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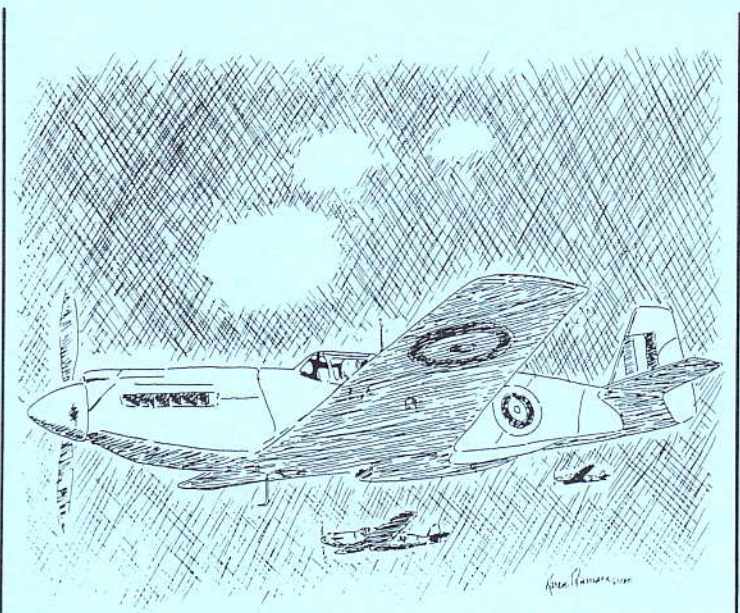
BULLETIN

UFO RESEARCH NEWS AND VIEWS

July 1988

Number 29

IISNN 0265 1947



FOO FIGHTERS: The Story So Far Andy Roberts

bufora



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E9 5EG

RESEARCH AND INVESTIGATIONS

DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH

Stephen Gamble,
16 Southway,
Burgess Hill,
Sussex,
RH15 9ST

DIRECTOR OF INVESTIGATIONS

Jenny Randles
37 Heathbank Road,
Cheadle Heath,
Stockport,
Cheshire, SK3 0UP

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AIMS

1. To encourage, promote and conduct unbiased scientific research of unidentified flying object (UFO) phenomena throughout the United Kingdom.
2. To collect and disseminate evidence and data relating to unidentified flying objects (UFOs).
3. To co-ordinate UFO research throughout the United Kingdom and to co-operate with others engaged in such research throughout the world.

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Membership is open to all who support the aims of the association and whose application is approved by the executive committee. Applications, forms and general information can be obtained from the information officer.

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EDITOR

Mike Wootten

103 Hove Avenue
Walthamstow,
London, E17 7NG

SUB EDITOR

Gaynor Sunderland

ASSISTANT EDITORS

John Spencer
Andy Roberts

STAFF WRITER

Lionel Beer

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British UFO Research Association

Editorial

It has been some time since you saw a BUFORA Bulletin, and I apologise for the late arrival of this edition.

Since the publication of Bulletin 28, a long awaited move to a new address took place. This of course left me very little time to devote to the magazine. But now I am typing this editorial in a newly decorated and furnished office which will allow us to produce the magazine on time (we hope!).

Please note the new editorial address below to send correspondence, articles and general comment; which is very welcomed.

The Editor,
BUFORA Bulletin,
103 Hove Avenue,
Walthamstow,
London,
E17 7NG

The issue of witness confidentiality is certainly a burning one. There have been many instances where witnesses feel that ufology has not warned them of what can happen if they 'go public' with their

story. Classic examples include Lonnie Zamora who lost his job as a police officer and Joyce Bowles who lost her job as a cleaner with British Rail.

It is not only Jobs that are at risk, but self esteem and self confidence can also be lost; plus the feeling of wishing they had never reported the incident in the first place. The witness is a delicate item and should be treated like the brittlest bone china.

For some time BUFORA has promoted the policy of respecting the wishes and confidentiality of a witness. Much has been achieved and after a great deal of effort by members of both the National Investigations Committee and BUFORA Council a new, expanded Code of Practice has been published with greater powers and guidelines to protect witnesses, investigators and ufology as a whole. More attention has been placed on our relationship with the media (whose sensational attitude to the UFO subject causes the most distress to witnesses).

In the light of this, the Bulletin will be bound by the

WITNESS CONFIDENTIALITY

It is the policy of BUFORA Bulletin not to publish the names or addresses of witnesses who are not in the 'public domain'. The material of witnesses whose names have been published in the media will be treated with the utmost care by the editorship.

clauses and guidelines of the Code of Practice. It will be my policy not allow any real names of witnesses to be printed in the pages of the magazine, a suitable pseudonym will replace the original name.

It is my hope that the attitude of proper care to the

witness will filter from these pages to the many people who research, investigate and chronicle UFO events and discuss the witnesses that report them. This policy will surely help to lead ufology down the path of true professionalism, an aim that any responsible researcher should ache for, I for one certainly do.

O B I T U A R Y

Peter F. Johnson

It is my sad duty to report the death of Peter Johnson, a member since 1964, at the age of 73, on Sunday, 7 August 1988. He died peacefully at 1 pm, and had been suffering from cancer for over a year. He was cremated on 15.8.88, and BUFORA sent a donation via his widow Rachel, to a cancer charity.

Peter was born in Norwich and worked as an Engineer in the City of Norwich Water Department. In 1971 he moved to Sheringham to become Northern Area Engineer, retiring from Anglian Water in 1977 after 42 years in the industry. During the war he joined the RAF in Ceylon, working on radar. This may have led to his hobby of making metal detectors, and the famous Johnson (moving-field) UFO detector, seen on the BUFORA stand at the DAILY MAIL New Year Show in London in January 1969. Besides his wide interest in the paranormal, he supported the local swimming club and served as a Rotarian, besides being a driver for the North Walsham Social Centre for the Blind.

When I took part in a skywatch exercise in June 1971, the Johnsons gave our small team supper, before we went to a lonely hilltop near Salthouse, Norfolk.

In 1981, the NORTH NORFOLK NEWS ran an article on him, noting that he had been BUFORA'S Regional co-ordinator for five years, which means he held the local RIC post for some 12 years. He investigated a number of important cases, and his reports were passed onto Flying Saucer Review and BUFORA. Through Peter I recall visiting with Dr Geoffrey Doel, the site of a remarkable daylight encounter case, and meeting the witness, who was the chauffeur to the lord Mayor of Norwich. The witness told us that if he had not seen the UFO ascend vertically, very quickly, he would not have known where it had gone. In April 1984, he interviewed airtraffic controllers in Norfolk, who had been disquieted by a sighting. Peter tape-recorded many of his interviews and is thought to have met some 200 witnesses.

Jenny Randles reports that Peter made a major contribution behind the scenes, over many years, in providing good quality reports. He was both able and willing, and did what he could even when his health was failing. Peter is also remembered for his pleasant disposition, and our condolences go to his widow and son.

Lionel Beer

FOO FIGHTERS: THE STORY SO FAR

by Andy Roberts

Andy Roberts, is a founder member of WYUFORG and is currently a member of the BUFORA Council and National Investigations Committee. In this article Andy takes an in depth, historical look at Foo Fighters and compares them to the contemporary UFO.

The subject of Foo-Fighters, the mysterious aerial phenomenon seen by aircrew during WW11, is probably the most neglected area of study in the field of ufology. Once ufologists realised that their world did not in fact begin on June 24th 1947 with Arnold's infamous sighting, it has become fashionable to conduct research into 'historical' UFO's which has led to some useful insights into the nature of the UFO phenomenon as a whole.

IGNORED

The pre Great War Airship and between the wars Mystery Flier Waves plus the post-war Mystery Rocket waves have all been admirably covered by researchers in the UK, USA and Sweden but foo-fighters have been virtually ignored. With this in mind I began in 1987 to seek out all material extant relating to foo-fighters to try and put the subject into much-needed perspective and with the hopeful intention of publishing the end results in book form as a reference tool for other ufologists. This is some way off yet and so I think it may be worthwhile detailing the progress made and the problems encountered so far.

Neglected as an area of study they may be but every ufologist has at least heard of foo-fighters and almost every writer on the subject has mentioned them. Therefore you would think a mass of information would exist on the subject. Unfortunately this is just not the case. Look in any UFO book and you will find that foo-fighters are just given a few lines, at most in some rare cases a few pages and in only one or two instances a whole chapter.

This is pathetic really for an area of UFO activity which immediately preceeded the modern era and one which, if we are to believe the more 'enthusiastic' ufologists, was the start of the so-called 'Government Cover-Up'. The history of foo-fighters as represented within the subject of ufology is riddled with problems which have put foo-fighters in the historical niche they occupy today. These problems need stating and dealing with before the foo-fighter phenomenon can be seen in anything approaching a clear perspective.

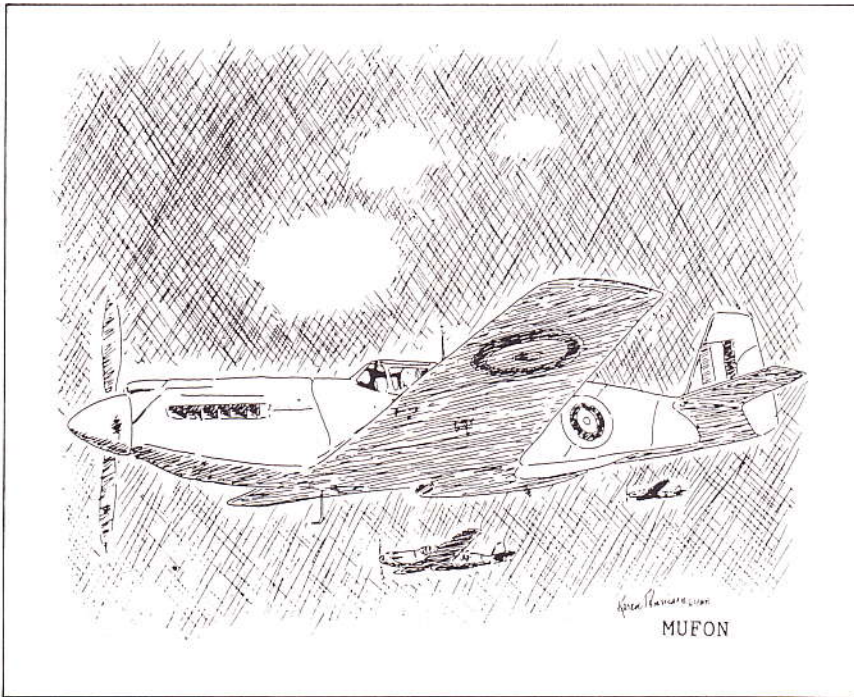
For a start even the name 'foo-fighter' is problematic; did it come from the old

Smokey Stover cartoon character saying 'Where there's foo there's fire'; or was it from the French word feu, meaning fire, or was it, according to one ex-B17 waist gunner I spoke to, from 'phooey'. Needless to say, he didn't believe they existed! Also, what exactly is the definition of a 'foo-fighter'? It usually depends on what obscure theory a particular writer is trying to prove. For the purposes of my study I have used the criteria of any unexplained light source seen in conjunction with an aircraft either from the air or from the ground. This is deliberately descriptive as to include all war-time UFO's, which are as diverse as the ones we report nowadays, would

need many years research in itself.

RE-ARRANGED

Firstly, when considering the written sources in the literature, it should be made known that almost every author who has mentioned the subject, in a book or a magazine article, has literally stolen his or her material from someone else and invariably left it unreferenced to create, no doubt, the illusion that the author in question discovered the facts themselves. Furthermore even the copied facts are often misquoted or conveniently 're-arranged' to suit the authors particular argument and all obviously done without



checking the salient facts at source.

For instance, if we constructed a 'family tree' of foo-fighter material we would find, almost without exception, that the 'grandpappy of them all' is the 1945 American Legion Magazine article, written by Jo Chamberlin. This article forms the substance of almost every piece written on the subject of foo-fighters. Fortunately this article is based on accounts which can be (has been) checked with squadron records and appears largely correct but its incessant copying has precluded any original work being done on the subject and has subsequently led to many writers extrapolating generalisations about the foo subject as a whole, most of which are demonstrably untrue. Examples of this armchair theorising are legion but for instance; many items dealing with foo-fighters state almost as an article of faith that foo-fighters only appeared in the later stages of the war, specifically around the winter of '44/'45.

SECRET WEAPON

This is a direct result of Chamberlins article and has led to further speculation that perhaps they were Nazi secret weapons pulled out of the hat at the last minute, or even perhaps that the foo were extraterrestrials keeping an eye on us before we used the atomic bomb. This time scaling is false and the first record I have of a foo-fighter being seen comes from 1940 and they were seen often throughout the all the war years.

Another false fact of the foo-fanciers faith is that the phenomena was mainly seen over the European theatre of war and just occasionally over the Pacific. This is again false and the product of sloppy research. So far I have accounts of foo-fighters being seen over Norway, Germany, France, Italy, Sicily, The Pacific, Burma, Tunisia, and all the sea areas adjoining these countries. It was clearly an international phenomenon.

Still another mistake is the statement made by many authors that the axis pilots also were seeing the phenomena and that they thought, just as our pilots did, that it was an allied secret weapon. This may yet be proved true but I have so far to find an original reference made by an axis pilot, or authority, that this was the case. The statement seems to be ufological canard employed on the basis of 'well if our boys saw them they must have too', and again has been used to support the ETH argument. The facts behind the rumour must await further verification. Axis aircrew were in fact seeing unexplained aerial phenomena but as yet most of their accounts await translation.

HOAX

We have at least one outright hoax too in foo-fighter lore. For years rumours had been flying round that the Germans had been fully aware of the foo-fighter phenomenon (perhaps that's where the above canard originated) and that they had a special study group formed to look into the problem under the name of Project Uranus,

backed by a shadowy group by the name of Sonderburo 13 (reminds you of Majestic 12 doesn't it?). This was first detailed in 'Le Livres Noir De Soucupes Volantes' (The Black Book of Flying Saucers- 1970) by French ufologist Henry Durrant. The rumour spread in Europe and eventually took physical form in the English language in Tim Good's acclaimed book 'Above Top Secret' where it is used to help substantiate further vague rumours of an Anglo/American foo-fighter study. Good had not checked his facts and had in fact just copied the information direct from Durrants book.

When I checked this out with Durrant he informed me that the whole Project Uranus affair was a hoax which he had inserted in his book precisely to see who would copy it without checking. The hoax apparently had been revealed in France some years before but hadn't percolated its way through to English speaking ufologists. Perhaps other foo hoaxes await discovery.

I could go on listing mistake after mistake and misquote after misquote from which we have drawn the current idea of foo-fighters. The quality of research and writing on the subject of foo-fighters has been truly appalling. Once these primary problems were realised I found trying to research the subject from within the UFO literature was pointless and incestuous and so attempted to get back to the source material - the pilots and crew themselves and the official records.

FRESH REPORTS

With this in mind I wrote to every air-related magazine in the UK with a request for information from ex-aircrew. To date I have had some thirty replies from pilots and crew detailing their experiences with strange balls of light (incidentally not one of them knew them by the name 'foo-fighters', or any other name for that matter). I will be repeating the procedure this year both in the UK and the US to draw in more fresh reports. None of these respondents connected their sighting in way way with the modern idea of UFO's and their information is so much the better and clearer for that. In many cases I have copies of entries made in log-books immediately after the flight which details what took place.

BALLS OF LIGHT

In the main, the descriptions are similar to the many already portrayed in the literature. Balls of light of varying colour (mainly orange) and number would appear from nowhere and play tag with aircraft for up to forty minutes. They were not hallucinations, being in some cases seen by the entire crew of a Lancaster bomber, and were not reflections as they were seen from many different angles or from two 'planes at once.

Evasive action to shake them off was of no use. In one case a Lancaster almost burnt its engine out, going 'through the gate', a slang term used by pilots to denote pushing the engine to its limits, in an effort to lose its

incandescent follower, but to no avail.

None of my respondents had fired on the phenomena, in some cases fearing it to be a secret weapon which would explode when fired upon and in others just attempting to evade it on the basis that as long as it wasn't firing at them they weren't going to antagonise it. Having said this I have heard an unsubstantiated tape of an interview with an American gunner which cites a case in which a foo was fired on....and the shells went straight through it! Interesting and supportive of the unexplained atmospheric phenomenon theory. Although some books note the (unreferenced!) fact that some foo's appeared inside the planes or affected the electric etc I have found no record of that taking place. Nor is there any verified account of foo-fighters showing up on ground radar. The phenomena whatever it was, clearly distinguished by the aircrew from common natural phenomena such as St Elmo's Fire, and was a separate entity from the 'plane they were in. It appears to have been totally independent and able to change shape, speed and position at will.

LACK OF INTEREST

Clearly something was being seen. A few pilots and crew chose not to report their experience at the time for fear of ridicule or for fear of being grounded for having hallucinations. Many though did record and report what they saw however and the response of the intelligence de-briefing staff varied considerably from total disinterest or hilarity to, in

one case only, great interest and a further interview by intelligence officers. This apparent lack of interest on the part of the intelligence services begs the question of whether any official RAF or US 8th AF study was ever actually undertaken. It was certainly claimed to have, instigated by the untraceable Massey in the UK and Eisenhower in the US. Although my sample of respondents is small it seems odd that only one crew out of thirty or more were actually de-briefed at length specifically on the subject.



This was more than likely to be concerned with the possibility that the crew had seen one of the new German jets than anything else. In view of the amount of time, effort and expertise needed it seems unlikely that any nation during the hard pressed times of WW11 took the time out to study what was essentially and ephemeral, elusive and ultimately harmless phenomenon. This will not please cover-up afficiando's but it seems to be the case on current evidence.

My research so far with the RAF/MOD/PRO in the UK has drawn a total blank regarding official documentation and investigation of the subject, as have preliminary investigations in the USA. UFO sceptics will of course say that this is because it doesn't exist, proponents, especially cover-up buffs, will say it is because it is being kept secret.

The simple facts are that if documentation does exist in the UK I am unlikely to be able to get at it easily because of our archaic procedures for obtaining any government documents. We are not blessed by a FOI Act as is the USA, and obtaining any document depends on whether a department can be bothered to answer your letters or if so can be bothered to undertake a meaningful search of their records. The situation is further complicated by the fact that many records in our Public Records Office are hard to locate due to how it is organised and furthermore are subject to 'rules' such as the 30 year rule whereby information is not available for 30 years from date of classification. Worse still many WW11 records are languishing under a 75 year rule for reasons I have not yet fathomed! In addition to this fact I have spoken to some ex-wartime RAF intelligence people in the UK and they claim no knowledge of the phenomena.

This area is clearly a matter for further study but, as with contemporary UFO research it should be borne in mind that whilst there are many rumours of government interest and intervention

regarding foo-fighters the actual hard evidence cannot be found. I do not think this points to a 'cover-up' in any way. The situation in the US may yet turn out to be different as regards obtaining official documentation and I would welcome help from any US readers who have an interest in the foo-phenomenon.

NOT VALID

The German secret weapon hypothesis (GSWH) promoted by such writers as Renato Vesco is unlikely to be valid. The reports are too widely spaced throughout the war and come from too many differing theatres for them to be a secret weapon of any kind. Certainly the Germans were experimenting with saucer-shaped craft, flying wings etc but they had not got very far beyond the drawing board and model stage. In addition, if foo-fighters were a weapon they were clearly ineffective as one. The GSWH can be seen in the same light vis a vis Foo-fighters as the way many people relate modern UFO sightings to alien craft. It is a cultural or, in the case of foo-fighters, an occupational artefact which when seen in retrospect (as will the ETH no doubt) can be identified and discounted.

CONCLUSION

Out of all this some clear facts are apparent. Hundreds of aircrew saw and recorded what we now call foo-fighters during WW11. There must be many thousands of ex-aircrew who have stories to tell. The problem is finding them and the odd ad. or article is only going to draw a few out and I have yet to attempt to get to

American information from squadron survivors units etc. The situation regarding German information is further complicated by a language barrier but it is only a matter of time.

I firmly believe that foo-fighters were a real, although non-solid phenomena and I reject the hallucination/misperception hypothesis almost entirely. These people's lives depended on being able to see and identify aerial objects very quickly. One mistake and it was their last. Some crew have admitted misperceiving Venus etc, but realising it in seconds, and certainly not a whole crew being fooled for any length of time.

Foo-fighter reports give us a 'genuine' UFO report, uncluttered by contemporary ideas about aliens, saucers and the like and which, as appear to be many 'genuine' UFO reports when they are stripped of cultural bias, consists basically of rudimentary light sources performing odd manoeuvres in the sky. My research has a long way to go yet but I would offer the suggestion that foo-fighters and their pre and antecedents which are still being seen today by people both pilots and ground observers are a type of natural phenomena, possibly related to ball or bead lightning, but equally possibly not. They may be something as yet totally undiscovered. They are also the stimulus for many of today's UFO reports which are subsequently overlaid by the prevailing cultural perceptions, ie alien craft. Mystery Airships, Ghost

Fliers, Foo-Fighters, Flying Saucers - they may well all turn out to be different facets of the same phenomena.

Information about foo-fighters is as can be seen in short supply and at best fragmentary and I appeal to any BUFORA BULLETIN readers with information on any aspect of the subject, however trivial or bizarre, to contact me at 84, Elland Road, Brighouse, West Yorkshire, HD6 2QR, England.

BUFORA POSTAL LIBRARY

As a service to members, BUFORA has set up a new postal library, with a wide range of UFO books, including most of the old 'classics'.

The books will be made available against a returnable deposit (less postage costs).

Any member interested in this service please write to:

BUFORA (PL), 16 Southway,
Burgess Hill, Sussex, RH15 9ST

RESEARCH REQUEST

Earnest Still and Susan Pollock are conducting collective research into all Northamptonshire UFO cases. If you have any material that you feel would be of use, then please write to:

Ernest Still, 46 Occupation Rd
Corby, Northants, NN7 2EF.

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REPORT

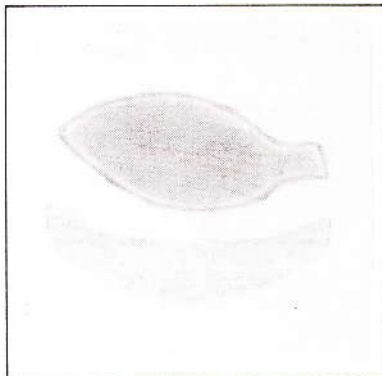
A TIBETAN UFO II

Regina Cullen and Manfred Cassirer reporting

In a previous issue of BUFORA Bulletin (May 1988) Manfred Cassirer thought that he he could identify a UFO on a newsreel shown on BBC and ITV

It was evident that both used the same video film, but in the ITV clip it seemed as if the camera had actually zoomed in on it. This was because of the way that the film had been edited, cutting out the mountains in the background.

We have now seen the clip at the White City Studios, and it would appear that the this UFO is neither "flying" nor an "object" (merely a "U - -"?). Whatever was caught by the camera moved along with it, and is therefore immediately in front of, or in fact actually on the lens.



INDISTINCT

It is too indistinct when reproduced photographically from the video recording, but a drawing by one of us (RC) shows a distinct shape, and certainly not a lens-flare.

It is a curious coincidence, if no more, that such a UFO-shaped configuration should appear on the film at the critical moment during a highly charged religious festival, but it is probably no more than a smudge or speck on the lens.

JOHN BARRETT

We were very sorry to learn that former Bulletin Editor, John Barrett suffered a severe stroke last October, from which he is still recovering slowly. he can be contacted at 34B Marylebone High Street, London, W1, should you wish to send him a card.

Lionel Beer

YORKSHIRE CASES ROUND-UP

by David Clark

Dave Clarke, Director of BUFORA and member of the NIC, summarises some of the cases that he has dealt with between September 1987 and March 1988.

Summary follows of the most interesting sighting reports I have collected since September 1987. A full report on all sightings will be completed by July/August. Many are misidentifications of aircraft, stars, planets etc., and efforts are still continuing to resolve some of the sightings.

1987

September 8 & 12. - midnight - "apparitions" reported by security guards and policemen on Stockbridge by-pass road on hills above Deepcar (seperate report).

September 9. - 10.15 pm, mountain rescue teams called out to search an area of Big Moor, southwest of Sheffield, after two observers reported seeing bright red lights (thought to be distress flares) hovering over White Edge. Nothing found.

Mid-September. - Two policemen in patrol car at Lodge Moor, west of Sheffield, see number of brilliant lights moving over moorland which they were unable to identify. Have been unable to trace witnesses.

September 25. - 12.15 am large triangular object with red and white lights low-level over fields at Thurcroft (Rotherham) - reported by Mrs. Smith.

late September. - 8 - 8.30 pm boomerang shaped object carrying row of red lights moving at low-level over Longley housing estate, north Sheffield - reported by Mrs. Patrick.

December 18. - night; triangular object with dome over Mexborough - Mr. de Cruz.

December 29. - Mr. & Mrs. Forde saw large bell or helmet-shaped object moving over Wingfield area of Northwest Rotherham towards Wentworth. Reported to RAF Finningley and police, who

passed it to YUFOS.

December 31. - Mr Poole, walking dog at 7 am in fields at goldthorpe, near Rotherham, saw large triangular-shaped object with red lights on side and large white light passing overhead. Reported in South Yorkshire Times. Large number of other witnesses contacted Mr. Poole to say they had seen the same the object.

1988

January 4. - 7.20 pm, cluster of lights reported over Masbrough, Rotherham. Apparently seen and photographed by YUFOS' Allen Petres.

8 pm, orange ball of light seen over Kimberworthy Mr. Bob Maze, flying northwest. (YUFOS)

January 5. - 6 - 6.15 am, miner John Taylor sees large cross shaped object with windows and coloured lights above trees on Huddersfield Road, Barnsley, when returning from work. (witness to be interviewed - April 17).

January 6. - 7pm. Five balls of orange/yellow light over Rotherham, apparently photographed by Allen Petres and Ian Smith of YUFOS. Light aircraft said to have turned and pursued the lights towards Wentworth.

January 7. - 7.30 - 8.30pm bright object with coloured lights and accompanied by "mothership" reported by Mr. & Mrs. Carby of Brampton, Chesterfield.

7.45 - 8pm - "three orange balls of light" chased by military jet over Rotherham. Reported to MOD by Mick Hanson of YUFOS. Same thing reported for 6th Jan. 7 other LITS.

January 16. - Brilliant red light reported hanging over southern outskirts of Sheffield by Police Inspector and members of the public. Confirmed as a sighting of a military flare.

January 18. - Two brightly-lit doughnut-shaped UFOs apparently filmed in sky over Wentworth by YUFOS members.

January 23. - "Close Encounter" reported somewhere in Derbyshire.

February 2nd. -(Tuesday)

6.20pm. - Mrs. Johnson reports elongated black object with flashing red lights over Sheffield Lane Top, making noise

similar to a helicopter.

6.30pm. - Mr. Jennings, ex-RAF reports triangular-shaped brilliantly lit object making whirring noise over Firth Park, Sheffield.

6.30/8pm. - Mr. Barry hears what he thought was a Chinook helicopter pass over his house at Ecclesfield.

7.15pm. - two witnesses at Deepcar, near Stockbridge watch oval object with brilliant white lights in direction of reservoir at Midhope.

7.20/30 - Mr. Turk sees row of red lights in sky at Ravenfield, moving towards Sheffield.

7.30/40 - Mrs Joanne McKenna saw large V-shaped object with rows of red lights moving north, at Chapletown, made house vibrate.

7.30/40 - Mr. & Mrs. Campbell at Burncross, nr Chapletown, see V-shaped object with red/orange lights pass over towards Wharncliffe, making peculiar noise.

7.40 approx. - Jim Daley sees saucer-shaped object with bright lights over cross-roads at Wentworth hill-top.

7.45 approx. - Richard Taylor & family at Cross Hill, Ecclesfield, watch object approach from Rotherham and identify it through binoculars as light low-flying military aircraft.

7.45 approx. - round object with four red lights over Shardlows steelworks, Blackburn Meadows, reported by YUFOS members and others. Reported to MOD.

7.45pm - WPC Sarah Hall sees V-shaped object with red lights over patrol car at Ecclesfield, Sheffield. PC John Smith sees row of red & white lights pass over police station; noise heard both by witnesses and police officers inside station. Object moved west towards Grenoside. RAF Finningley pick this object up on radar.

7.45 - Mr. & Mrs. Thompson see object they think is a Hercules Transport aircraft flying from Ecclesfield towards Wharncliffe.

7.45 - Paul Roberts and others watch triangular object with red lights pass from Rotherham, over Shiregreen towards Ecclesfield, making a noise like a "cross between heavily burdened diesel engine and a noise of a space invader machine."

7.45 - Charles Crabbe sees V-shaped object with red lights pass over A61 from Ecclesfield heading towards Grenoside.

7.50 - Triangular object with three bright lights reported by Lisa Poole, passing over house at Fox Hill, making noise like a plane.

7.50 - Joan Watson & Gill Thompson report seeing huge diamond-shaped object with red, green and white lights appear over rooftops and pass over car at Wadsley Lane, Hillsbrough.

7.50 - 8pm - Julie Smith watches triangular-shaped object with three lights from Birley Carr hovering over Wharncliffe Crag, moving towards Hillsbrough.

February 3. - Taxi-driver Steve Bull sees object with flashing light above Blackburn Meadows/Tinsley at 4/4.30am.

8.45pm - Tim Worley reports triangular object with red and white lights in sky over Wincobank, NE Sheffield.

Part 2 of this report will appear in the next Bulletin

A CREDIBLE RESPONSE?

Jenny Randles

As BUFORA's Director of Investigations I was perturbed to see the comments of Marion Sunderland (Bulletin 27) which formed a belated response to my discussion of the book, "The Eye of Fire" by Graham Phillips and Martin Keatman (Bulletin 22).

I am concerned over many things, not least the allegations which appear to include accusing me of blackmail, fraud and incompetence.

I must say immediately, that I respect Marion's right to defend her family, though it does always appear to be she who is taking the initiative. I appreciate her concerns nonetheless. However, a number of things must be made very clear. I will cite specific evidence where I have it.

First of all, nobody should be under any illusion that Paul Whetnall and I cast the Sunderland family into the public arena by writing our book "Alien Contact" (Spearman 1982, Coronet 1983). We discovered the case via the Liverpool Daily Post, some press stories followed later with full names and locations included. The family have never appeared reluctant to talk of their experiences, for instance, the Daily Post's hypnosis session triggered further publicity. Marion, Gaynor and Joe Keeton (then an employee of the paper) took part in a thirty minute radio

programme about the case, transmitted by the BBC to the whole of Wales on 22nd March 1979, more than a year before we even suggested the idea of a book to the family. This programme clearly shows how case was put into the public domain by others.

Paul and I did carry out a lengthy investigation, involving visits by him, a couple later by myself, and many phone discussions with Marion and Gaynor. My detailed notes indicate these to have been frequently an hour or two in duration and about a dozen in number.

From these, I compiled a detailed case file. This was used as the basis for my reports to the UFO community, by way of articles. These were all with the Sunderland family's knowledge. They said they understood that publication of data for UFO research was important.

I say this to illustrate that my primary duty was as a UFO investigator dealing with a complex case. This case was not withheld to write a book and was offered in full detail more than two years before that book was published. These articles were in sources where any serious UFO researcher could have access and used it in their own research or book writing had they wished.

I have always done this with major cases, through the unpaid 'house journals' of the UFO literature. I am tired of rumours that I abuse my access to cases in order to write books. If I was interested in a case like the Sunderland's for anything but serious, ufological motives I would be daft to give every other writer access to the material months or years ahead!

After having written the FSR articles in 1979 it seemed strange to restrict the case file, but the following year the Sunderland family made that request of me. I think Marion was afraid of outside sources analysing her family, and that pours out still from her.

Yet despite my continued belief that this request was unreasonable, (stories 'belong' to the witness, if they can be said to be the property of anyone) I could hardly deny their wishes, consequently the file has never left my possession since 1980.

Marion makes some wholly unfounded claims in her article that I have "hawked" the "case notes" around sociologists & psychologists. This is totally untrue. In fact she quotes from a letter I wrote to her in July 1980, in which I relate my intentions for the final section of the book. I would ask anyone who possesses a copy of 'Alien Contact' to read my analysis in there and compare it with my proposed outline, as described in that letter which Marion quotes. I think you will see that I did precisely what I advised the family I was going to do.

Now, with regard to the actual decision to write the book, Early in her piece Marion says I mooted the idea with the family in March 1980. Later on she adds that, "When she told us she was writing a book about us, she said in a letter (on 28th July 1980)". So Marion contradicts herself there. You might wonder which date is correct. Especially, as in the case of March 1980 she quotes a few words from a sentence (whose full nature and context is missing) to imply that I effectively blackmailed the family into co-operating with me.

Frankly, that is utterly ridiculous. I am quoted as saying, "It would be best to do the book with your full co-operation"... perfectly true for many sensible reasons. For instance, I would look pretty darned silly if I wrote a book and the people it was about were not behind it.

To clearly imply that I intended to write the book against their wishes is grossly improper. But how could I have hoped to compile the book about experiences as complex as these without their full support? Had they wanted to say no, for any reason, then they had a free choice and that would have been the end of the matter.

Besides which, my 1980 diary clearly shows that whilst I may have mooted the idea in March 1980 it can only have been vaguely. On 10th June my diary says, "Received word from Spearman. They are interested in a book ... spoke to them on the phone and spent the evening planning things out. Going to Oakenholt at the weekend." Followed, on 14th June by, "Miserable day ... pouring with rain, but went to

Oakenholt to see the Sunderland family and talk about the book."

In other words, within four days of receiving firm interest in the idea for a book, I went to Oakenholt to talk over the idea face to face with the family. Had they been unhappy with the concept of a book then why did they not say so? Indeed, as I recall we debated the question of using a pseudonym, but this was regarded as pointless in view of the public disclosures already made. We also fully discussed the possible repercussions of a book; although they had dealt with the media already so this was neither a new or major issue. I offered to 'field' enquiries for them and did so for many years afterwards.

Finally, we considered the financial position. The Sunderlands were adamant that they did not want any of the money on offer; even though the advance for the book was all of £250, payable in two halves and grew by just a few hundred more pounds over the years with later sales. I am not a stupid writer, so if money or prestige were an object I would be using outlets with millions of readers and thousands of pounds up front, instead of writing serious UFO books for a couple of thousand readers.

This last point was amply supported by the Sunderlands themselves in a January 1985 interview with Tony Wilmott of Weekend Magazine. Since I was not involved in any way in this interview the comment, "Mrs Sunderland stressed that neither she, nor any member of the family, has made any financial gain from their story. Nor had they sought or

wanted payment" must be seen as an unsolicited confirmation that what I say above is true.

Turning to the 'Green Stone', Marion quite absurdly takes my words in Bulletin 22 and all of my later actions (which must show that I have never been interested in a personal 'role' in their treasure hunt) and says that I wanted to 'be part of things'. In fact, as my Bulletin article said, I merely found it worrying that this amazing saga of psychic battles and cataclysmic fighting should have gone on during the time I was almost in daily touch with the family, writing the book, and yet not once was anything about what was happening conveyed to me.

Try to put yourself into the position of an investigator spending two years on a controversial case, sticking your neck out in public to support the family involved, but then, after doing all this, learning what had been kept secret from you. Simply read 'The Eye of Fire' and its astonishing claims.

Without either believing or disbelieving the reality of the treasure hunt (and I remain undecided) the fact that this had happened without anyone giving me the slightest idea about it, inevitably effected my views on the story. I am sure few but Marion will construe my natural reaction to such dramatic revelations as a desire 'to get mixed up in the affair'.

The book was written, based on the transcripts and notes and first hand writings of the witnesses. For the analysis section I spoke to a lot of people with involvement in the

case. These included Andy Collins, Martin Keatman and Graham Phillips, who I understood were investigating the psychic experiences of the family. Actually, unknown to me, they were engaged with them in the treasure hunt. I also discussed CE 4s in general and this case in particular with qualified experts; such as Dr Shirley McIvor and psychologist, Dr John Shaw.

Despite Marion's inability to find John Shaw, and the heavy innuendo thereby that I fabricated him, he is at Manchester University. Philip Mantle and Andy Roberts have been working with him more recently still on a new CE 4 case. So Marion does not seem to have looked terribly hard.

However, at no time did I divulge identifying personal or family details with these experts, as Marion falsely states. We had general discussions about the phenomenon and this type of case. I am disappointed at the reaction displayed by Marion, which seems to be that nobody outside her family had (or has) the right to comment about her story. I strongly disagree. Any witness who offers an incredible story to the world cannot expect a blanket acceptance. That does not happen in any situation. Researchers and scientists could not speculate reasonably on the data that forms our evidence.

When I finished writing the manuscript in November 1980 the Sunderlands were given every page of my text to read. Crucially, I still have the letter she sent with the return of the script in which she says; "Fred and I read the manuscript with enjoyment and

interest". They then went on to demonstrate concern over several things in the analysis section which worried or upset them, essentially the general points made by people who had not met the children. I had asked the Sunderlands to tell me of anything in my script that was wrong or which they did not like. So this critique was expected and welcome. I could hardly do more. They requested that I remove some of these remarks and also suggested that Graham Phillips, as the only qualified person fit to judge in their opinion, should have more to say than the paragraphs I had already afforded.

At no point was it ever suggested that there were factual errors in my scrip, nor was it ever hinted that there was any desire to stop the book, as Marion states in her article.

Marion now claims that my book contained serious errors. Yet, as her own handwritten commentary proves, she read the finished manuscript that I sent to the printers. Why did the Sunderlands not use the opportunity to vet the final text and correct these errors? Many of the changes requested by the Sunderlands were made. The analysis was curtailed and a five page friendly commentary by Graham Phillips added, exactly as they asked of me. I also have a letter, some months later, in which my request to send the family a set of page proofs is referenced. I would hardly have asked for them to be sent to the family just four months before publication if I had any reason to believe that the family were so incensed that they wanted to stop publication!

I should also point out that in early 1982 many publicity events took place around publication of the book. In some of these the Sunderlands took part or were interviewed. Surely that would be absurd if, as Marion now claims, they hotly disputed the content of the book, and would have prevented its publication had they been able to afford to do so?

I must also say that I found Marion's publication of the break up of my personal relationship with Paul Whetnall both disgusting and irrelevant. In no way have I ever made the ludicrous suggestion that the Sunderland family had anything to do with our break up. My Bulletin 22 review very plainly and unambiguously says that Paul refused to help promote the book when it was published in early 1982 because, as a 'Lord of the Rings' fan, he considered the 'treasure hunt' (which had been kept from him) too much like a fantasy based on that. He had a right to that view under the circumstances.

Although it was no business of BUFORA Bulletin, the editor has made it so without apparent thought by allowing the paragraph to stand. So I must now correct the record. Paul and I got engaged in January 1978. Whilst working on and writing the book we both lived with his parents in Wallasey, Merseyside. Months after the book was published and Paul opted out of UFO research, we bought a house together in another part of Wirral and lived there for two years from late 1982 onwards. We only actually split up and sold the house in 1985. The Sunderland family had nothing whatsoever to do with any of

this and the publication of such a charge in a BUFORA publication was highly irresponsible.

The last major point in this lengthy, but sadly necessary article, concerns the outrageous, libellous claim by Marion that I faked the story of the three lights over Avebury for very obscure reasons. This is totally without foundation.

I have never made an issue of these lights seen from the M4 in September 1980. Readers of the detailed account in 'Alien Contact' will note that I immediately suggested that they may have been parachute flares.

As for Marion's ridiculous case analysis, if she bothered to read the discussion of the sighting in 'Alien Contact' all her questions would be answered. The lights were low down in the south over a ridge of hills and I don't find it at all strange that they could be 8 miles away over Avebury.

What I did (quite correctly in my view) was to immediately compile our descriptions of these events and give them to the groups Probe in Bristol and SCUFORI in Swindon. They investigated the case as they would any other but found no evidence of parachute flares.

I still insist that I spoke to Marion about it on the phone soon after it happened. But even so, as the sighting was in September 1980 and is discussed in some detail in the manuscript of 'Alien Contact' (which I have already shown Marion to have read eight weeks later), it is simply not tenable for her to argue that she knew nothing about our sighting.

All of these things occurred and were documented in my manuscript and sources like Probe Report up to a year before I even knew that the Green Stone quest had taken place! 'The Green Stone' itself did not appear until March 1983, more than a year after my 'lights' story was published in 'Alien Contact' and two years after it was in Probe Report. For Marion to suggest that I made this up to jump on the treasure hunt bandwagon is not merely a diabolical slur that should be withdrawn immediately, it is also completely at variance with the chronology of events.

My original statement questioned the subsequent claim (in 'The Green Stone') that the quest's 'third light' was charged up at the exact place where I happened to see this one and only strange thing encountered during the work on the case ... namely 'three lights'.

As this was written in a book published a year before the revelations of that 'charging up' (via Alien Contact'), and was certainly read not only by the Sunderlands in my manuscript, but also the participants in the treasure hunt (who refer to my book in 'The Green Stone') it begs a number of questions that are still outstanding.

Finally, Marion now admits that the stone she showed me was not the Blue Stone, although she claimed that it was at the time. Also she insists that this showing was supposedly in 'strictest confidence' ... whereas in fact it occurred during a several hour public discussion that she and I had in front of dozens of strangers in a

crowded Liverpool city centre coffee shop! The 'top secret' jewel of power was left languishing between the sugar bowls whilst we talked about things in far from hushed voices.

I am afraid I have to ask: What price credibility now!

In the advertisement on page 24 about my book The UFO Conspiracy, I wish to make clear that the use of cover material (ie a quote from Whitley Strieber's book Communion), in a form which Mr Strieber and his lawyers construe to be an alleged endorsement, was in fact the province of the publishers and not myself. I did not see the offending cover until after publication.

Jenny Randles June 1988.

BUFORA CORRESPONDENCE COURSE

To supplement the investigator training workshops, that are organised during the year, a correspondence course which will cover basic investigation techniques and procedures will be available shortly to members interested in active UFO research.

Enquiries and constructive comments to:

BUFORA (CC), 16 Southway,
Burgess Hill, Sussex, RH15 9ST

Advertisement

"The UFO Conspiracy by Jenny Randles, as published in hard cover by Blandford Press, contained an apparent endorsement from Whitley Strieber, the author of Communion, on the front cover. The UFO Conspiracy is also published in paperback imprint of Blandford Press, and contains no such endorsement.

The use of Mr Strieber's name and certain material from Communion was not authorised by him. Mr Strieber has not endorsed this book, has not read it and takes no position regarding its contents."

This statement has been agreed between Mr Strieber and Blandford Press and is accurate.

This advertisement was placed by Carter Faber, solicitors of London on behalf of Blandford Press, a subsidiary of Cassell PLC.

News

by Lionel Beer

News, Views and trivia from our long standing, roving reporter.

The Belgium group, SOBEPS, is organising the "First European Congress on ANOMALOUS AERIAL PHENOMENA: PHYSICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL ASPECTS", in Brussels during the weekend of 11-13 November 1988.

Before you cringe in the belief that your school French isn't up to much, it is expressly stated that the only working language will be ENGLISH. The preliminary programme and booking details are already available, and the Congress will be held at SOBEPS HQs, Avenue Paul Janson 74, 1070 Brussels. For full details write a.s.a.p. to: Henri Scornaux, rue des Cultivateurs 55, B-1040, Brussels, or contact BUFORA's Hilary Evans in the UK (01-852 5040). Fifty researchers from ten countries have already expressed interest and the a conference is aimed at uniting ufologists from the "north to the south" of Europe.

REPUTATION

SOBEPS have an excellent reputation, so the event should at least be on par with the London International UFO Congresses.

If anyone would like some prebriefing on the European scene, then they might

consider sending for "The Final Report of 'UFO Belgium'", which covers a lot of ground, including material from Belgium, France, Italy, Norway, the UK and USA etc. send \$10.00 or its equivalent to Marc Broux, Koning Albertstraat 40, 3500 Hasselt, Belgium.

If any one is interested in obtaining copies of the MJ-12 papers released under the US Freedom of Information Act (often with great difficulty) then write to Mark James, 1 The Parade, Donnington, Telford, TF2 OEB. Be warned that some of these papers have been copied several times, from originals that were no longer pristine. Some are almost trivia and some carry blanked out sections, courtesy of the FOIA censors.

Ronald Story, author or editor of 'THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF UFOs', has announced that he is preparing a second expanded edition. Therefore he welcomes revisions to existing entries and suggestions for new material. Write to his new address: 7449 E.Calle Sinaloa, Tucson, Arizona 85710, USA.

Suprise! David Langford, SF aficionado, admitted in the New Scientist, 26 May 1988, that his book with the longish title: 'AN ACCOUNT OF A MEETING WITH DENIZENS OF ANOTHER WORLD', was a hoax. And not just a hoax, it was a flop too, proving once again that readers are more discriminating than sceptics give them credit for. The story involved his wife's ancestor, High Wycombe furniture maker William Robert Loosley, who left a (non-existent) manuscript in a secret drawer in an old desk. But why release this totally un-newsworthy item at this particular time? Possibly because Langford anticipated rougher handling by the STAR national daily, where it would be read by more people?

If you are getting bored with UFOs, you may be interested in the Soviet explanation for the Bermuda Triangle mystery, courtesy of the NEW SCIENTIST, 30 June 1988. The Soviet magazine PRIRODA, says that discharges of methane and other gases from the sea-bed could deprive the crew of an aircraft or ship of oxygen. It was proposed that solid layers of 'gas-hydrate', a solid compound of methane and water, could erupt from the upper layers of sediments in the deep ocean troughs, such as the Bermuda trough. It was said that at low temperature and high pressure, this hydrate could form a solid shell up to 1,000 feet thick! If the shell cracked, then gas could bubble violently to the surface. It is claimed that such a plume, consisting of methane, carbon dioxide and poisonous hydrogen sulphide,

extending some 500 metres, have been seen on the Sea of Okhotsk. If enough gas were released, then the crew of a ship or a low-flying plane would be quickly overcome. No mention is made of those cases where there was an absence of wreckage and/or bodies.

Still bored with UFOs? Coming up to date on the black panther stories, is a report from the London Standard of 13 June, saying that a wild black panther killed two dozen chickens and two ducks at a Wildlife Park at Bramble near Canterbury. Park owner, Alan Breeze, was walking up a woodland path with some pony feed when he came within twelve yards of the panther. Its yellow eyes made him panic, but luckily for him the panther also ran off. The same cat is thought to have been seen near the park by locals and two policemen, sent to investigate, last November. The Kent panther stories are clearly set to run and run!

BUFORA got a mention in the Standard on page 3, on 13 July 1988, since they were said to be investigating the case of Martin Cohen, 21, former Special Constable, who saw a purple glow while walking through Roundhay Park, Leeds, late at night. He then saw some figures that looked like women, except that they were furry. Then he blacked out. After seeing the glow, he felt he was being lifted off the ground. His body felt numb and his eyes felt dizzy. Michael Cotran, 23, said he saw Martin return to earth the next morning. BUFORA were said to be treating the case with extreme caution.

readers ~ write

Dear Sir,

Mike Woottens' editorial in the May issue was an excellent cautionary warning against the type of American excess we are becoming used to in Ufology as it lumbers rumour-laden towards the millenium. We should all be on our guard. However, that facet of Ufology which comprises the ETH and abductions is in itself very interesting. Why it has suddenly, without any solid evidence, captured the minds of Americas' foremost Ufologists is worthy of study and will no doubt fascinate 21st Century ufologists.

The pitfalls of delving into the ETH and specifically abductions on the type of evidence (human testimony) and with the crude and little-understood methods (hypnosis) we have available to us, so many ufologists seem blissfully ignorant of what they may be doing - which is simply and childishly messing with with peoples' minds.

Jacques Vallee said several times that Ufology was a control system - and so it is - but with the ufologists doing the controlling! The current unsubstantiated belief in ETH, abductions etc. is already acting as such a system and will have effects in society far out-reaching ufology's small community. The public are being conditioned to believe that:
a) the 'visitors' really exist,
b) they can do with us as they

please and we have little or no say in the matter, and we are in effect property, and the government knows all about them and Ronnie Reagan has a couple in his fridge.

It becomes a cyclical process. Two things are taking place here. Firstly we are being encouraged to believe (by ufologists themselves) that we are impotent in the face of these alleged occurrences, and secondly, that by mounting an all out assault on the government they are going to wheel out their crashed saucers and deep frozen bodies out of storage. These two things are mutually exclusive anyway, but ufologists never let a massive contradiction get in the way of a good yarn. Both these beliefs lead to individuals abnegating responsibility for their own actions and experiences, which are in extremis the basis for religion and state control.

We are seeing the religious side already - don't be seduced by the superficial gloss of ufologists with scientific qualifications etc, the will to religious belief in many forms is all pervasive. I am reminded of the magician Pete Carroll who said of the existence of god "we could only go sheepishly along with it or fight an heroic but futile battle against it." The same is true for the belief in the existence of aliens/visitors as they are portrayed to us today - and this attitude is

being taken without even any proof.

Human beings in general and some ufologists in particular seem to delight in taking the slightest opportunity in blaming any strange mental experience on an outside agency. Ufologists have all got brains, it's time some of them used them and saw what they can be used for. As one of the 'entities' once said "Wake up down there!"

from Andy Roberts,
Brighouse, West Yorkshire.

Editors comment.

Thank you for your letter Andy. I must certainly agree with your comments. Ufology seems to have built the abduction scenario itself and is now placing this man made structure before the witnesses and saying, "This is what happened to you". Maybe some ufologists should learn to listen and learn!

Dear Sir,

In a recent discussion with one of BUFORAs researchers (whose work I have long respected) I was surprised that he seemed unaware of the Catalogs of Anomalies (forgive the American spelling!) which are being published by William R. Corliss of the Sourcebook Project, PO Box 107, Glen Arm, MD21057, USA. Corliss has already published eight Catalogs in a series of which will probably run to a couple of dozen in due course. In Corliss's own words the

catalogs are "designed to collect and categorise all phenomena that cannot be explained readily by prevailing scientific theories".

Using an ingenious system of classification which makes each catalog very easy to use, Corliss gives chapter and verse for a vast range of anomalous events, and provides handy cross-references to date and place of occurrence and sources of the report. He also gives for each report an assessment of how reliable it is and how anomalous the event on current scientific paradigms. Are you interested in "Low level lights"? Or "Light phenomena at higher altitude"? Or "Unidentified humming sounds"? Or "The great variety of mirages"? Or "Anomalous meteors"? Or "Ball lightening"? Or "Prodigious falls of web-like material"? Or "Tricks of the tornado"? Well, Corliss has it all, and a vast deal else, in wonderfully accessible form and with meticulous references.

Not too cheap, alas, (though tremendous value for their cost); and they have to be bought by dollar draught at round about \$18 per volume. But I seriously believe that no organisation concerned with puzzling phenomena can now afford to be without at least a selection from Corliss. Ideally, every BUFORA researcher ought to have his/her own copy of each of the first four catalogs: LIGHTNING, AURAS, NOCTURNAL LIGHTS; TORNADOS, DARK DAYS, ANOMALOUS PRECIPITATION; EARTHQUAKES, TIDES, UNIDENTIFIED SOUNDS; and RARE HALOS, MIRAGES, ANOMALOUS RAINBOWS. But, at the least, I strongly urge BUFORA to invest

in a couple of sets of these four volumes for reference by researchers.

from Ralph Noyes.
London

Editors comment

I am sure that many researchers will surely take up this offer. I will certainly mention this at the next BUFORA Council Meeting.

Dear Sir,

I am a member of BUFORA and an authorised investigator here in Northamptonshire. I would like to make a request to all members who have any UFO files, for any information on Northamptonshire that they may have. I am at present doing a study of all reported cases over the past 40 years, and wish to gather as much information as possible before making an analysis of UFO sightings in this area.

Please send information to:

Ernest Still,
46 Occupation Road,
Corby,
Northants,
NN17 2EF

Dear Sir,

Many thanks for sending me a copy of the latest BUFORA Bulletin containing my article. I am honoured to be in its pages, particularly as it is now a much smarter-

looking production under your editorship.

However, you have somewhat disgraced yourself by your admission that you could not confirm that Spain is one hour ahead of GMT. You can do so easily by, for instance, looking up the British Telecom dialling code book. If you would prefer a more authoritative source, I enclose a map from a publication by the Royal Greenwich Observatory, who ought to know a thing or two about time!

I would strongly urge you to make a correction in the next issue of BUFORA Bulletin. I hope that the rest of your UFO investigations are more reliable than this.

from Ian Ridpath
Brentford, Middx.

Editors comment.

I will certainly bow to your greater wisdom Ian, on this occasion! It was a grave error on my part and I hope that printing your letter will act as a proper correction (and thanks for the map!).

Dear Sir,

I feel that I must make some comment about certain aspects of Steuart Campbell's latest theory. I do not wish to waste space so, therefore, straight to the point.

Firstly, are we really supposed to take seriously the

claim that 'mirages explain UFO reports'? We must take this to be the central thesis of Mr Campbell if we are to adhere any credence to his last line on page 8 of the Bulletin, "...The UFO problem is solved". To any serious thinking person this surely cannot be so. Also, there is a corollary to this; we now have to make some radically different assumptions about human psychology and physiology - are people so prone to such gross misinterpretation of known objects.

How do some of the otherwise apparent credible witnesses view this? Would they accept the mirage theory? Would any mirage magnified or not take on the description of being 'metallic', 'reflecting sunlight' (some of these descriptions have been reported by people trained in observation ie, the armed forces and the police etc.)?

Whilst I accept the scientific basis for a mirage theory I do not accept that it can explain all cases. Similarly, it seems that there is a degree of contempt for witnesses here - especially those who have undergone CE4 experiences by stating that it can all be wound up now and we can all go home.

If not, then it may have been a little presumptuous of him to close the book without gathering more evidence to strengthen the theory.

from Raymond Shaw,
Kettering, Northants.

Editors comment.

I certainly do not totally agree with Steuart's theory, especially when he states that his thesis solves the whole UFO problem. This unfortunately show that he has not grasped the total complexity of the phenomenon. But, Steuart's mirage theory should not be shelved and forgotten, it should be placed with other theories which successfully demistify most UFO reports received by investigators. To Steuarts credit, he certainly generates debate and comment which is ultimately good for ufology.

Dear Sir,

Thank you for the kind review of my "Sky Map Manual" in BUFORA Bulletin no 28. As Hilary Evans pointed out, the sky map service is indeed free of charge. Readers who are interested may contact me at my new address:

Ronny Blomme,
Pierre Curielaan 45 Box 4
B-1050 Brussels,
Belgium

Unfortunately letters sent to my old address (given in the review) will not be forwarded.

from Ronney Blomme
Brussels, Belgium

Editors comment

I hope that not too much inconvenience has been caused by publishing your old address

BUFORA CASE REPORTS: A MAJOR PRIORITY

by Mike Wootten

For some time now, a major thorn in the side of BUFORA has been the location of its massive collection of case reports. Much lampooning of this sorry situation has been directed at the Association by certain quarters of the British UFO scene; which to some degree has not been unjustified.

The BUFORA Council has made the refurbishment, computer cataloguing and centralisation of the case report archive a major priority. A firm policy has been agreed with a timetable set for the completion of this extensive project.

CURRENT CONDITION

At present, all of the case report archive (which totals approximately 15000 cases) are in year order which spans from 1936 up to the present date.

The archive is located in several different locations with some reports in the possession of members of the research and investigation teams.

Twenty percent of the cases have been refurbished: sorted into cases number order and bound in new folders. These cases have also been catalogued on the BUFORA Case Report Computer Index.

THE PROJECT PLAN

The first stage of the project is to centralise all of the archive in one location. The BUFORA central office (at the chairman's address) has been chosen as a temporary home for the files. The Council is committed to

have the files centralised by the end of 1988.

Canterbury member, Michael Hudson, who at present manages the BUFORA Postal Library has offered to play a major role in the refurbishment and computer cataloguing of the files along with Arnold West.

At present, the computer catalogue is based on a ZX-Spectrum, which is a dated machine. Despite this, Michael Hudson will continue to input information on a BUFORA supplied ZX machine. Steve Gamble is working on the eventual transfer of data to a Amstrad PCW 8000/9000 machine (using dBase II) which will be more accessible to British researchers (especially with possible Networking).

This is a project which must be finished by the end of 1989, but this will only be possible if we have the manpower to speed the project along. We will certainly need **volunteers** and **finance** to complete this project on time and professionally, (a professionalism which is expected by modern ufology). Please contact:

**Arnold West, 16 Southway,
Burgess Hill, Sussex, RH15 9ST**

with any support you can give.

Diary

1st October

BUFORA LECTURE **The View from the Hill**
Speaker **Andy Roberts** at the LBS

5th November

BUFORA LECTURE **Sightings in South Africa**
Speaker **Cynthia Hind** at the LBS

3rd December

BUFORA LECTURE **Leylines & UFOs**
Speaker **Roger Sandell** at the LBS

BUFORA Lectures are held every first Saturday of the month at the London Business School, Sussex Place, Outer Circle, Regents Park, London, NW1. The LBS is only a five minute walk from Baker Street tube. Lectures start at 6.30pm. **All are welcome.** Full lecture programmes are available from BUFORA (LP), 16 Southway, Burgess Hill, Sussex, RH15 9ST.

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UFOs 1947-1987

THE 40-YEAR SEARCH FOR AN EXPLANATION

COMPILED AND EDITED BY **HILARY EVANS**
WITH **JOHN SPENCER**
FOR THE **BRITISH UFO RESEARCH ASSOCIATION**

UFOs 1947 - 1987 is an anthology of commissioned articles compiled for BUFORA by Hilary Evans and John Spencer, to commemorate the 40 years of Worldwide investigation of the evidence for unexplained aerial phenomena. Commonly termed UFOs.

Contributions represent a statement of current informed opinion about UFO sightings, reports,

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