

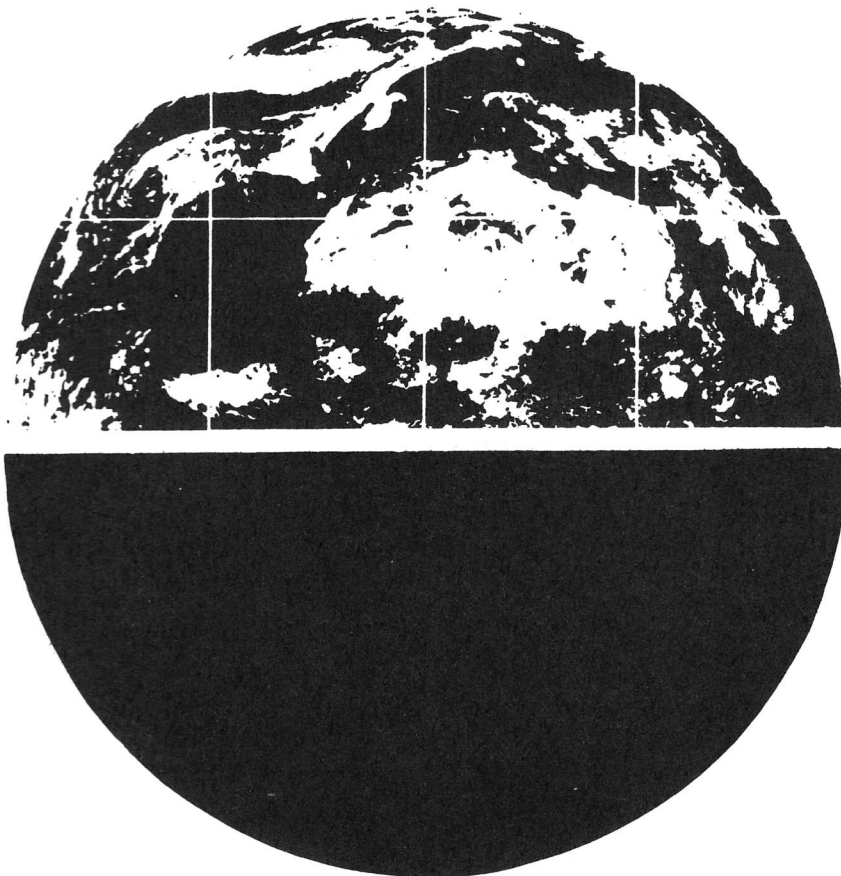
ISSN 0143-8840



The Journal of Transient Aerial Phenomena

March 1988

Volume 5 No. 2



THE JOURNAL OF TRANSIENT AERIAL PHENOMENA

Devoted to the scientific study of unusual aerial phenomena.

March 1988

Volume 5 No. 2

Published by : THE BRITISH UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT RESEARCH
ASSOCIATION (BUFORA Ltd)

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The JOURNAL OF TRANSIENT AERIAL PHENOMENA is published in March and September each year by the British Unidentified Flying Object Research Association Ltd.

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EDITORIAL

MANY STEPS FORWARD, THE DEATH OF THE SINGLE CASE

Steve Gamble, Director of Research.

In this issue of JTAP we study two, important, and not necessarily un-related topics. Both these are methods which are well founded in science, and rarely (and even then clumsily) applied by UFOlogists.

The two methods I refer to are firstly the application of statistical methods to the study of UFO Phenomena and, secondly, to the principle of recursive examination of evidence.

Many years ago, when I first joined the BUFORA Research team, we had a fairly active statistical section under the leadership of Peter Hill. Peter went on from here to serve as both BUFORA's Director of Research and to be the first chairman of ICUR (the International Committee for UFO Research). Under Peter, several interesting analyses were carried out.

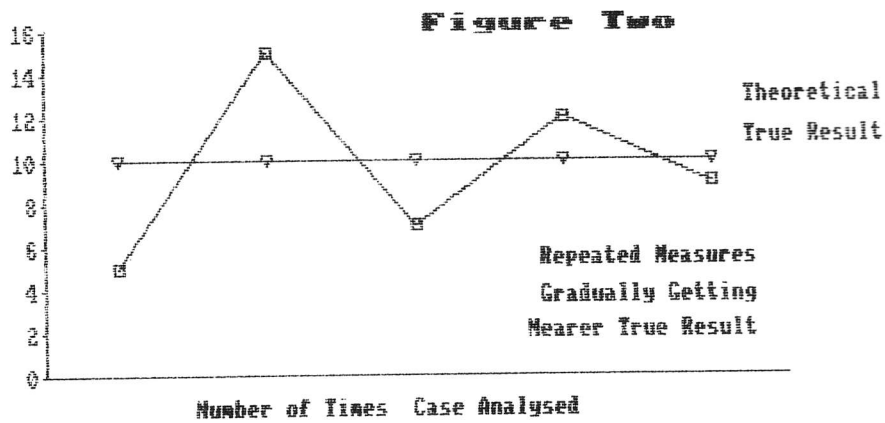
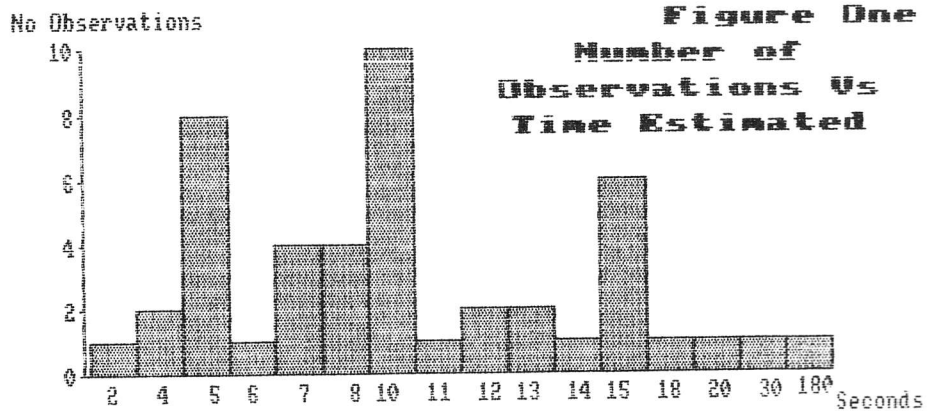
The basic philosophy behind statistical analysis is that errors in observations can be minimised by combining many similar observations together. Consider the paper on estimation of duration of a sighting published by Bob Digby, Ken Phillips and myself in a recent issue of JTAP (1). In Table Two of this paper, where a group of UFOlogists were asked to estimate the length of time a slide showing a UFO was projected, the estimates ranged from 2 seconds up to 180 seconds. It should be remembered that all these 'witnesses' observed the same event, for the same

period of time, yet there is up to a ninety fold difference in answers. Just imagine if you had built an entire theory about the causative agent of UFO reports based on the testimony of one witness and that witness just happened to be either the one who guessed 180 seconds or the one who guessed 2 seconds (both of which are inaccurate (2)). If you consider the values obtained from the 46 people who took part in this experiment, you find the arithmetic mean to be 13.67 seconds, which is much more accurate. If you exclude the value of 180 seconds as being a considerable outlying value, the mean comes down to being 9.978 seconds which corresponds well with the mode of the data (the mode being the most frequently recorded value) at ten seconds (see Figure one).

So from just a brief examination it can be seen that fairly basic statistics can help to produce a more accurate view of what actually occurs in UFO events. Traditionally UFOlogists have tended to adopt the individual case approach i.e. similar to the law courts. Each case is considered on it's own merits, and either the witness is 'guilty' or innocent of having seen something genuinely unidentified.

I am not advocating that we need to forget everything except statistical methods. Indeed, what we need is a combination of the two methods. The field investigators need to evaluate

Editorial cont



Editorial cont

each of the cases they work on, whilst the researchers should group these together to attempt to extract patterns or to define as precisely as possible characteristics of the phenomena.

Another problem with the statistical approach, is how do you explain to a witness that they are just a small part of a much greater whole. An organisation such as BUFORA may have approaching 10,000 cases on its files. It is commonly regarded that an individual is lucky to have one UFO experience in their whole life. In some of the more interesting cases, the witness may become so involved in their particular case that large amounts of their life revolve around it. How do you explain that their whole life just reduces to one number in, perhaps, several million of reports worldwide ?

The second problem that I want to air is the subject of recursive analysis of cases. I believe that this is an area where we should also make progress. A surprising number of investigators (and some witnesses) become upset if anybody makes comment on a case they have investigated. I do not include here stupid comments, but sensible analysis. Yet constructive criticism is a valid way of moving forward. It comes down to 'two heads are better than one'. Certainly it is a method used at the BUFORA National Investigations Committee. Here cases are discussed, and occasionally suggestions are made for extra work that could be carried out. By open discussion we get nearer the truth. Once the case reports

reach the Research department, they are examined again, and in some cases additional comments added. What I am proposing is that, whilst we may never obtain entirely 100% accurate information in any one case, by encouraging the examination and re-evaluation of cases we may get nearer the truth. The kind of approach I am proposing is shown diagrammatically in Figure Two.

All too often, however, instead of raising questions to clarify points or to highlight areas of further study, these critical evaluations turn into personal attacks on fellow researchers. These get us nowhere. By all means comment on another's research or investigation, but make it positive criticism. We are after all supposed to be working towards a common goal.

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1. Gamble, S.J. ; Digby, R.S. and Phillips, K (1987) Time Estimation of Simulated UFO Events. JTAP 5, pp 26-31.
2. see also Correspondence by Paul Fuller in this issue concerning the application of statistical methods to UFO research.

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THE UFO - AN UNIDENTIFIED FORM OF CREATIVITY ?

Dr Alexander G. Keul and Ken Phillips.

ABSTRACT

This paper describes the work of Keul and Phillips in applying psychological testing to the evaluation of UFO witnesses. It follows on from earlier descriptions of their work (1) and includes the results of recently completed control studies.

(This paper was originally presented by Ken Phillips at the Fourth International UFO Congress held in London during July 1987)

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Since organisational complications have prevented my colleague Alex Keul from landing in this auditorium, you have to listen to the field investigator of the project instead. The following presentation is part two, following on from our contribution to the new BUFORA book (1) as part one, and deals with more psychological details of UFO reporters against a control group.

Our budget - time and money - was and is severely limited, so even after a BUFORA grant for tapes and fares (deserving thanks) our study does not reach dimensions where it could be called representative. It is more like probing the sea-water temperature with your toes as an instrument

In part one of our joint paper (1), we have commented on the divergent findings of the couple of psychological UFO reporter studies : "What we can safely say as a result of past studies is that UFO reports cannot be distinguished from phantasies by means of their contents, that with the exception of papers by Sprinkle and

Schwartz UFO reporters seem to show psychological differences from the general population, especially "close encounter"/"abduction" reporters. Do data from Europe support or contradict these conclusions?" (ref 1, page 4)

Our study of UFO reporter psychology used three research instruments :

- 1) The ANAMNESIS - an interview scheme comprising sixty two questions about personal data, life circumstances and social attitudes, medical history, ESP claims, religious convictions and occult belief systems (2). The ANAMNESIS is a very raw filter, far from any special elaborations, constructed for a macro-scale orientation : here are the regions in which UFO reporters differ from "people in the street"?
- 2) The Rorschach inkblot test, a classical "projective" personality test method confronting the examinee with ten black and white and coloured inkblots and with the question "What could this be ?".

Unidentified Creativity cont...

- 3) and last, a pilot study was made using the Eysenck Personality Inventory (or E.P.I), a so-called "objective" personality questionnaire, to re-check briefly some first results obtained by Scott (3) in Great Britain.

To start with the ANAMNESIS evaluation : 15 "CLOSE ENCOUNTER" reporters, 15 ESP reporters (mostly contacted via ASSAP) and 10 control subjects from Great Britain were interviewed in the last three years (see Table 1). As the total case numbers are rather small, we only examined the raw-data list to find significant values by means of statistical examinations with the chi-square or Fisher-Yates test.

There were more female than male observers in the list of cases coming in directly to Ken Phillips, the field investigator, or provided by BUFORA/ASSAP and their people. The age span of the reporters was between 20 and 60 years. Evaluation part one has already demonstrated that UFO reporters do not deviate from the general population with regard to demographic features, so we omit them here.

However, the high (but non-significant) unemployment rate in the close encounter group, together with the most significant work-career-studies dissatisfaction (also present in the ESP group) and the prevalence of family, social and financial dissatisfaction forms a "close encounter social dissatisfaction cluster".

But the real surprise of this study is at the top of Table 2 :

Compared to the control group, close encounter reporters showed a highly significant tendency to answer ANAMNESIS questions no. 25 ("Do you recall your dreams?") and no. 26 ("Have you dreamed about UFOs or flying?") - with "Yes". This tendency is not so prominent in the ESP reporter group. We did not do what Blackmore (3) did - asking for frequencies of dream recall and flying dreams. In her Bristol survey, 57% reported dream recall once a month and more often. Our control group shows about the same proportion.

Flying dreams were reported to Blackmore in 28% of her sample - more often than in our control group. Compared to the Bristol survey 1982, our dream recall rates for UFO and ESP reporters are still significantly higher, whereas the number of flying dream recallers is not.

The prevalence of dream recall and the association with the more rare category of flying dreams rings the alarm for further in depth psychological evaluations : It means that the average close encounter reporter in our sample shows a low threshold between dream and waking states as well as some congruence between what he/she experienced in "real life" - a close UFO event - and the contents of his/her unconscious. The region of imagery and phantasy will be the focus of a new study starting this year and using

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TABLE ONE

EVALUATION OF BRITISH ANAMNESIS PROJECT

	CE	ESP	control
Number of cases	15	15	10
Fresh cases (under 3 years old)	2	12	-
Female/male	9/6	10/5	6/4
Interview age class: Under 20	1	0	2
20-29	6	2	3
30-39	3	8	1
40-49	1	4	3
50-59	4	1	0
over 60	0	0	1
Non-intact family origin (e.g. broken home)	5	7	1
"uprooted" (moved more than 5 times)	7	5	4
More than 3 siblings	2	2	1
Employment manual	3	4	2
office	3	3	2
self-employed	0	1	1
housewife	2	2	0
student	0	0	2
unemployed	7 n.s.	4	2
retired	0	0	1
sick/invalid	0	1	0
Satisfied with housing/not	4/3	9/2	10/0
Satisfied with work, studies/ not (cumulative)	3/22***	12/19**	20/4
marital status single	5	7	4
married	4	6	4
cohabiting	5	0	0
divorced	0	1	1
widowed	1	1	1
total divorced	2	1	2
non married, non cohabiting	6	9	6
children none	7	8	5
1-2	5	4	4
3-5	1	3	1
> 5	1	0	0
Satisfied with family, social life/not	3/6	7/5	9/1
no close friends	2	2	0
Club, social group member/not	6/3	5/6	5/5
Satisfied with financial situation/not	2/5	6/5	5/5
Serious illness, handicap	6	3	1
Insomnia	6	5	4

KEY: * indicates statistically significant result

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the "Memory, Imagining, and Creativity Interview Schedule" by Wilson and Barber, USA.

A row to be considered for a moment is ANAMNESIS question no. 32 "Have you ever had a religious or mystical experience?". As altered states of consciousness in this age of secularization do not necessarily get the social label "religious/mystical" anymore (compare the discrepancy between church membership and spirituality further down this table), it does not surprise us that this event category is in the usual range. Blackmore (ref 3, page 235) got 19% positive replies to a similar question in her survey.

Moving downwards on Table two, we find indications for anxiety and vegetative lability in both reporter groups compared to the controls.

More pronounced - and this is the second important result - is the concentration of alleged ESP experiences in both the close encounter and (of course) the ESP reporter group. In part one of this evaluation, we quoted the Audience Selection survey of 1980 on self-reported ESP in Great Britain. 64% of the respondents said they had had "some psychic experience" (5). 80% ESP in the UFO group is not high above that value, and 93% in the ESP group is no wonder, either.

That the close encounter reporter group, nevertheless, contains "birds of another colour", is documented by the fact that the majority of ESP reporters in this group had

more than one event to tell, and that four of them (or 27%) reported multiple ESP phenomena (3 to 5 different categories - compare with Keul and Phillips (1) page 236). In the Audience Selection survey 1980, 26% of the respondents said "Yes, (I) have ESP" (ref 5, page 152), but definitely not all of them were multiple ESP reporters.

In the alleged close encounter cases, it does not seem to be as simple as "UFOs cause ESP or vice versa". In six of the fifteen cases, ESP started before the UFO episode, in five cases, together with or after the UFO episode, in three cases, there was no self-reported ESP at all and one case remains unclear.

ESP surveys are still in a shaky position because they are founded on - sometimes doubtful - self-reports (no safe support for a parapsychologist to feel the dignity to down-grade UFO research), but the overall phenomenon in the UFO - ESP area is already clearly visible : Some people focus close UFO and ESP events. Hypnotherapists Barber and Wilson (6) call them "fantasy-prone personalities" and estimate them to be 4% of the general population.

Family members and acquaintances also allegedly saw UFOs or experienced ESP to a significant extent. In the family, this happened almost exclusively in the maternal line, suggesting kind of a "UFO/ESP heredity".

The next two questions (ANAMNESIS no. 45 and 48) shown in Table two cover

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TABLE TWO
EVALUATION OF BRITISH ANAMNESIS PROJECT PART TWO

	CE**	ESP*	control
Recalling dreams	14**	13*	5
Flying, UFO dreams	8***	6 n.s.	1
Nightmares	5	9	6
Vigilance maximum not in evening	3	4	2
"Habit breaking" before observation	6	2	-
accident prone	5	2	3
"Life event" around observation	4	4	-
Religious, mystical experience	5	7 n.s.	2
Meaning in life	9	10	6
Medical treatment for severe reason	5	9 n.s.	3
Taking drugs for illness	4	1	1
Non-right handed	3	1	2
Wearing glasses	8	8	6
Depression	3	5	3
Nervousness	7**	7**	2
Dizziness	1	6	2
Fainting	1	2	3
Fits	1	1	0
High/low blood pressure	3	1	3
After effects of observation	7	7	-
Narcotics taken	1	0	2
Experienced ESP/not	12/3***	14/1***	1/9
Multiple ESP phenomena	4	4	0
Supernatural origin of ESP	2	1	0
Family, friends UFO, ESP	6/2*	7/3*	2/8
Church, religious group membership/not	2/13 n.s.	2/13 n.s.	3/7
Spiritual side of life important/not	11/3 n.s.	9/2 n.s.	6/4
Read UFO literature	11*	7 n.s.	3
Read science fiction	5	3	6
Family belief/disbelief, observation not told	7/7	4/5	-
Positive social reactions observation/negative, in- difference, not told	2/6	4/7	-
Self reporting	9	6	-
Change in life	10*	4	-

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membership in a religious group versus spirituality, or external versus internal religiosity. The results make clear that UFO and ESP reporters are secularized "children of our time".

UFO reporters have read more UFO books than ESP reporters or controls.

Positive and negative family reactions after the alleged UFO or ESP events were about fifty : fifty, but reactions from friends and community members were more often negative than positive.

Probably due to the more singular character of UFO events in our sample (see Table three, top row), they produced significantly more changes in life orientation than did the more frequent ESP events. But this does not give a complete picture of the situation. There was more than one "repeater" in the CE category with no alleged UFO event before the close observation, but with more sightings following it.

Next five rows of Table three : A definite belief system - occult or alternative - cannot be detected in both reporter groups compared to the control group. Even with a high amount of indifference in the control group - i.e. 5 persons gave no special opinion towards parapsychology, only 4 pro and 1 contra -, opinions and latent beliefs match the reporter groups, with the Bermuda Triangle as an exception. The same goes for interest in ancient cultures, real or imaginary, and social criticism. No UFOs or ESP events are needed to open

people's eyes to the decay of Thatcher Island.

Reporters and controls do not differ in the next row, but the high number of hallucinatory episodes (a question adopted from Blackmore (ref 4, page 243) is interesting. Blackmore (ref 4, page 238) gave a hallucination reporting rate of 45% in her 1981 Bristol sample. Our hallucination reporting rates are between 60% (controls) and 80% (reporters).

It has to be underlined that all but one reporter had already heard about UFOs before the alleged close encounter.

A last interesting feature is that belief in life after death still outnumbers belief in life in outer space in both reporter groups. For belief in life after death, Blackmore (ref 4, page 238) got 42%. Our UFO and ESP reporters show a significantly higher belief in survival.

The results (shown in Table four) of the Rorschach project in Austria and Great Britain (running from 1980 up-to-date) are almost disappointing in contrast to the ANAMNESIS findings. A total of well over 100 Rorschach tests were conducted by both authors, but no recent standardization attempts have been found for this instrument in Europe. As we were not eager to use pre-1960 standards, we experimented with a recent American "object relational" (psychoanalytic) evaluation method but left it, again for the reason of a complete lack of European calibrations. What we finally did was a simple,

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TABLE THREE
EVALUATION OF THE BRITISH ANAMNESIS PROJECT

GROUP	CE	ESP	control
<u>Experienced Before</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>-</u>
Interest, Belief systems :			
pro/anti parapsychology	7/0 n.s.	10/0 n.s.	4/1
pro/anti astrology	9/2 n.s.	6/3 n.s.	3/4
pro/anti spiritism	6/5 n.s.	9/2 n.s.	2/4
pro/anti Bermuda Triangle	10/1 *	9/1 *	2/4
pro/anti Von Daniken	6/2 n.s.	2/3 n.s.	1/4
Interest in Old Egypt,			
Atlantis/no	7/2 n.s.	6/8 n.s.	3/7
Superstitions - negative	13	5	6
State of society - negative	14	12	8
Had hallucinations/none			
Heard about UFOs before	5/2 n.s.	8/2 n.s.	6/4
experience	14 !	10	-
UFO origin outer space	6	5	5
Belief - life in space	7 n.s.	9*	5
Belief - life after death	8*	9*	3

KEY : n.s. = not significant, * = significant

more general check. When people look at inkblots, they may give realistic responses (e.g. "a house, a tree, people dancing") or imaginary ones (e.g. "a fairy palace, a magic tree, fairies dancing"). We simply counted the number of imaginary responses in all reporter and control Rorschachs.

In Table four, it is visible even without chi-square tests that all differences between reporter and control groups, both in Austria and Great Britain, are not significant. The British control group percentage of imaginary responses is even higher than those of any of the three observer groups (UFO and

ESP).

Consequently, it has to be said that when using the Rorschach "projective" personality test, no higher amount of non-real contents is detectable for alleged UFO and ESP observers.

Third, and last, we did a quick check with the "Eysenck Personality Inventory" (or EPI) just to re-examine an earlier claim by Scott (in ref 3) that 11* British "high

[Footnote : * according to a re-check done by us trying to re-convert his fuzzy percentage values into (small) case numbers.]

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TABLE FOUR
RESPONSES TO THE RORSCHACH TEST

	total number of observers	total number of Rorschach responses	total number of imaginary Rorschach responses	percentage of imaginary responses
A U S T R A L I A				
Distant observers	n = 16	216 resp.	14 im.r =	6.5% ns
Close observers	n = 9	134	10	= 7.5% ns
Control group	n = 12	267	18	= 6.7%
B R I T A I N				
Distant observers	n = 20	405	37	= 9.1% ns
Close observers	n = 22	446	40	= 9.0% ns
ESP observers	n = 9	147	12	= 8.2% ns
Control group	n = 10	148	18	=12.2%

contact" (= alleged CE III and CE IV) subjects showed a most significant (see footnote on previous page) number of high neuroticism values in the EPI compared to the control group of 30 people.

As you can see (from Table Five), both in our alleged close observer group of seven persons and in our ESP observer group of five people no deviations from our control group and the Eysenck standardization sample (7) with respect to extroversion and neuroticism were noticed. Not even the two alleged close encounter witnesses of the third and fourth kind showed the "disorder" reported by Scott (ref 3, page 154).

What was detected was a majority of high lie scale values in the EPIs of UFO and ESP observers. According to the EPI Manual, a lie scale value of "4 or 5 would be considered the cutting point where inventory answers ceased to be acceptable" (ref 7, page 14). This is true for five close observers, four ESP reporters, and four control group members.

This means that most UFO/ESP observers produced a non-valid EPI. Apart from Eysenck's naive optimism to try to "capture" central personality traits with only 57 paper and pencil questions, our UFO and ESP examinees simply refused to cooperate. Scott actually

TABLE FIVE

EVALUATION OF THE BRITISH EYSENCK PERSONALITY INVENTORY PILOT STUDY

	N=	E.P.I means, (standard deviation)		
		extroversion scale	neuroticism scale	lie scale
CE reporters	7	12.9 (3.3)	9.1 (3.3)	4.9 (3.0)
ESP reporters	5	10.0 (4.5)	10.4 (4.3)	4.2 (1.9)
Control group	10	11.8 (3.6)	8.3 (3.3)	3.2 (1.8)
Standardization sample range	2000	10.8 - 13.6	7.5 - 10.7	0 - 4

wrote that he only used the neuroticism scale of the EPI (ref 3, page 153). One wonders how many test twisters passes undetected (or as "UFO neurotics") in his sample?

Lesson to be learned : Forget allegedly "objective" tests when you want to understand UFO and ESP reporters in-depth!

After this staccato of statistics and implicit theory, let us finish with a brief summary in the form of theses :

- a) A macro-scale interview form called ANAMNESIS, the Rorschach inkblot test and the Eysenck Personality Inventory (a paper and pencil test) have been done with nearly 100 people from Austria and Great Britain.
- b) In the ANAMNESIS, close encounter reporters showed a "social dissatisfaction cluster",

a high percentage of dream recall and flying dreams, a high number of self reported ESP events, a "family cluster" of other UFO/ESP reports, no particular occult or alternative belief system, but belief in life after death.

- c) With the exception of social dissatisfaction, flying dreams and "life change after event", close encounter reporters cannot be differentiated from ESP reporters in our study.
- d) A clinical "projective" personality test - the Rorschach -, did not yield differences between (UFO/ESP) reporters and non-reporters with regard to imaginary responses.
- e) A paper and pencil test constructed around global personality traits used to re-examine the findings of another British researcher did

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not reproduce the alleged clinical findings, but failed altogether.

- f) The logical avenue of further research after this Austro-British project with a mini-budget will be to take a look at creativity, phantasy, daydreaming, imagery and alleged ESP events of UFO reporters, particularly of the "close encounter" type of experience.

CONCLUSION

Are UFOs an unidentified form of creativity? It could be more than a nice headline for this paper. Thanks to continuous help from BUFORA and ASSAP and work for weeks of filed investigator and evaluator, some first clues have been secured. We are not suggesting a reductionist, "complete psychologization" of UFO research, but the proper method for cases where the alleged witness is the only residue. The psychological hypothesis for "close encounters" definitely gains momentum. We hope to report on the next part of our trajectory in the early nineties.

Thank you for your interest!

(This work was partly supported by a series of small Research Grants from BUFORA's Research Department.)

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- 6) Barber & Wilson (1983)
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Unfortunately, a complete list of references for this paper was not to hand as we closed for press. We will bring you an amended list as soon as it become available

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

It is hoped that a European Conference will be held in Brussels sometime between September and December 1988.

We hope to publish details of this in our next issue.

ED.

A.G.M. REPORT.

(This is brief summary, the full minutes of the meeting will be published at a later date. ED.)

The 1988 AGM of BUFORA Limited was held on Saturday 5th March 1988 in the Lecture Theatre at the London Business School, London NW1.

On opening the proceedings, the Chairman, Arnold West was pleased to announce that Major Sir Patrick Wall, MC, VRD, RM (Retd), had accepted the post of President of BUFORA. Mr West then went on to state that Sir Patrick had long held an interest in the area and had asked a number of questions in Parliament. (see report at foot of this page, kindly supplied by Ernest Still). Sir Patrick had recently written a foreword to the BUFORA book "Phenomenon", which would be available within a few days.

The AGM also saw a number of members of Council change. Lionel Beer, who has served BUFORA in a number of capacities over the years was standing down from Council. Fortunately BUFORA was not losing Lionels services as he had accepted a position as Vice-President. Both Ken Phillips and Robin Lindsey were also standing down. Arnold West expressed BUFORAs thanks for all their efforts.

The meeting confirmed the appointments of Phillip Mantle and Simon Rose who had joined the Council during the course of the year. Arnold West and Stephen Gamble were re-elected to Council.

New members appointed to Council were Andy Roberts and David Clarke. Both are active investigators with Andy working in West Yorkshire and David covering South Yorkshire.

OBJECT IN THE SKY STILL A MYSTERY

The mystery object seen on Monday evening on the R.A.F. Radar System has still not been identified, an Air Ministry spokesman said to-day. "The normal investigation goes on" he added.

Javelin fighter aircraft from R.A.F. station at Odiham Hampshire were sent up to investigate the object, which was seen flying west along the english channel. Major Patrick Wall (C. Haltemprice) is to ask the Air Ministry on May the 15th, how many "Unidentified Flying Objects" have been detected this year as compared with previous years; and wheather the object; picked up by radar over the Dover straights on April 29th has been identified.

Source : Kettering Evening Telegraph,
Wednesday 1st May 1957.

Held in Kettering Reference Library Files.

THE MYSTERY CIRCLES - STATUS REPORT - PART 1.

Paul Fuller.

ABSTRACT

For a number of years circular depressions have been observed in fields of cereal crops. These have frequently been attributed in the popular press as being the landing sites of extraterrestrial spacecraft. Paul Fuller has been one of the leading researchers attempting to establish the true cause of these depressions.

In addition to "Mystery of the Circles", a report jointly authored with Jenny Randles, Paul has recently completed an extensive survey amongst cereal farmers concerning the appearance of the circles and likely causes. He has prepared a detailed report on his findings which is being printed by the BUFORA Research department. This will form the basis of further discussions with appropriate scientific establishments.

This paper is the first part of a detailed update on Paul's researches. As well as being an active investigator, Paul has been a key member of the Research department for several years. He holds a B.A. degree and has undertaken postgraduate studies in statistics. Paul is a statistician by profession.

1. INTRODUCTION

Since 1981 BUFORA has made repeated attempts to investigate the fascinating phenomenon of the 'Mystery Circles'. Every summer groups of precisely-defined areas of flattened arable crop have been appearing overnight with increasing frequency across Southern England. Several national newspapers have publicised the circles and encouraged an association with Unidentified Flying Objects. This development is to be regretted as it has resulted in a great deal of wild and unnecessary speculation amongst people who are not aware of the full facts of the case, and additionally reputable scientists have avoided the subject thus allowing sensational publicity to distort the phenomenon in the eyes of the public.

With this in mind, BUFORA compiled a report 'Mystery of the Circles' (1) which was launched at a press conference held in July 1986. The report was circulated to every national newspaper and several TV and radio stations in an attempt to educate the media and persuade them to take a more rational approach to the subject. Unfortunately, it still seems that the media prefer to promote the UFO angle and their descriptions of what is actually taking place are shallow and lacking in important detail.

Throughout the past two years I have been lucky enough to observe the phenomenon and it's treatment by the media at close quarters, many formations have appeared virtually in my own back yard! I have also been very grateful to a number of people who have

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been involved in the study of this phenomenon and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Colin Andrews, Patrick ('Pat') Delgado, Dr Terence Meaden and Buster Taylor (of SIGAP) for all their assistance.

2. PRIMARY CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PHENOMENON

The circle formations are extremely complicated and interesting features. All the following characteristics carry important clues as to the nature of the force which creates the circles. However, bear in mind that each summer our knowledge of the phenomenon improves and there may be further characteristics which require explanation in the future.

1. The formations nearly always appear overnight in mature arable crops (usually cereals such as wheat or barley, but occasionally in other crops). This is presumably because the crop has to be at a certain stage in its growth cycle to be pliable enough to permanently deform. Circles forming in long grass would soon blow away. The implication behind this is that a mechanism exists which is usually un-noticed except when mature crops are present to permanently record its presence.

2. At least eight different circle formations have been identified. These are listed in Table One, although no attempt has

been made to indicate the relative frequency of each formation type. It is quite possible that some even rarer formations have yet to be discovered, however, it is not always possible to distinguish between some formations (e.g. doubles) and accidental combinations of more common formations (e.g. singles).

3. Each part of the affected area is very precisely defined as if a giant razor blade had been used to cut out the formation. This feature automatically excludes helicopter downwash as the causing agent because downwash always creates an ill-defined dish-like depression in mature arable crops. This fact was established by Lt. Col. Edgecombe of the Army Air Station at Middle Wallop, Hampshire (whose professional duties include the assessment of helicopter-caused damage to crops).

4. Every formation exhibits a unique swirl pattern with the spiral centre usually displaced from the geometric centre of the affected zone. Figure One shows a schematic plan of a typical circle and ring formation discovered by myself on August 15th 1987 close to Chessefoot Head in Hampshire (OSGR SU 520284). The radials have been measured from the spiral centre and vary from 12.70 m (SE) to 13.59 m (NW).

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5. The majority of formations display clockwise swirl patterns but a small number have been anti-clockwise (e.g. Headbourne Worthy, August 1986) and several have displayed mixtures of swirl patterns (e.g. Cheesefoot Head Number 1 July 1986).
6. Although the formations appear to be perfectly symmetrical from a distance, closer inspection reveals measurable differences between the different components of each formation. (see Figure One).
7. No two measured formations have ever been identical in shape or size, each formation appears to be unique.
8. At least two formations (Childrey 1986 and Pepperbox Hill 1987) displayed linear extensions or 'spurs' on the outer ring.
9. The crop in the affected zones is undamaged by the causing agent, the stems are simply bent sharply at a 90° angle close to the ground surface and the heads are intact (although they are often imbedded into the ground surface). Researcher Patrick Delgado has demonstrated that mechanical depression (e.g. by using a rope) always damages the heads and snaps the stems of mature arable crops.
10. No suspicious marks (e.g. footprints) have been found within the area of a genuine circle formation immediately on discovery. Attempts to walk along tramlines at night have always been shown to leave such marks, particularly after precipitation.
11. The affected crop is laid down in bands as if a giant comb with uneven teeth had been used to create the circle.
12. The affected crop is layered so that the topmost layer points in a different direction to the underlying crop. The 1987 Pepperbox Hill formation displayed four layers with the maximum angle of divergence nearing 160°.
13. The majority of formations (possibly 80%) appear close to the bases of steeply inclined hillslopes. Large numbers of formations have appeared at two such sites in particular, the Westbury White Horse site near Bratton in Wiltshire (OSGR SU 898516) and the Cheesefoot Head 'punchbowl' near Winchester in Hampshire (OSGR SU 520280).
14. The majority of formations go unreported by the media because they appear in isolated locations. This makes the task of assessing the phenomenon more difficult because our knowledge is based on a small (and highly biased) sample of

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the formations actually appearing.

15. Contrary to popular opinion the majority of formations are not perfectly circular, most approximate ellipsoids.

3. THE PROBLEM OF HOAXING

3.1 Our research of the circles phenomenon has been continually hindered by the activities of hoaxers and people who claim to be hoaxers. There have been two proven hoaxes, these are:-

- i At Westbury, Wiltshire during August 1983.

Two farmers, Alan and Francis Sheppard, were paid and assisted by the 'Daily Mirror' to create a quintuplet on the Sheppard's land in a failed attempt to fool the 'Daily Express' into reporting a UFO landing. The hoax never received national publicity and the two farmers later confessed to the 'Wiltshire Times'. On August 18th 1986 BUFORA RIC Phillip Taylor took part in the Pete Murray 'Nightline' phone-in on LBC Radio. During the programme, former 'Daily Mirror' reporter Chris Hutchins rang in to confirm his personal involvement in the hoax and, in obvious embarrassment, tried to justify the hoax as 'just a joke'.

- ii At Venthams Farm, Froxfield, Hampshire during September 1986.

Reporter John Dodds staged a demonstration of his ability to create a circle and ring which was recorded by BBC Radio Solent and BBC TV's 'South Today'. Dodds' scheme had been to obtain a copy of BUFORA's 'Mystery of the Circles' on the pretext that he would be writing a serious article for the 'Mail on Sunday'. He then claimed to the 'Petersfield Post' that he had been creating all the circles which had appeared during 1986 and that he had photographic proof of his claim.

The demonstration was a failure, the circle was uneven, the crop was damaged and there was no swirl pattern. When these facts were pointed out by Patrick Delgado, Dodds' accomplices had to be restrained. The photographic proof turned out to be a photograph of an untouched field and then a photograph of a complete circle. No photograph was produced which showed Dodds and his associates half way through the hoax.

Both hoaxes were carried out in daylight and failed to exactly mimic all the characteristics described in the section above (Section 2). The Westbury Hoax in particular produced damage in the adjacent crop and was immediately recognised by the PROBE team as a hoax for this reason. It is interesting however to note how long it took to create the artificial circles because this only re-

TABLE ONE.

EXAMPLES OF THE TYPES OF CIRCLE FORMATIONS REPORTED

Single Circles



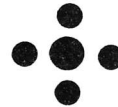
Double Circles



Triplets



Quintuplets



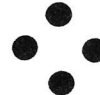
Ringed Single Circle



Ringed Quintuplet



Regular Quadruplet



Triangular Triplet



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inforces the difficulty we face when we try to explain all circle formations as hoaxes. The Westbury quintuplet took five people only 24 minutes to create whilst the Dodds' demonstration took two men 75 minutes to create a circle and ring.

Clearly these durations must under-estimate the time required for a nocturnal hoax, quite apart from emphasising the difficulty there would be in avoiding damage to the intervening crop with so many people needed to create the circle.

3.2 SUSPECTED OR CLAIMED, BUT NOT PROVEN HOAXES

Several other circle formations have come under close scrutiny as suspected or claimed hoaxes. These are :-

1. Alfriston, Sussex (26th July 1984)

A quintuplet appeared at Cradle Hill near Alfriston and close to Shadow Foreign Secretary Dennis Healey's home. BUFORA RIC Phillip Taylor pointed out the coincidence of the location bearing in mind the identically named site near Warminster, a town with a long history of UFO reports and a mecca to many fringe groups interested in UFOs.

2. Cheesefoot Head Number 2, 6th July 1986.

In the July 16th 1987 edition of the 'Southern Evening Echo' a group of

farm hands from Cornwall claimed to have created the second circle and ring formation of the previous summer by pushing and rolling the crop down with their bodies. Their claim was not tested with a demonstration of their ability and attempts to contact them for such a demonstration have failed. The formation is the only one known to have occurred during daylight (between 18:56 Hrs and 19:45 Hrs) and the site attracted many visitors that day to observe the first formation, however, only one report was received of suspicious behaviour in the location when we might have expected many such reports given the time estimates given above. However, an enlargement of the 'Daily Telegraph' photograph obtained by BUFORA clearly reveals an unexpectedly sharp 'kink' in the outer ring of the formation. Furthermore Patrick Delgado's plan of the circle shows that no true spiral was present except at the centre of the formation. This, of course, tends to support the claim of a hoax.

3.3 Clearly we face critical problems if we attempt to interpret all circle formations as the result of hoaxing, in particular :

- a) the majority of formations never receive publicity because they appear in isolated locations (therefore what

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point would there be in hoaxing them?);

b) attempts to replicate circles (e.g. by Patrick Delgado) fail to create flat, even circles with banded layered stems laid down in a swirled manner; instead, the attempts always damage the heads and stems, scuff marks and footprints are very obvious and the swirl pattern is entirely missing;

c) these attempts have always been carried out during daylight and tend to leave marks in the adjacent crop, almost all known formations appear overnight with no such attendant damage;

d) no reasonable method has been suggested by which elliptical circles could be created, certainly a perfect circle would be easier to hoax and might take less time to complete;

e) historical accounts of similar formations extend back to the late 1940s, although the earliest published accounts date back to the mid 1960s. Would hoaxers create circles over such a long period when most of their creations inevitably fail to attract publicity?;

f) accounts of circle formations have been received from several nations (e.g. France, Australia, Canada), would hoaxers bother to create circle formations over such a wide part of the

globe considering the expense and lack of publicity?

In my view the only possible conclusion from these findings is that apart from the two proven hoaxes mentioned in section 3.1 (and probably the suspected hoaxes mentioned in Section 3.2) the majority of circle formation must have an alternative, more plausible explanation.

(This article will be continued in the next and later editions of JTAP)

NEW PUBLICATION

P H E N O M E N O N

Following on from UFOs 1947-87, John Spencer and Hilary Evans have edited this popular work on behalf of BUFORA.

PHENOMENON was published on 17th March, by Futura Publications, which is a subdivision of Macdonald (Publishers) Ltd.

It contains over thirty chapters on such diverse topics as Ghost Rockets, Abductions, Earthlights, Investigating UFOs, Photographs and Traces. Authors include Andy Roberts, Budd Hopkins, Jenny Randles, John A. Keel, Cynthia Hind and Nigel Watson.

PHENOMENON is available in paperback (price £3-95) and in hardback. It should be available at your local book store. If not, get them to order you a copy (ordering details ISBN 0-7088-3655-0)

AIRSHIP MYSTERY SOLVED!

Paul Edwards

(This article is adapted from the original written by Paul Edwards for the Newsletter of the Northamptonshire UFO Research Centre. Paul is editor of the Newsletter.)

On the night of 2nd August 1987, between 9pm and 11pm a number of reports were received of lights in the sky over the Northamptonshire area, here is a brief synopsis of the ensuing newspaper reports:

- 1) Evening Telegraph, 4th August.
"Mystery of UFO Sightings"
- 2) Evening Telegraph, 5th August.
"UFO Riddle Solved, It was an Airship"
- 3) Evening Telegraph, 18th August.
Call for UFO reports by Ernest Still, BUFORA AI.

Since that request, Ernest has received more than 18 reports. Susan Pollock (Northampton AI) has received a further 8 reports. Here is a brief outline of some of the reports.

The first known report came from a man and a woman in Bozeat at 9pm, heading south towards Wellingborough, then turning west towards Northampton. It was cylindrical and grey in colour, disappeared slowly and was 15° to horizon.

There was a clear sky with a bright moon and a light breeze. In general these conditions were reported for the rest of the sightings

around Northamptonshire for the 2nd August 1987.

A woman from Wilby, near Earls Barton saw the object (cigar at 20° elevation) at about 21:30. There were several reports from Kettering around 10pm, and several from Desborough at around 10:30pm.

In the Northampton area there were a number of reports between 9:45pm and 10pm. For example, an oval object was seen travelling south to north at an elevation of 60° at 21:45. Also at 21:45, three adults and two children saw a cigar shaped object moving from southwest to north. Elevation was 15°.

The above are just a small number of examples of the kind of reports that came in over the next few days following the initial sighting. Since that time it has been confirmed that the vehicle seen in the Northamptonshire area was in fact an airship from the hangers of Airship Industries, who have their base at Cardington in Bedfordshire. They say that their airship did make extensive flights over the area that night. The airship would apparently have been flying at 20,000 ft plus, at a speed of about 35 knots. The length of the ship is approximately 180 feet.

(EDITORIAL NOTE : Reference was made to the wave of reports in an earlier BUFORA Newsletter. It would appear that the hard work of Paul, Ernest Still [BUFORA AI] and Susan Pollock [BUFORA AI] has accounted for a majority of the reports from the area of 2nd August 1987.)

C O R R E S P O N D E N C E

SOME SIMPLE GUIDELINES.

Readers are reminded that, unless otherwise stated, views expressed in correspondence, like the views expressed in the main papers, are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor or Editorial Board of JTAP, or the views of BUFORA or it's Council.

All correspondents are urged to keep to the point. The Editor reserves the right to shorten overlong contributions where this will not materially alter the point being discussed. In some cases a properly researched short paper might be a better basis for reply rather than attempting to put everything into a letter. Correspondents are urged to refrain from using insults, these do not assist any case being promoted.

Where a correspondent passes comment on a paper previously published in JTAP, the author of the original article will be allowed to reply either in the same or a subsequent issue. To prevent excessive debate of any individual point a fifty percent rule will be applied. This will mean, for example, where an original article is 1000 words, an initial correspondent will be allowed about 500 words in reply. The original author may reply to this correspondence with around 250 words. If the correspondent wishes to follow up the original author's reply, they may do so in 125 words.

THE TODMORDEN UFO REPORT
EXPLAINED - JTAP, September
1987.

(The paper by Steuart Campbell which appeared under the title "The Todmorden UFO Explained" was originally entitled by the author "The Todmorden UFO Report Explained". Due to a typographical error the word "Report" became left out in production. This omission only came to light when Steuart wrote to question the change of title. He goes on to point out that as he does not believe in UFO's he cannot explain them, but he can explain reports of supposed UFO's. He feels that this is crucial to his case, so we are only too pleased to correct this information. We regret any inconvenience caused by this omission)

Dear Sir,

I apologise to long-term readers of BUFORA publications for having to resurrect my debate with Steuart Campbell. It was not something I had the least intention of doing. But the strange decision of the JTAP editors to publish his piece "The Todmorden UFO Explained" (JTAP September 1987) has left me no choice.

It is very sad to see a once respected and excellent field investigator descend to the depths Steuart has reached. I should like it made clear, because the JTAP caption does not, that Steuart is no longer an AI for BUFORA and has not been for sometime now. One utterly irresponsible source (Robert Morrell and his team at Nottingham, formerly called NUFOIS) falsely stated in their journal that the reason

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for Steuart's demise as an RIC and accredited investigator was his disagreement with the extraterrestrial hypothesis. That is frankly absurd, because many AI's do not believe in the ETH and under no circumstances would allegiance to or dispute with any particular theory be grounds for dismissal from the BUFORA National Investigations Committee.

In fact Steuart Campbell's unfortunate suspension as a BUFORA investigator was precipitated by two things. His categorical refusal to sign the code of practice, despite many months of grace in which he was urged to change his mind. And the manner in which he has continually upsetting witnesses by re-evaluating cases and telling them they have seen stars.

Of course, in some cases it is quite possible they have. Astronomical phenomena have long been recognised as a major source of misidentification and 90 per cent of all UFO cases result from mistaken identity. We have no objection to genuine re-evaluations.

Where Steuart began to divorce himself from all reality was when he commenced evaluation of other peoples cases in a manner which had no regard for the facts. His attack on Betty Cash in the Cash-Landrum case from Texas (where he effectively accused her of faking serious medical effects, leading to weeks in hospital under intensive care) brought an angry reaction from the witness. MUFON (who spent years investigating the

report) were none too pleased either and this went beyond what is acceptable for a BUFORA investigator.

Now Steuart is being allowed to get away with publishing total garbage on yet another case in which he had no involvement. I feel I am entitled, on behalf of the BUFORA membership, to request from the editors of JTAP an explanation. The publication claims in its own guidelines to be a refereed, scientific journal and that its articles may be rejected if they do not check out. Why then was Steuart Campbell allowed to publish his totally false and disgracefully inept article without any of those who were involved being asked to comment?

The one thing I hope this affair will do is to stop the spread of these ridiculous Steuart Campbell articles. I have tolerated them for some time and sympathised with them up to a point. I certainly have no objection at all to any serious attempt to explain any case (even if I was involved in it). No sighting is immune. No investigation should be above criticism. But there is a big difference between serious and honest criticism and the methods used in this instance by Mr Campbell.

Since I expect the witness/ or Messers Harry Harris and co (he being a BUFORA member) will have things to say for themselves, I will confine myself to a few small points.

The basis of any field investigation is to (a) talk to the witness, and (b) to

Correspondence cont

visit the site of the encounter. Of course, that is not always possible, and Steuart may excuse himself on the grounds of living 200 miles from West Yorkshire. However, since his entire five page article revolves about the necessity to do both those things he had absolutely no right publishing what he did without doing them. It would have been the easiest thing in the world for Mr Campbell to pick up a phone and call Alan Godfrey. I presume they do still have phones in Scotland? Yet he never even did that. Why? Am I being cynical in thinking that it could have something to do with the probability he might have had to report how the witness story flatly contradicts virtually every tenet of the Venus theory? Much better to leave the reader guessing on that than to allow awkward things like facts confuse the issue!

Essentially Campbell has three points. Alan Godfrey was not travelling north-west away from Todmorden, but south-east towards it. In so doing he thus saw Venus which was low in the south-east at the time. But it was not possible for Steuart to gauge whether the witness could have seen Venus, because in my incompetence I never supplied a photograph of that view in my book 'The Pennine UFO Mystery' (from which, incidentally, he totally without permission, uses one of my copyright photographs!).

His reasons for totally altering the facts of the case are staggering and ludicrous and are clear evidence of his profound incompetence.

Alan Godfrey WAS positively driving north-west away from Todmorden. Under hypnosis he referred to putting his trafficator on to turn right into Ferney Lee Road, then seeing a light ahead, being puzzled by it and driving on to have a look. All of that is perfectly clear by reading pages 150 and 151 of 'The Pennine UFO Mystery'.

Naturally, since Alan was driving in entirely the opposite direction to where Venus was visible its misperception never even comes into the picture. But let us humour Steuart and consider his other gripe, that the book has no photograph of the road looking back into Todmorden. It does not because it was hardly relevant. But if it did it would have shown the many houses blocking the view to make it literally impossible to see so few degrees above the horizon. Again his theory collapses because he never checked his facts.

Readers might have been puzzled as to why the map shows a scale in 'decametres'. Steuart is a master at making things much more difficult than they need be. In fact it is only a few hundred yards from Ferney Lee Road to where Alan stopped. Alan drove those in moments, clearly relived under hypnosis, approaching a convenient point to stop and observe the UFO in detail.

As for the photograph and Steuart's masterpiece of evidence that the car **must** have been travelling south-east because Alan is standing on that side of the road. Is he being serious? The mechanics of where Alan stood

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cross-wise on the road were dictated by such mundane things as my camera lens and the fact that had I stood further back than I did I would have been up against a wall or in a stream! Of course Steuart might have learnt these things had he either been there or asked me about the photograph. I manoeuvred Alan to this point, some yards back from me, so I could show him and the surroundings more clearly in the shot. Had he stood on the correct side of the road the pictures composition would not have been right.

It really is beyond belief that Steuart would manufacture such a theory out of this minor and easily resolved point. But it shows how obsessed he is with proving his ideas at the total expense of everything else.

Of course, all other aspects of the case (the swirl pattern on the road, the split police boot, the time loss and the hypnotic memory) go out of the window as having "no basis in fact". The only thing that probably has no basis in fact is Steuart Campbell's madcap theory.

This kind of sloppy, incompetent and misleading work has no place in JTAP I would suggest. I hope that all future submissions from Mr Campbell are much better thought out and, above all, demonstrate that he has not entirely forgotten how to investigate a case. Armchair theorists are all very well. But there seems to be a surfeit of armchairs in cloud cuckoo land.

Best wishes,

Jenny Randles,
Stockport, Cheshire.
17th October 1987.

EDITORIAL NOTE :

As Steuart will be invited to reply to the investigative parts of Jenny's reply, I will deal only with the comments which apply to more directly to JTAP.

Firstly, the inside back cover of JTAP states " The Editorial Board shall have the right to seek advice from referees on suitability for publication and may on their recommendation, accept, seek revision of or reject manuscripts." Please note the word shall means may (or may not) seek advice, however, it is normal practice for submitted articles to be considered by two people before publication. In the case of this particular article it was considered by three people and minor revisions were sought (and obtained) to the manuscript.

Prior to publishing this paper, I made an offer for either Jenny or Harry Harris to publish their comments alongside the paper. Unfortunately neither were able to provide comments at that time, so I welcome Jenny's attempt to clarify things now. Subsequent to publication of Steuart's article I have repeated my offer to Harry Harris and via him invited Alan Godfrey to tell his story in his own words.

Although not specifically stated, international units of

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measure are preferred to Imperial units. Steuart's use of Decametres (a valid international unit) is therefore in line with preferred format and not merely Steuart trying to be difficult. Indeed many maps these days are scaled in kilometres, so, I would submit, Steuart is correctly representing current practice.

Jenny mentions in her reply that in the hypnosis session, Alan states that he switches on the trafficator to turn into Ferney Lee Road. Steuart questions the validity of hypnotic regression data and provides pointers to where he has discussed this more fully elsewhere. In a recent TV programme where Alan appeared ("The Time, The Place") he seemed to question himself the validity of information obtained by hypnotic regression. Fortunately he has considerable conscious recall of events prior to the time loss and abduction revealed by regression.

Steuart's article was published in the same spirit as the earlier article we published about the Cracoe Fell photographs. He felt he had genuine questions about a case published in the literature. It is much better for Steuart to air his questions in public and to either find the answer or be shown where he has gone wrong. As Jenny states no case or investigator should be immune from question. Whilst this paper has provided Steuart with an opportunity to question her methods, it has also opened his own methods to scrutiny.

TODMORDEN UFO REPORT
EXPLAINED - JTAP SEPTEMBER
1987.

(The following is an extract from a letter received from Hilary Evans. In an accompanying note he points out that there are almost as many typographical errors as occurred in a book he worked on which was rushed into print without him being able to proof read it. Same problem here, Hilary. However I may be taking up his offer to proof read sooner than he expected!)

Dear Sir,

All your readers should applaud the open minded policy you advocate in your editorial (JTAP Vol 5 No 1 p 1); it is hoped that your contributors will respond in the same spirit.

Campbell may or may not be right in his suggestion ("The Todmorden UFO Report Explained" in the same issue) that Venus was the origin of the Godfrey incident. But for him there are no doubts. 'What [Godfrey] saw must have been a mirage of the planet.... Such a mirage must have been the result of a temperature inversion' [p13, col.2, 1.20 ; emphasis added]. 'May', maybe ; but there is no 'must' about it. Campbell has put forward an intelligent suggestion as to what may have occurred, but he has certainly not proved that it did.

One might think that having been let down by his former hobby horse of ball lightning, your contributor would be more cautious with his new mirage one. We are accustomed to find the likes of Von Daniken

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assuming that because a thing may be so, it must be so : it is dismaying when potentially intelligent and helpful research is marred by unjustified dogmatism.

Your sincerely,

Hilary Evans,
London

21st October 1987.

"TIME ESTIMATION OF SIMULATED UFO EVENTS" - JTAP SEPTEMBER 1987.

Dear Editor,

How encouraging it was to read Gamble, Digby & Phillips' article "Time Estimation of Simulated UFO Events" in JTAP Vol 5 No 1 (pp 26-31). UFOlogists can only benefit from the application of standard quantitative procedures when they demonstrate how unreliable individual witness estimates can be.

In this experiment, the presence of extreme outliers critically affects the outcome because the removal of the single untrustworthy score (180 seconds, Table 2) from the UFOlogist group alters the test of a significant difference between the UFOlogist and control group means from acceptance of the Null Hypothesis to one of rejection ($t_{76} = 0.94$; $t_{75} = 3.54$). A second, common problem in psychological tests, is the tendency for subjects to round their estimates to values ending in

'0' or '5'. 59% of the UFOlogists group scores and 94% of the control group scores exhibited this characteristic when we might expect only 20% of scores to be multiples of five.

Further investigation should concentrate on the shape of the groups' estimates (which both tended to be negatively skewed) and the ratio of the estimates to variations in the duration of the simulated event. It might also be conducive to compare results from instant recall experiments to those results obtained from experiments in which the subjects are not asked to record their estimates until well after the simulation. This latter approach may well approximate investigative reality.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Fuller,
Romsey, Hants
25th October 1987.

EDITORIAL NOTE :

Thank you for your comments on our "Time Estimates" paper. We are aware of the short comings of the data and are actively considering extensions of the project, such as you suggest, to use longer delays between observing and reporting.

The key point of the paper was to highlight just how variable reporting of exactly the same event can be. Together with Paul, I believe that if we are to make any significant progress we need to apply standard quantitative procedures including

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statistical analysis to UFO data. Just how meaningful such measures can be is open to question when you consider that for this one event, checking just one variable, there was a 90 times difference between the shortest and the longest estimate.

GLOBAL DISTRIBUTION ANALYSIS
OF REPORTED CLOSE ENCOUNTERS
AND OTHER EXTRAORDINARY EVENTS
- SEPTEMBER 1986 - REPLY TO
CORRESPONDENCE.

Dear Editor,

Thank you for inviting me to respond to the criticisms made of my 'Global Distribution' paper (JTAP September 1986, Vol 4 pp 67-76) in the last (see Correspondence, March 1987) edition of JTAP. I will attempt to answer Manuel Borraz Aymerich's and the sensible aspects of Steuart Campbell's contribution.

Firstly, it seems that I have to re-emphasise that the 2000 word limit imposed by that particular competition caused me to have to edit out elaboration of the processes of data selection and treatment. Only essential features of both were presented and this seems to have caused some difficulties. Nevertheless, many of Campbell's remarks indicate that he only skip-read the paper and thus failed to absorb vital pieces of information. His authoritative, but incorrect, comments about the practicability of the 'super orbit' indicate that he is more familiar with

astronomical rather than astronomical concepts.

Both Aymerich and Campbell question the statistical validity of my findings and I accept that this is a valid concern : indeed, I would very much appreciate independent statistical checks by other researchers. In defence of my contribution, however, the sidereal study was one vital step in a protracted exploratory study, which could have lead to nowhere but, instead, was able to be built up into a coherent case in favour of the Extra Terrestrial Hypothesis which was based on physical postulates. The physical justification for attempting to link Close Encounter events in the manner described in the Cutty Sark paper is an element which has been totally lacking from other distribution studies, such as Michel's Orthoteny, and gives strength to my own findings.

The choice of a group of 'water events' early in the study was not so extraordinary as Campbell implies : after all, the Americans had found it convenient to 'land' their orbital spacecraft in the sea for many years and I reasoned that alien craft entering the Earth's atmosphere might also consider it to be a convenient thing to do, even if for different reasons.

Finally, I wish to comment on Campbell's closing remarks by which I am accused of peddling 'pseudo-science'. Given all the elements of uncertainty that are inherent in UFO data collections, one has to admit that the researcher is severely handicapped from the

Correspondence cont

start; but throughout my 20 years of study I have striven to maintain scientific objectivity and personal detachment from the emotional overtones of this peculiar UFO subject. In my work each step led logically to the next and the process eventually culminated in, what seems to me to be, a strong case for the Extra Terrestrial Hypothesis. I submit that this is legitimate inductive science, the only 'pseudo' element being in the very nature of the phenomenon being investigated.

Yours sincerely,

T.R.Dutton,
Poynton, Cheshire.

9th August 1987.

EDITORIAL NOTE : As pointed out by Roy Dutton this paper was only a summary of his work and limited to 2000 words by the Cutty Sark competition.

Roy has invited independent review of his statistics. We held extensive discussions with Roy at the May 1987 meeting of the Research Committee. It was decided that, within the limited resources of BUFORA, we should attempt to obtain statistical help for this project.

Due to the extended length of the Correspondence pages in this issue it has been necessary to hold over yet again correspondence from Stuart Campbell replying to Roy Dutton's earlier correspondence. This will appear as priority in the next issue.

REPORT ON TRAINING MEETING
HELD AT THE BROOKSIDE
COMMUNITY CENTRE, NORTHAMPTON

Steve Gamble.

This is a brief report on the meeting held on Saturday 20th February 1988.

The purpose of the meeting was to provide a basic introduction to field investigation, with special emphasis being given to the initial approach to the witness.

The session was lead by Ken Phillips. Ken explained to the meeting that this was his last duty as training officer as he would be standing down at the forthcoming AGM. I am sure I reflect the views of Council and many members when I pass on our thanks to Ken for all the work he has put in over a number of years as Training Officer, and wish him well in his future activities.

The meeting was attended by eleven members from both BUFORA and the Northampton UFO Research Centre.

The session started with a talk about how to go about contacting the witness. This was followed with guidelines on filling in report forms and what information should go into the completed case file. Ken outlined some of the additional sources of information, and how to deal with special cases such as photographs. Ken covered alot of ground in the short time available.

Special thanks are due to Susan & Cassie Pollock and Ernie and Mrs. Still for making the afternoon a success.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

LONDON LECTURES.

Unless otherwise stated, BUFORA meetings will be held using the facilities of the London Business School, Sussex Place, Regent's Park, London NW1. All meetings start at 18:30 hrs. Early arrival is requested to allow the meeting to start promptly.

Meetings normally end at approximately 21:30. Half way through the evening there is a short break and the evening concludes with questions and discussion. At most meetings a range of publications are available for purchase.

There is a small charge to attend these meetings. For the London lectures the fees are £1 for members and £2-50 for non-members. Non-members are admitted subject to space being available.

Whilst it is not anticipated that meetings will have to be altered or cancelled without prior notice, BUFORA reserve the right to do so. BUFORA reserve the right to refuse admission.

This years programme has been arranged on behalf of BUFORA by Manfred Cassirer. If you have suggestions for future events please write to the address below. Copies of the programme card and membership forms are available on receipt of a stamped addressed envelope from :

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

May 7th

Speaker : Phillip Taylor

"UFOs and Astronomy"

June 4th

Speaker : Martin Shough

"The Reality of the UFO Phenomenon"

(The 1988/89 lecture programme will start in September. Details will be published as soon as available.)

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS

Following on from the successful International Congress held during early July 1987, it is hoped to organise a similar event for the summer of 1989.

At this stage plans are extremely preliminary. It is planned to hold the Congress either in July or early August at a venue in the London area. London has been chosen because it is an area which is easily accessible both from Europe and the Americas.

Although the Congress is primarily being sponsored by ICUR (the International Committee for UFO Research), it is hoped that other organisations such as BUFORA and MUFON will be able to act as co-sponsors.

It is obviously too early to talk about speakers or the theme of the Congress. As further details become available we will publish them to keep readers informed.

Aims and scope of the Journal

Research and investigation into unidentified flying object (UFO) phenomena has progressed from the early days of wild speculation into an area where scientific analysis and evaluation methods can be applied to a number of specified areas.

It is realised that ufological research is subject to a great deal of speculative comment, much of which lies on the boundaries of current scientific thought. Many existing scientific institutions accept limited discussion of UFOs and related phenomena where it has some bearing on their discipline. The Journal of Transient Aerial Phenomena (Journal TAP) offers a forum for scientists and researchers to present ideas for further discussion, results of investigations and analysis of statistics and other pertinent information.

Journal TAP aims to meet a wide range of discussion by incorporating an approach with breadth of scope, clear and topical comment conducted with scientific rigour. It intends to offer a truly international forum enabling researchers throughout the world to publish results in an authoritative publication which should serve to further knowledge of the cosmos and benefit mankind in so doing.

Notes for contributors

The Editorial Board will be pleased to receive contributions from all parts of the world. Manuscripts, preferably in English, should be submitted in the first instance, to the Editor-in-chief, 40 Jones Drove, Whittlesey, Peterborough, PE7 1UE, United Kingdom.

Manuscripts should be typed double-spaced on one side of A4 size paper with wide margins and submitted in duplicate. While no maximum length of contributions is prescribed, authors are encouraged to write concisely.

The author's name should be typed on the line below the title. The affiliation (if any) and address should follow on the next line. The body of the manuscript should be preceded by an abstract of around 100 words giving the main conclusions drawn.

All mathematical symbols may be either hand-written or typewritten, but no ambiguities should arise.

Illustrations should be restricted to the minimum necessary. They should accompany the script and should be included in manuscript pages. Line drawings should include all relevant details and should be drawn in black ink on plain white drawing paper. Good photoprints are acceptable but blueprints or dyeline prints cannot be used. Drawings and diagrams should allow for a 20 per cent reduction. Lettering should be clear, open, and sufficiently large to permit the necessary reduction of size for publication. Photographs should be sent as glossy prints, preferably full or half plate size. Captions to any submitted photograph or illustration should be appended and clearly marked.

In the interests of economy and to reduce errors, tables will, where possible, be reproduced by photo-offset using the author's typed manuscript. Tables should therefore be submitted in a form suitable for direct reproduction. Page size used should be A4 and width of table should be either 10.5 cm or 22 cm. Large or long tables should be typed on continuing sheets but identifying numbers should be placed on the upper right-hand corner of each sheet of tabular material.

Reference to published literature should be quoted in the text in brackets and grouped together at the end of the paper in numerical order. A separate sheet of paper should be used. Double spacing must be used throughout. Journal TAP references should be arranged thus :

- (1) Jacques Vallee: 1965. *Anatomy of a Phenomenon*, vii, Henry Regnery, Chicago.
- (2) David Haisell: 1980. Working Party Report, *Journal TAP* 1/2, pp36-40

With the exception of dates which should be presented in the astronomical convention viz : 1977 August 06, no rigid rules concerning notation or abbreviation need be observed by authors, but each paper should be self-consistent as to symbols and units, which should all be properly defined. Times however should be presented in astronomical form using the 24 hour clock and Universal Time (UT) where possible. If local time is used, this should be specified viz 19h 15 GMT.

The Editorial Board shall have the right to seek advice from referees on suitability for publication and may, on their recommendation, accept, seek revision of or reject manuscripts. If considered unsuitable for Journal TAP, the Editor-in-chief reserves the right to forward manuscripts to the Editor of *Bufora Journal* for consideration. The Editor-in-chief's decision will be final.

Book reviews and letters for publication will also be considered.

Where permission is needed for publication of material included in an article, it is the responsibility of the author to acquire this prior to submission. All opinions expressed in articles will be those of the contributor and unless otherwise stated, will not reflect the views of *Bufora*, its Council or the Editor-in-chief.

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