canada, the ratio of sightings to inhabitants is 1 per 61,200 and 1 per 136,450 in the United States. There are 300 registered sightings in Scotland each year, which translates into 1 per 17,000 inhabitants. Skeptics have blamed the whisky.

If you had asked me just a few months ago how much thought I had given to the phenomenon, I would have said "not much". But that was then ...

I made two trips to Scotland in 2004 and, on the second trip, I was accompanied, for the first time, by all of my immediate family and their respective spouses. On Sunday morning, July 4th, I naturally dragged them all out to North Berwick. We had a nice stroll about the town, visited the new Seabird Centre, beside the harbor, took photographs of the glorious views and sampled some of the fine local seafood before heading back to Edinburgh in the late afternoon. It was a grand day for all.

A few weekends after returning home to the U.S., I was reviewing my vacation photos while my daughter was visiting. With the above photograph on my computer screen, I pointed to an object in the sky and said, "Look, Sarah, a UFO!" Well, of course, she thought I was either playing a prank on her or that there had been dirt on my lens. But, a few hours later, she emailed me a photo, taken that same day on her own camera, which showed a similar object. Needless to say, my photo had suddenly gained many points in my daughter's credibility department.

Over the next few days, I reviewed all of the photos I had taken over my last three visits to Scotland and, though none were as spectacular as the two published here, several of them were *extremely* interesting.

I LIST THREE OF THEM HERE:

- A sunset view of three "objects" photographed from my Newhaven hotel room in May, 2003. Two of the objects appear to the west above the world-famous Firth of Forth Rail Bridge. The third object appears more in the direction of Bonnybridge, the official Scottish UFO capital.
- A shot of Newhaven harbor, looking northwest, which shows an air plane on its approach to Edinburgh airport. There is also

a seagull flying in the photo and *some other object*, high in the clouds, which looks like neither.

- A photograph taken from Edinburgh's Calton Hill of Arthur's Seat, an ancient and extinct volcano, with *two* objects in it—one in the sky above the summit and one silhouetted against the hill below. It is the only photograph in my collection that shows the objects in a setting that gives a measurable idea of the distances involved and, therefore, a fair shot at estimating the actual size of the object that flew between Arthur's Seat and me.

But none of these photos, even the two shown here, would have compelled me to write an article about a subject that I've been advised to avoid.

It was my "movies" that did it.

After I had found the "still" photos mentioned above, I decided to look more closely at my movies, too.

My Nikon digital camera has the ability to shoot 35-second "QuickTime" movies. The QuickTime technology is relatively new, but it is not exclusive to Nikon. In fact, many other cameras that have entered the consumer market over the past couple of years share the same technology. And the fact that digital cameras topped the 2003 Christmas gift "wish list" means that there are now scads of QuickTime-enabled cameras hanging from the necks of tourists pretty much everywhere. But if they have used their cameras to shoot QuickTime movies yet, it's unlikely that many would have bothered to click through them frame-by-frame.

I have.

During my first 2004 trip to Scotland, in April, I shot two of those 35-second movies from the same vantage point as the photos my daughter and I shot later in July. The first was a slow pan from North Berwick out to Bass Rock Island and the second panned from Craighleith Island back to North Berwick.

Follow along.

While viewing my second movie, I suddenly realized it began with a complete view of Craighleith and, therefore, with a known quantity—the fact that Craighleith is a quarter-mile long. The object first appeared about

three seconds into the movie and remained visible in the next two frames. Although the object appears three times in the movie, the QuickTime imaging technology only captures an image once every one-fifteenth of a second (15 frames per second (fps), as opposed to video, at 24fps and film, at 35fps), so the duration of time the object is actually visible in the movie covers a period of just two-fifteenths of a second—less than the blink of an eye.

Using Craighleith's quarter-mile length as a "benchmark" of distance, I was able to calculate that the object was traveling at an astonishing 1.25 miles per second—if it was flying directly over the island. But since it is traveling on an oblique angle, and may also be a considerable distance *beyond* Craighleith, that calculation may actually be quite conservative.

Conservative or not, 1.25 miles per second translates to a blistering 4,500 miles per hour, which is 6.6 times the speed of sound—Mach 6.6 in air-force jargon. Chicago to Vienna in just under an hour - think of it! I imagine flying over the Atlantic in less time than it took to check your luggage.

It is, indeed, a sobering thought that the *official* aircraft world speed record is held by the Lockheed SR-71 Blackbird that, on July 28th, 1978, clocked in at just half that speed, or Mach 3.3. In the meantime, there are objects that are moving at twice that speed in the lower-atmosphere skies above North Berwick, too fast for the naked eye to catch. And, as my movies show, they are not always flying in a straight line. A particularly memorable sequence shows one following a S-curved path across the sky in just 14 frames—less than a second—and another performing a graceful loop-de-loop! They are quite the aerial hot-rods.

All that said, there is no reason to believe that my Mach 6.6 airspeed estimate proves that their pedals have been pushed anywhere near the metal.

So what are these objects? Who or what might be in them? And where did they come from?

There are many diverse theories held by as many diverse groups, none of which has ever managed to slip past the ever-vigilant guardians of acceptable mainstream thought.

The skeptics are able to shake off most reported sightings by trotting out, often with a chuckle, one or more of the following time-honored explanations: weather balloons; swamp gas; earth lights; reflections in a window; experimental aircraft; the whisky.



And the list goes on.

True believers have their own unique set of problems when it comes to putting forth their theories. They do not constitute a unified front and have little or no power over the mainstream press, which tends to report the few sightings that make it past the news desk with a wink-and-grin delivery. Disappointing, but hardly surprising, considering the disparate theories held by the believers.

Some believers tend to focus less on the extraterrestrial vehicles than on their pilots. And since none of those vehicles has ever been *officially* found, there is an additional layer of mystery added to their speculations that is not likely to be penetrated anytime soon.

The few Christian Fundamentalists who also happen to believe in extraterrestrial vehicles, quite understandably, believe that Satan and his band of fallen angels pilot the craft. What other explanation could they allow themselves to have?

Those who believe that Earth's human population did not spring from the loins of the biblical Adam and Eve, but instead came from the stars, have their own set of insurmountable problems to contend with—as you might well imagine.

There are also those who feel that extraterrestrials may have actually been the gods mentioned in the world's various mythologies, which came down to Earth and took the daughters of men as their wives—which would understandably be a very unpopular theory, indeed.

The incomprehensibly vast distances of space throw yet another spanner in the works and have spawned the theories that either the vehicles have the ability to enter a “portal” or “wormhole” that immediately transports them

to star systems that would otherwise take many years to get to, or that they have, in fact, always been with us and actually exist *below* the surface of the Earth, from whence they come and go at will. Hmm...

Let's take one of these two theories at a time and think how easy it would be to fit my little QuickTime movie into either scenario.

■ The “Beam me UP, Scotty” scenario: A few frames of my first movie actually show objects that appear to have expanded and so it doesn't take too great a leap of the imagination, if you have one, to speculate

that they may actually be in the process of atomically *dematerializing* in order to rematerialize someplace else—perhaps at some far-flung point in the universe.

■ The “Beam me DOWN, Scotty” scenario: Let’s consider that, from the Bass Rock westward to Edinburgh’s Castle Rock, there are no fewer than six “extinct” volcanic plugs. As most of us here know, live volcanoes are ever connected to the molten core of the Earth by a tube. Is it possible that these ancient tubes have become flyways of sorts and is that where the “expanded” objects are heading?

I will consider, for now, the second scenario.

As I have toggled back and forth along several microsecond sequences in my movies, it has become apparent that these objects are not coming down to us from above, but are instead emerging from below. At least three sequences in my movies show that these objects are rising out of the sea and I am publishing one of those sequences with this article. You will notice that, perhaps most amazingly, the object shows no sign of having to visibly accelerate from the surface of the water in order to reach its cruising speed in the air. Instead, it appears to be operating at top speed from its first appearance!

My observations are supported by a recent *Pravda* news article, which reports: “In 1963, the U.S. Navy was conducting training not far from Puerto Rico. Suddenly, the training session had to be stopped. Sonar operators determined that one of the submarines was changing its coordinates and was following a strange object. The object was moving at an incredible speed: 150 knots. No modern submarine is capable of

traveling at such rapid speed. (On average, subs cannot exceed 45 knots).”

The article goes on to say that “American scientist, A. Sanderson, who devoted many years of his life to studying ocean depths, writes the following about a mysterious occurrence which he observed from the deck of an ice-breaker in the Atlantic: ‘Suddenly, something emerged from the waters, breaking thick ice; the huge, silver object disappeared in the sky.’”

Let’s assume it is unlikely that I, with my 4.2-megapixel camera, have been the first to discover the origin of these objects—or to calculate their speed. While non-traditional investigators, such as myself, would dearly love to have made such discoveries, I find it inconceivable that the top governments in the world, with their ultra-high-tech hardware and software, would be utterly in the dark about these objects, and so I think it’s fair to assume they are not.

Most disturbingly, the claim has been made that the memberships of certain “shadow governments” have been in touch with diverse extraterrestrial life forms for quite a while—some benevolent and some considerably less so—while the rest of us have been allowed to toddle on in ignorance.

The eminently credentialed Dr. Michael E. Salla has published an extensive, and highly interesting, paper on this subject at www.exopolitics.org.

While available editorial space forbids me to excerpt too much of Salla’s data, I can do no less than to say that two of the extraterrestrial races he mentions are thought to live *below* the surface of the Earth and have done so for many millennia. If one considers that humankind has always set its sights on the stars and that it took

us millennia to break out of the thin pocket of atmosphere that surrounds our planet, one might also begin to consider, with newfound wonder, the mysteries that have ever lain beneath our feet.

Now, how does the idea of extraterrestrial life square with the idea of a God? It should come as a comfort to many of you that the two are not mutually exclusive.

On more than one occasion, Monsignor Corrado Balducci, a Vatican demonologist, has stated his belief in the existence of extraterrestrial life. Here is what he said in an interview with Zecharia Sitchin:

“That life may exist on other planets is certainly possible. The Bible does not rule out that possibility. On the basis of scripture and on the basis of our knowledge of God’s omnipotence, His wisdom being limitless, we must affirm that life on other planets is possible, credible and even probable.”

On February 17th, 1600, the Inquisition burned Giordano Bruno to death in the centre of Rome for having the temerity to suggest, among other “heresies”, the very same thing, having first taken the final precaution of driving a nail through Bruno’s tongue to stop it from blaspheming further.

The times do change.

So, you ever-growing legions of amateur QuickTime cinematographers out there: Why not put my claims to the test?

Just pick up your cameras, head on over to the UFO hotspot nearest you, and let ‘em roll!

It’s time to meet the neighbors ...

More of Jeff Nisbet’s articles can be read on his website at www.mythomorph.com.





Modern Time
Close Encounters
& Alien Contacts
from Turkey
By Farah Yurdozu

My native Turkish land has always been very rich with UFO sightings. Our mythology and historical records show numerous close encounters with mysterious beings who come from stars or other dimensions.

The original name of my Turkish ancestors was "GokTurks" which means "Sky People." Ancient Turks believed that their leader was visited by a woman who came from a star and this mysterious woman, who descended in a ball of light, got pregnant from the Turkish tribe's leader. She gave birth to three sons, who were called Moon, Star and Sun. They became the founders of new Turkish generations.

Symbolic or historical, all these narratives gave an identity to my nation. Turkish people are very spiritual and open-minded to the idea of intelligent, extraterrestrial life. As you know, the Turkish press is also extremely open-minded to UFO sightings. When there is a UFO sighting in any big city or a small town of the country, you can see the coverage on the front pages of important daily newspapers. I guess the knowledge is in our genes, who knows?

In this article, I want to introduce you to three Turkish contactees. Don't worry, they are not historical or mythological characters from the past. They are from the present time and they had very normal, simple lives - until they encountered the aliens.

A FAMOUS CONTACTEE FROM TURKEY and THE MAP OF THE UNIVERSE

Contactee: Behçet Öcal

Date: 1948-1990s

Place : Nevşehir, Cappadocia

Behçet Öcal lived in a small village near Nevşehir/Cappadocia in central Turkey. This area is famous for underground cities and multiple UFO flaps. He is known as the most famous UFO contactee from our country. When he started to have his first close encounters, in 1948, he was a 15-year-old shepherd living with his family. Because of his very simple lifestyle, he didn't have the chance to get any education and there was no power, no radio or movies etc. in the village where he was living.

That day, when he was taking care of the animals outside of the village, he heard a strange sound from the sky. The first thing he saw was a bright ball of light. In his own words, it was stronger than the sunlight. In that moment, he felt a weird sense of palpitation all over his body. When the ball of light changed its shape, he was clearly able to see a rocket-shaped object descending from the sky in a

vertical fashion. The object had a metallic look and it was almost 30 feet long. Behçet Öcal was scared, but, at the same time, he says that he was in another state of mind.

A door on the object was opened and three visitors came out, two men and one woman. According to Behçet's description, they were humanoids and they had very big eyes. Both of the men had completely shaved heads and the woman had long hair. The three were all the same size and height, as if they were made from the same pattern. Their clothing was very foreign to a young village boy of 1948. They wore a kind of fitted jump suit. For Behçet, one of the most interesting things was what he called the "Illuminated tool" hanging round their necks. The tool also contacted their waist and there were buttons or keys over the panel of the tool and Behçet remembers lights on the panel.

He was in a state of panic. Behçet had no idea about space, spaceships or extraterrestrials. All he could think was that the strange-looking people were coming from the United States or from Russia. In that moment, telepathic communication started. They told him not to be scared and that they were not going to harm him. After these first words, he felt much more relaxed and, as he says, he never felt so peaceful. The visitors didn't name their home planet, but they told him that they came from "another world". All communication was telepathic. One of the ETs extended his hand to Behçet. The visitor's palm was round and deep, like a small-size bowl. When he was touched by the ET, the shepherd had a kind of shock, fell down and fainted. When his family found him later, the visitors had gone and Behçet was still unconscious. He was taken to the hospital with skin irritation and burns.

Behçet was a quiet and shy man and he kept his secret to himself until 1977. But, between all those years, he was in contact with his extraterrestrial friends. Only that first visit was face to face and, after that, they never got together in person. Instead, Behçet saw them in a kind of big screen, which used to open in front of him, usually at night.

When Behçet had his first media-newspaper interviews in 1977, he showed a "Universe Map" that he had drawn with the help of extraterrestrials. At first, military and scientists were somewhat interested in him, but,

as far as we know, Behçet Öcal didn't get much from them. So his case was forgotten with time. He wasn't interested in being a celebrity because of his experience. He didn't try to sell his story. In a way he gave it away to the press of the 1970s.

Behçet never wrote a book nor did he make any TV appearances. He kept living in his remote town in the central part of Turkey. He wasn't a sect leader and didn't try to have fans or followers. But he believed in his experience and, for some reason, he preferred to put a distance between himself and the media. Maybe he saw and knew more than he was telling, but all his secrets or his realities will be a part of the legends in the next generations.

SHAPE-SHIFTING MEN-IN-BLACK VISITED TURKEY

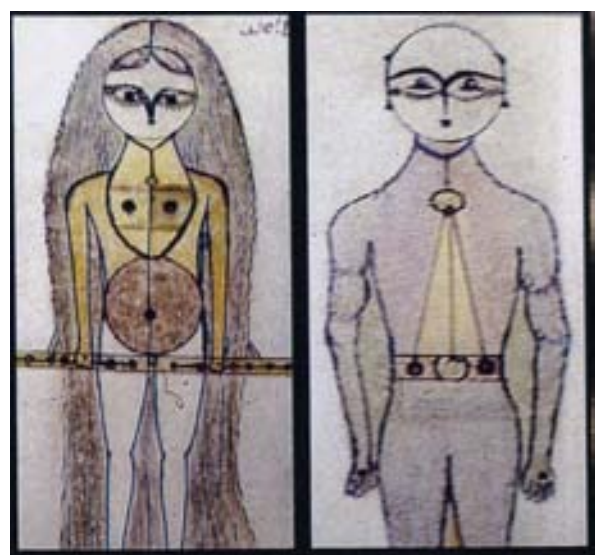
Contactee: Burhan Yılmaz.

Date: May, 1979

Place: Yalihoyuk town, Konya, Turkey.

This modern case is from 1979. The person who had the experience was an elementary school teacher, a young man.

On the first night of the encounter, Burhan Yılmaz stayed outside, watching the sky until 2:00am. Suddenly, he noticed, in the sky, a very bright, flying object that came closer to the ground. The object was in the shape of a half dome and slowly landed on the field without any sound. It was the size of a minivan. A kind of energy field was surrounding the UFO. The UFO stayed there for a while. Burhan Yılmaz observed it until it lifted off and flew away into the dark sky. He could not remember how long he stayed there watching the UFO. After the object left, he immediately did some research on the landing spot, but didn't find any trace or any





burning grass. Everything seemed normal.

The following night, Burhan was reading at his home, where he lived alone. At 9:30pm, he heard knocking on the door. It was three young men, around their 30s, whom he had never seen or met before. They were wearing black suits and black ties. As Burhan lived and worked in a very small town, the fact that his visitors were complete strangers to him was not normal. Because, in these small towns, everybody knows everybody else. But, even though Burhan Yılmaz never saw them before, he invited them inside, as is the Turkish tradition, and they sat in the living room. The visitors explained that they came from another town 8 km away. At this point, Burhan Yılmaz went to the kitchen of his very small home to prepare tea for his guests. He came back into the living room after only two minutes. Now he was very surprised, because his visitors were gone.

Burhan searched his tiny home and they weren't anywhere. It was impossible for them to go outside from the main (and the only) door, because, to do that, they had to walk by the kitchen, where Burhan Yılmaz was, and he would have seen them. They could not have left through the windows either, because there

were iron bars on all of them. On the street, there was only a little girl playing by herself. He asked her if she saw the three men. She said, "Yes" and pointed to the corner of the street. But there were only three black dogs growling in the corner. Suddenly a neighbour woman came running, screaming in panic. She said that she had just seen three men flying into the sky.

This case is interesting, as it starts with a UFO sighting the night before the visit of the three men. Also, Burhan Yılmaz cannot estimate time surrounding the sighting and how long he stayed there watching the UFO. There might be a missing time factor there. Does missing time mean an abduction? We don't know. He didn't know either. But the three men-in-black were seen by three witnesses.

A LONG TERM RELATIONSHIP WITH AN ALIEN

Contactee: Nejdet Boyanay.

Date: 1975-1996

Place: Istanbul, Turkey

Nejdet Boyanay started to experience his first encounters with a mysterious entity when he was 10 years old. He still remembers what happened that night with interesting details. According to his report, he was lying down in his bed and starting to fall asleep. Suddenly, he noticed that he wasn't able to move. All his body was completely paralysed. He tried to yell and call his mother but he couldn't.

After that night, he had at least two encounters in a week with a strange visitor. He was touched by him and he says that the hands of the visitor were extremely soft and the touch was sticky, like a jellyfish. Later, he drew a picture of the visitor. Whenever he came, Nejdet found himself in a paralysed condition with a strange humming sound filling his ears. And when the visitor left, the young graphic designer felt as if he was stuck in some kind of vortex. In all those years, Nejdet couldn't speak about his visitor. He wasn't allowed to speak about his experiences.

Nejdet got married and, after the marriage, the encounters increased. In 1996, he decided to give an interview about the experience. This would be the first and the last interview, because, after he spoke with the reporters, he had a strange accident in the shower. According to him, the alien got very angry and tried to drown him. After this incident, Nejdet never granted any more interviews about what happened to him.

Nejdet wasn't very interested in the alien abduction phenomena. He believed that the being which contacted him was a kind of negative, demonic entity. But it was obvious that he was totally under the control of his visitor. The visitor was scaring him great deal and Nejdet never dared to talk about him to his family since his childhood. This wasn't a spiritually enlightening contact. This was fear, mental and physical control, during all of his life. There were no promises of being lifted to the 4th Dimension or saved by the extraterrestrials. As Nejdet was very scared of sharing his experience, we haven't heard from him since he gave this interview.

In Turkey, the strong belief in the interdimensional beings or "jinns" sometimes causes confusion. Abductees can mistakenly confuse alien abductions with demonic jinn attacks. As the general aspects of the contact are very similar, both in jinn and alien attacks, it can be hard to see the difference. Both jinns and aliens leave physical traces, such as bruises or cuts. Both of them can communicate with the humans using telepathy. But this is a very long, detailed story and will be the subject of another article.



FARAH YURDOZU BIO

Farah Yurdozu is Turkey's first female UFO researcher – writer and author of several best-selling books in her native land. Fluent in

Turkish, English and Spanish, she is known on several continents as an authority on UFOs, paranormal and the metaphysical. Now living in the New York City area, Farah continues her work as a UFO researcher, writer and lecturer, and appears in major UFO conferences all over the United States from Roswell to California, Nevada to New York City .

Farah's gifts as a psychic medium were recently featured in TLC's paranormal investigation TV series *DEAD TENANTS*. She is a columnist for the leading monthly publication *UFO Magazine* and a journalist/ producer at Jerry Pippin Internet Radio. Though her work reflects a passion for all aspects of the paranormal, her main area of study is abductions and close encounters.

www.farahyurdozu.com

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Book. Review

This month we have selected some of the finest books around...



BOOK REVIEW: 'HISTORY IS WRONG' by Erich von Däniken

Erich von Däniken needs no introduction. Since his seminal work, *Chariot of the Gods*, was published in 1968, he has written dozens of books on the subject of ancient astronauts. He is a controversial figure and his work invites scorn and derision from many quarters, particularly in the media and academic world. Erich is made of stern stuff, however, and this

new book shows how he takes much of the criticism levelled at him on the chin. He fights back like a little pit bull terrier - tenacious, ferocious and highly focussed.

I thoroughly enjoyed this new book. I've always liked Erich's style of writing. This is not the writing of a grandiose and pompous academic author, but instead comes across simply as the sharing of information from one normal human being to another. The book is conversational in tone, despite the heavyweight nature of some of the material covered. The claims may sound far-fetched to some, but they are delivered in a manner that sounds reasonable and rational. And perhaps that is why he is despised so much by many commentators and debunkers. He has the common touch and his books sell in their millions. That level of success is not something that academic critics find easy to deal with. In comparison, their own works often gather dust on university library bookshelves, despite - or perhaps because of - the wealth of scholarship that goes into them.

So what does *History is Wrong* offer us that is new - apart from its audacious title? After all, with so many von Däniken books available, one is tempted to wonder whether the genre is now full up to bursting point.

The book is split into three sections.

The first looks at the enigmatic Voynich Manuscript. This untranslatable work, thought to have originated from the quill of Roger Bacon, has caused many a cryptographer a blinding migraine. Not only is the text of the document still mysterious, but there are also many fantastic drawings in the manuscript that defy rational explanation. This menagerie is rich pickings for researchers into the mysterious. Indeed, I have dipped my toes into that pool myself before now, because some of the drawings are astronomical in nature and other pictures of plant-life in the text do not correspond with any known biology on this planet. There is an excellent section of colour plates in *History is Wrong*, which includes puzzling pages from the Voynich Manuscript.

Erich von Däniken makes a connection between this unique manuscript and the Book of Enoch, as well as some South American artefacts in the collection of the late Father Carlos Crespi. Although I personally find those connections a bit tenuous, the quality of

information that the author supplies in his thesis is enjoyable to read and informative. To my eye, the Voynich Manuscript is an alchemical work and a more productive line of enquiry would be into the ancient lineage of alchemy. Perhaps von Däniken has explored this before in another book - I'm not sure.

The second section picks up a theme explored in the first, namely lost libraries of knowledge in South America. It is not surprising that there is a fascination with such lost treasures. The knowledge base of the indigenous peoples of that continent was almost entirely destroyed by the Conquistadors. So little remains that it would be truly remarkable if an ancient, indigenous library of wisdom was to emerge from a cave in Ecuador. This is a now well-trodden path and von Däniken is not alone in his investigations. In this book, he publishes a letter sent to him from no less a figure than Neil Armstrong, discussing a similar expedition he was personally involved in. A modern astronaut in search of proof of ancient astronauts? Not quite how Armstrong would see it, I'm sure, but it has a poetic ring to it. Anyway, von Däniken's adventures in Ecuador brought him a lot of problems back in the early 1970s and the author revisits that episode in his life in some depth here.

I remember reading *The Gold of the Gods* some years ago and it struck me at the time that the claims of an amassed collection of ancient metal tablets in a remote cave seemed quite outlandish, particularly as the horde described had still not emerged by the point I read about it, some 25 years on. If such a horde really had existed, then it has likely been plundered and sold on to private collectors for great profit by now. Sadly, we may never know the truth. But what does come out clearly in the description given by von Däniken here is that he was quite justified to treat the story seriously and pursue it for the potential knowledge it would give to the world. Alas, his paper trail of witnesses and their signed affidavits is insufficient to convince the world that this was anything other than a wild goose chase. Except, maybe, the Mormons...

The third section of the book was my favourite. Saving the best until last, von Däniken describes a scientific expedition to the Nazca plain, sponsored by his Erich von Däniken Foundation. He asked for a series of scientific experiments to be carried out at the site of the famous Nazca lines, to do with soil composition and ground conductivity. This work was successfully carried out by the scientists who went on the expedition, led by a German professor of surveying and cartography. The book discusses the anomalous results they obtained from the sites, which deepen the mystery surrounding the origins of the Nazca lines. I find this work fascinating and potentially significant.

At the core of the book is the sense of an author validating his lifework and refuting his numerous critics. He sets out his vision of an alternative ancient history (see page 151, the section entitled "An Alternative Interpretation") and shows that the questions he asks are as important today as they were forty years ago. Whilst the 'Holy Grail' of South American artefacts remains tantalizingly distant, there is sufficient

anomalous material in what we already have available to us to recognise a pattern of direct experience of ancient astronauts among various early peoples around the world. Their monuments, their myths, their artefacts and their texts speak to us down the Ages. We only need to shift our perspective slightly to see how ancient history may indeed be very wrong.

Book review by Andy Lloyd - author of *The Dark Star, Ezekiel One and The Followers of Horus.*

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£15.99



BOOK REVIEW:
CONTACTEES
by Nick Redfern

Nick Redfern's move to the USA was a big loss to British Ufology. He used to write book reviews for *UFO Magazine*, in the glory days when the Birdsall brothers were riding high. It feels ironic to be reviewing his book all those years later! His first two books are still on my bookshelves. They were informative and fairly serious texts on UFO secrecy and written in a

more academic manner than this newer book. I'm not sure I like Nick's shift in style to a more folksy prose, but I think it's fair to say that he is simply following a more generalised trend. What is retained from his earlier work is his cutting analysis and erudite commentary. He just presents it in a different way.

The Contactees were always a controversial subject, even within Ufology. These are people who claimed to meet with human-like aliens and undertake various B-movie style adventures with them - from flights to other worlds, to sex in a flying saucer. The author covers the most celebrated cases with clear, entertaining narratives. The most famous of all, George Adamski, is viewed shrewdly - there is clear evidence of fraud in the FBI files, but the agency had to tread carefully to prevent the self-publicising UFO guru from becoming a popular martyr for the subject. The author is well-acquainted with researching the FBI files and that interest is in evidence in this book. He makes use of long quotes from declassified files, as well as a great deal of source material from other researchers' books and commentaries (e.g. Moseley and Bennett).

It is clear that the Contactee movement stirred debate within the FBI. Redfern considers it likely that this, seemingly unlikely, interest is due to the communist overtones of the Space Brothers' civilisations. Adamski's proclamations were essentially un-American and provoked strong complaints from members of the public to the agency during more paranoid times. The FBI's intervention was haphazard - and sometimes half-hearted - but included infiltration of the UFO movement, with agents submitting long reports about the topics discussed at lecture and conference events.

This was particularly the case with George van Tassel. His story is remarkable. Like a Biblical hermit, he made a home in a cave set within an eponymous giant rock in California. He built the Integratron in the years up to 1959, a rather unique structure in the desert, which was constructed to aid meditation and for communing with the alien visitors.

Constructed entirely out of wood and concrete, "without the benefit of even a single nail or screw", the Integratron still stands today, despite the efforts of powerful earthquakes.

Where one might be tempted to be quite impressed with a man of undoubted vision like van Tassel, many of the Contactees are of more dubious character. Redfern's book offers something of an exposé, from the small-time fraudsters to the downright sinister leaders of cults.

"For the most part, immersing oneself in the UFO arena is a relatively harmless - although very often life-changing - experience. As the affair of Heaven's Gate acutely demonstrates, however, sometimes the world of the flying saucer can be downright deadly." (p152)

The final chapters of the book are devoted to various theories about the Contactee experiences. It is interesting that there appears to be a cultural bias to the phenomenon, particularly regarding the appearance of the aliens. Redfern quotes statistics that show that the Nordic-type aliens are more likely to be encountered by Europeans and South Americans than North Americans, who tend to experience the Greys (p161). In a way, this really sets the Contactees apart, because many of the most celebrated cases are American in origin, where encounters with the Greys should predominate.

The author presents an excellent and open-minded overview of various strands of research into the phenomenon: Narcotic drugs, hypnagogia, meditative trances, earthlights and the effects of DMT are all analysed thoroughly. There is a folkloric element at play here, too, and he sensibly brings Jacques Vallee's seminal work into the equation. Redfern even considers evidence that government agents were planted to spread ridicule amid a subject that was gaining popular momentum in the US. There are even darker possibilities, with accounts of mind-control experiments conducted on unsuspecting folk in isolated rural areas (as in the case of Villas Boas).

In the end, Nick Redfern seems to avoid a definitive conclusion. His generally sceptical air indicates he is tackling the subject as just another of his enjoyable paranormal romps. But I know that he is also passionate about the UFO subject and there remains an under-current of serious enquiry. Perhaps there is some doubt in his mind that the entire subject can be dismissed out of hand, as would seem sensible from a more sceptical viewpoint. I think that hesitation to find fraud around every Contact corner is laudable and provides the right balance to this book.

I've often wanted to read a book devoted to this subject and *Contactees* does not disappoint.

Book review by Andy Lloyd - author of *The Dark Star, Ezekiel One and The Followers of Horus.*

Contactees by Nick Redfern
Subtitled "A History of Alien-Human Interaction"
New Page Books, 2010
ISBN 978-1-60163-096-4
£13.99



BOOK REVIEW:
THE UFO FILES
By Dr David Clarke

Dr David Clarke is one of this country's most respected experts in all manner of Fortean subjects.

In this, his latest book, David turns his critical eye once again to the thorny subject of the UFO

phenomenon, but with a slightly more unusual stance than your common-or-garden writer. For David, along with Joe McGonagall and a number of other researchers who are the leading lights of UFO research here in the UK, are the diligent and persistent citizens who applied pressure to get the MoD's UFO files released into the public domain, care of the National Archives in Kew. It is this new vein of material which forms the basis for David's new book, *The UFO Files*.

David has, per normal, done a great deal of research into this, his new magnum opus. He has cherry-picked some of the most interesting and obscure cases held at the National Archive, bringing some hitherto unknown cases into the open for the first time. The book is an interesting read and covers the whole of the UFO subject in the UK since its inception into mainstream public awareness after the Second World War.

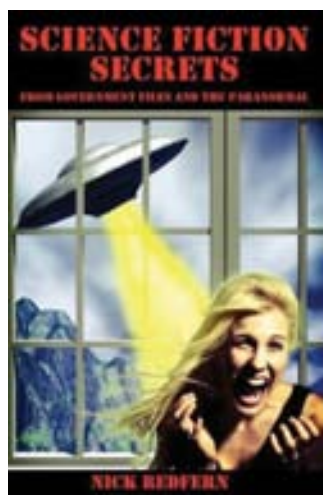
But, it's no rehash of reports and sightings since the 1950s. Early reports of the phantom airships of the early part of the last century and the famous "Foo-fighters" seen both by Allied and Axis pilots during the closing months of the Second World War are covered, along with more modern sightings.

As with David's previous books, it is a rich and varied volume, and one which should grace the bookshelf of anyone interested in the UFO subject. I only have one minor quibble, in that it is too short a volume. With the major press coverage during the release of the files, David and his fellow researchers have done the whole UFO subject a great service. Gone are the old days when such news items were reported with a certain amount of disdain and ridicule. For once, the UFO field was treated in a serious manner, taking it out of the domain of jokes and mickey-taking, making it a serious news item.

If I had to recommend one book this year then this would be the one!

Reviewed by Kevin Goodman

Publisher: The National Archives
ISBN-13: 978-1905615506



**BOOK REVIEW:
SCIENCE FICTION
SECRETS**

By Nick Redfern

In the absence of any new decent books on the UFO subject [David Clarke's book is an exception regarding the above statement], a new book by one of the most prolific and respected researchers in the field is welcomed.

As with David Clarke's book, this is no run-of-the-mill rehash of classic sightings and saucer lore, as it covers a section of the UFO myth that has, to now, been mostly ignored...

Science Fiction Secrets is a cornucopia of individual essays, each one dealing with the impact that UFOs have had on science fiction and vice versa. Most UFO researchers will admit to having a passing interest in science fiction, be it in the visual medium or in print. I, for one, was brought up on the classic TV shows of Gerry Anderson and it was his 1970 series, *UFO*, which sparked my interest in ufology.

Nick's passion for both subjects shines through this work and, as the publicity states on the back of the book:

**Mix two parts science fiction with one part high level government secrecy
*Add a liberal helping of the paranormal
Let Nick Redfern heat and serve...

In the book, Nick looks at government "assistance" in the filming of Spielberg's classic, *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, FBI agents investigating the acclaimed writer of science fiction, Philip K. Dick, how did *The Lone Gunmen*, a spin-off series from the hugely popular, *The X-Files*, predict the 9/11 disaster?

These and many more instances, such as the above, are covered in the book. Although Nick now lives in the USA, you'd be forgiven for thinking that the book was solely aimed at the American market. Not so! For inside the book are a number of chapters devoted to the UK and how the UK government perceives the UFO enigma.

All in all, a pleasant book which covers some unusual aspects which have been ignored for too long and the book is a welcome breath of fresh air.

For anyone with an interest in UFOs and science fiction, it is a must read.

I look forward to Nick's next book on alleged alien contact...

Reviewed by Kevin Goodman

Publisher: Anomalist Books
ISBN-13: 978-1933665405

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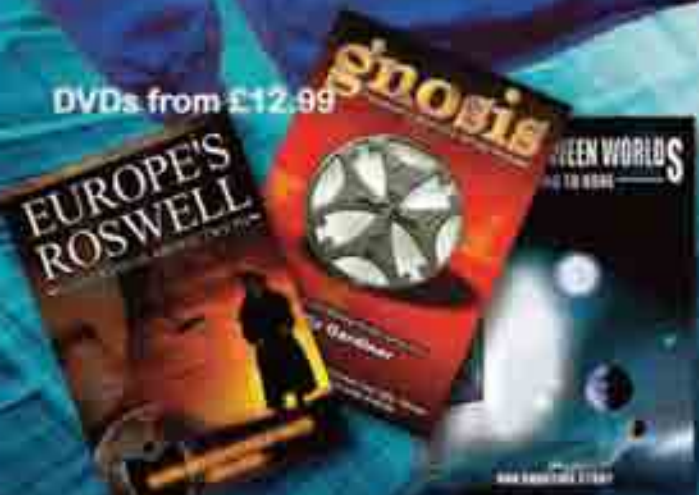


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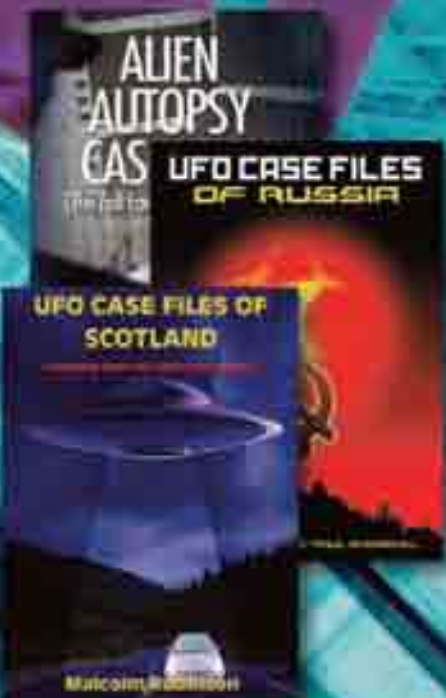
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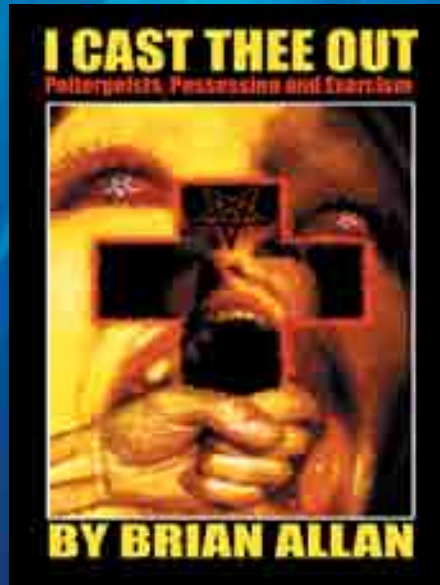
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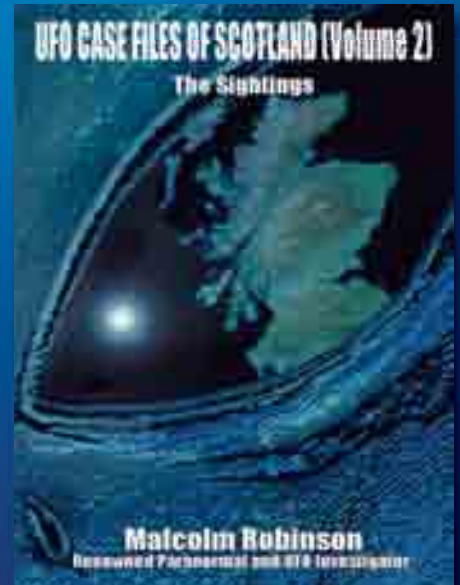
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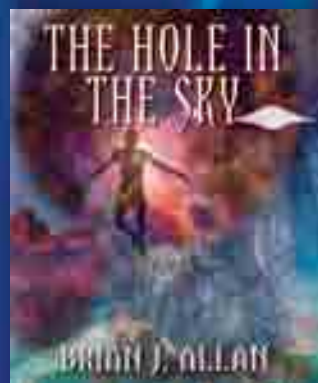


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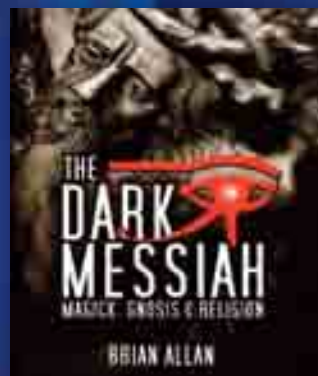
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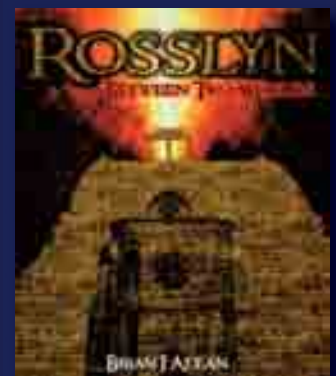
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