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CONFIDENTIAL
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

MOD Form 3290
(Revised 1/00)
PPQ s 167

Date opened (date of first enclosure)
4 SEP 95

Date Upgraded

Previous file number
Sec(AS) 641/1
A
Part No.

1. Attention is drawn to the notes on the inside flap.
2. Enter notes of related files on page 2 of this jacket.

DIVISION/ESTABLISHMENT/UNIT/BRANCH
See (AS) 2A.

SUBJECT
U.F.O.s
POLICY

Referred to	Date	Min. Encl	Referred to	Date	Min. Encl	Referred to	Date	Min. Encl	Referred to	Date	Min. Encl

CLOSED

RE-OPENED
27 MAR 07

FOR DRO USE ONLY

1st Review Date

2nd Review Date

DOWNGRADING
(to be completed when the file goes out of current use)

This file may be downgraded to

*Restricted ..... Certifying Officer

*Unclassified ..... Appointment and Branch

Date

UNCLASSIFIED
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

MCD Form 5240
(Revised 7/80)

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

DRO Number

4845

1. Reference is shown on the notes on the inside flap
2. Enter index or related files on page 2 of this jacket

DIVISION, BRANCH OR UNIT

SEA/ASW/A

SUBJECT

FOCUS

POLICY

Referred to	Date	Mov. Copy	Returned to	Date	Mov. Copy	Referred to	Date	Mov. Copy	Returned to	Date	Mov. Copy

FOR DRO USE ONLY

1st Review date

2nd Review date

DOWNGRADING

(to be completed when the file goes out of current use)

This file may be downgraded to:—

***Restricted**

***Unclassified**

Certifying Officer

Appointment and branch

Date

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UNCLASSIFIED

Registered File Disposal Form

MOD Form 262F
(Revised 10/97)

FILE TITLE: (Main Heading - Secondary Heading - Tertiary Heading etc)
"UFOs"
Policy

Reference:
(Prefix and Number):
D/Sec(AS) 64/1
Part: A

PROTECTIVE MARKING (including caveats & descriptors): CONFIDENTIAL

UNCLASSIFIED

Date of last enclosure: 8.1.92

Date closed:

PART 1. DISPOSAL SCHEDULE RECOMMENDATION
(To be completed when the file is closed)

✓

Destroy after _____ years ☐

Forward to CS(RM) after 10 years ☑
for permanent retention

No recommendation ☐

FOR CS(RM) USE ONLY

Date of 1st review	Date of 2nd review	Forward Destruction Date

Reviewer's Signature: _____

Reviewer's Signature: _____

PART 2. BRANCH REVIEW
(To be completed not later than 4 years after the date of the last enclosure)
(Delete as appropriate)

✓

a. Of no further administrative value and not worthy of permanent preservation. DESTROY IMMEDIATELY (Remember that TOP SECRET and Codeword material cannot be destroyed locally and must be forwarded to CS(RM)). ☐

b. (i) To be retained for _____ years (from date of last enclosure) for the following reason(s):

	✓		✓
LEGAL	☐	DEFENCE POLICY + OPERATIONS	☐
CONTRACTUAL	☐	ORIGINAL COMMITTEE PAPERS	☐
FINANCE/AUDIT	☐	MAJOR EQUIPMENT PROJECT	☐ [_____]
DIRECTORATE POLICY	☐	OTHER (Specify)	☐

PPQ = 100

(Continued overleaf)

(ii) Key enclosures which support the recommendation are:

(iii) At the end of the specified retention period the file is to be:

Destroyed ☐ ✔

Considered by CS(RM) for permanent preservation ☐

c. Of no further administrative value but worthy of consideration by CS(RM) for permanent preservation. ☐ ✔

PART 3. BRANCH REVIEWING OFFICER

Signature: _____

Name: _____
(Block Capitals)

Grade/Rank: _____ Date: _____
(Not below HEO/equivalent)

Branch Title and Full Address:

Tel No:

PART 4 DESTRUCTION CERTIFICATE

It is certified that the specified file has been destroyed.

Signature: _____

Name: _____
(Block Capitals)

Grade/Rank: _____ Date: _____

Witnessed by (TOP SECRET* and SECRET only)

Signature: _____

Name: _____
(Block Capitals)

Grade/Rank: _____ Date: _____

*(FOR CS(RM) USE ONLY)

Produced by Ministry of Defence, CS (Pr) 2. Tel. 0117 9376256

UNCLASSIFIED

DCLO 107 MoD

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/1

8 January 1997

DERA/CS1

Copy to:
APS/US of S
RP(Air)2c
DOR(Air)
DAO/AOAD1
DPO(P&P)

SUNDAY MIRROR ARTICLE ON POSSIBLE UK STEALTH AIRCRAFT

1. Further to our telephone conversation today, I enclose a note from APS/US of S covering a press cutting from the 5 January edition of the Sunday Mirror alleging that the UK is developing a Stealth aircraft. US of S has requested background information on the article.

2. The note was sent to Sec(AS) because of our involvement in UFO/Air defence matters. However, US of S's office subsequently confirmed that the Minister's main interest is in the existence or otherwise of a UK Stealth project and whether test flights are being conducted. I should therefore be grateful if you could provide the briefing requested.

3. Given this branch's involvement in UFO matters, and that trial flights of a Stealth aircraft might account for some of the UFO sightings reported to us, we would be interested in seeing a copy of your advice to US of S. We would **not**, of course, use this information in public correspondence.

Section 40

Sec(AS)2a
MB8241 MB

Section 40

UNCLASSIFIED

SECRETARIAT(AIR STAFF) Fax:[redacted]

** Transmit Conf.Report **

9 Jan '97 14:12

SECRETARIAT(AIR STAFF)---> [redacted]	
No.	2733
Mode	NORMAL
Time	1'37"
Pages	3 Page(s)
Result	O K

To [redacted]
Company DERA CS1
From [redacted]
Company SEC(AS)2
Tel No. [redacted]
No. of Pages 3

FAX
Post-it® Fax Note
Ref No: 7688

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 106

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR DEFENCE

LOOSE MINUTE

D/USofS/FH/19/2/0

7 January 1997

Sec(AS)2

SUNDAY MIRROR ARTICLE 5 JANUARY 1997 - IS THIS BRITAIN'S TOP SECRET £100m PLANE?

1. Lord Howe has seen the above article (copy attached) and has requested background information on the allegations made.

Section 40

APS/USofS
MB6215 Section 40
USofS/APS(1)

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC (AS) 2
-8 1997
FILE 64/1

Recycled Paper

Sunday Mirror
5th January 1997

IS THIS BRITAIN'S TOP SECRET £100m PLANE?

By ALAN RIMMER

A MYSTERIOUS triangular-shaped object shoots silently through the winter sky over Britain.

This remarkable picture, taken by a landscape photographer, is being treated by UFO experts as proof that Britain is secretly developing a Stealth-type warplane that is light years ahead of the opposition.

"The strange thing was that the object, whatever it was, made absolutely no sound," said the startled photographer who was taking shots of snow scenes on the Lancashire moors, near the Winter Hill TV transmitter.

He does not want to be named, but he added: "It was a clear, still day and if it was a conventional aircraft I would have heard it."

The Stealth sci-fi aircraft take their name from their ability to evade enemy radar. Americans used them in the Gulf War to avoid Iraqi air-defence systems.

Invisible

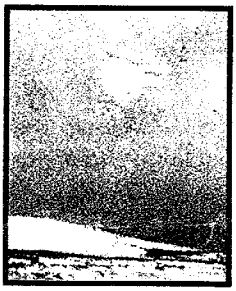
The Lancashire photographer noticed a slight movement in his viewfinder as he snapped snow scenes. He said: "I looked up but there was nothing there. I didn't think anything of it until I got home and developed the film.

"There, in the centre of the picture was a small silver triangle.

"At first I thought it might just be a fault on the photo. But when I examined the negative, everything was fine."

The photographer passed his remarkable picture on to UFO experts who claim it is the world's first picture of a top secret British plane codenamed HALO (High Altitude, Low Observable).

Its existence is denied by the Government. For as designers discover new methods of making



RIDDLE: UFO over the moors

aircraft invisible to enemy radars, so air-defence engineers must develop secret new ways of detecting planes.

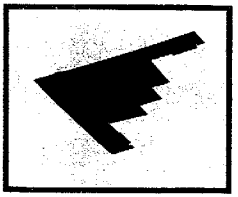
UFO expert Mark McAndrew has no doubts. He said: "This is a very important photograph. As far as we are concerned, it's proof that the British are developing a Stealth-type aircraft which makes the American version look like an Airfix kit.

"In the last few months, hundreds of triangle-shaped UFOs have been reported all over the country, especially along the Lancashire coast and in the North West.

"Eyewitnesses have told of a silvery triangle-shaped object about 30ft long, with no wings or visible engines. Others have spoken of the object being escorted by two Tornado jets.

"The object flies like no other aircraft we have ever heard of. It stops in the sky, hovers, then shoots off at an amazingly high speed."

A key feature of Stealth aircraft are triangular surfaces. Radar beams striking the plane are not deflected enough to register on radar screens. Stealth planes also give off little infra-red heat energy.



EVASIVE: Stealth could beat radar

Defence sources say that although America was first with Stealth craft, Britain is developing something that will be generations more advanced.

It is thought that Stealth planes will be able to fly at 3,000mph — which would enable them to fly from America to Britain in one hour.

Spent

Mr McAndrew said he believed the new aircraft was remote controlled and was being developed at the nearby British Aerospace factory at Warton, Lancashire.

Details of the HALO project are listed in the respected publication, Jane's Military Aircraft.

It talks of £100 million being spent on Stealth aircraft development, and adds: "British Aerospace are urging Government go-ahead for Stealth demonstration in 1997. Production aircraft then to be available in 2013 with international collaboration likely."

A Ministry of Defence spokesman yesterday officially denied existence of the HALO project, saying: "We don't know of any project by that name."

An official at British Aerospace said: "Silver, triangle object? Sorry, not one of ours."

CLOSURE 105 Mod

UNCLASSIFIED

D/DI55/108/15

3 January 1997

Sec(AS)2a1

PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE - INTELLIGENCE BRIEFINGS

Reference:

A. D/Sec(AS)/64/1 dated 18 Dec 96.

1. You posed several questions in the Reference.

2. Although I could not remember any briefings by US agencies during my considerable tenure in this office a search of all existing UAP files showed no record of any meetings/briefings with the CIA, or any other agency. Similarly we have no data on the alleged "Roswell Incident" or any "crashed UFO incidents in the UK".

3. In short DI 55 has no records of any UAP/UFO "crashes" in either the UK or US and have never, a far as we can tell from existing files, received and briefs from any US agencies, including the CIA.

Section 40 [redacted]

Wing Commander
DI55c
OWOB 277 Section 40

UNCLASSIFIED

Fifty:FIVE

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC (AS) 2
-8 JAN 1997
FILE 64/1

ENCLO 104 NUMBER

LOOSE MINUTE

REDACTED ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

18 Dec 96

DI55c

PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE - INTELLIGENCE BRIEFINGS

1. I have received the attached letter from a regular correspondent of Sec(AS). The correspondent, Section 40 is asking whether the CIA or any other United States intelligence branch gave the UK MOD a briefing in 1989 about the alleged events at Roswell, New Mexico, in 1947.

2. Our public line about Roswell as you know is that events which occurred in the United States in 1947 are not matters on which it would be appropriate for the British Government to comment upon and are for the US Government to address.

3. Although it seems unlikely to me, I should be grateful if you would advise whether such a briefing, or anything loosely connected related, was given to the Department by US intelligence authorities.

4. I should be most grateful for advice by 10 Jan 97 if at all possible.

Section 40

Sec(AS)2a1
MB8245 82140MB

Enc.

Rec'

Section 40

Section 40 Ampthill, Section 40

Telephone Section 40

9th December 1996

Dear Section 40

We have communicated a few times in the past with reference to the MOD's involvement with reports of Unidentified Flying Objects.

I regularly keep in contact with persons whom i worked with when i served in the Royal Air Force, who also have an interest in the subject.

One of whom has recently contacted me with some information, regarding a briefing given to the Ministry of Defence by the CIA in 1987 on the Roswell Crash. Apparently, the MOD (AIR) or the RAF has files on crashed UFO incidents in the UK.

Can you confirm whether such a briefing by the CIA or other body of the US intelligence service took place?

Also, can you provide any de-classified file numbers on crashed UFO in the UK that i may check upon?

Many thanks for your time in this.

Yours sincerely

Section 40

Wed 27 Nov, 1996 11:38 mailbox standard Page 1

64 | 1
ENCLOSURE NUMBER 103

DATE	FROM	SUBJECT	CODES
27/11/96	Hd of CS(RM)1	UFO DATABASE	[ ]

Intended:
Sent: 27/11/96 at 11:24 Delivered: 27/11/96 at 11:28
To: SEC(AS)2A (2)
CC:
Ref: 152
From: Hd of CS(RM)1 Auth by:
Subject: UFO DATABASE

Text: Section 40 a few weeks ago you asked for an update on files released and files to be released. The attached covers releases up to 2003. Please note a number of recently reviewed files are still to be assigned piece numbers, and it is always possible other files may belatedly "come through the system" and have an earlier release date. Regards Section 40

Priority: Normal SEE PAGE Attachments [1]
Reply Request [ ] View Acknowledge [*] Codes [ ]

Section 40

for info.

ufodata

TOP ENCLOSURE

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS - FILES PRESERVED IN THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE TOGETHER WITH SCHEDULED RELEASE DATES - AS AT 27 NOVEMBER 1996

Already open	-	10
To be released:		
1997	-	2
1998	-	10
1999	-	14
2000	-	13
2001	-	11
2002	-	2
2003	-	13
Total	**-**	**75**

AIR 2

16918	1961-63	UFO's: sightings; reports by members of the public	AF/X59/64 Pt 5
	[Open - Note file originally released in a sanitised form. Extracts now due for release]		
17318	1963	ditto	AF/X59/64 Pt 6
	[Open - Note file originally released in a sanitised form. Extracts now due for release]		
17526	1964	UFO files	AF/X59/64 Pt 7
	[Open - Note file originally released in a sanitised form. Extracts now due for release]		
17527	1965	ditto	AF/X59/64 Pt 8
	[To be released 1996]		
17982	1965-66	ditto	AF/X59/64 Pt 9
	[To be released 1997]		
17983	1966	ditto	AF/X59/64 Pt 10
	[To be released 1997]		
17984	1966-67	ditto	AF/X59/64

			Pt 11
	[To be released 1998]		
18115	1967	Unidentified flying objects: reports	AF/CX38/67 Pt 1
	[To be released 1998]		
18116	1967	ditto	AF/CX38/67 Pt 2
	[To be released 1998]		
18117	1967-68	ditto	AF/CX38/67 Pt 3
	[To be released 1999]		
18183	1968-69	Unidentified flying objects	AF/7463/72 Pt 2
	[To be released 2000]		
18564	1957-71	UFO Reports: West Freugh 1957	
	[To be released 2002]		
18565	1970-71	UFO Reports	
	[To be released 2002]		
TBA	April 1972	UFO's	10/45/120
	[Awaiting allocation of piece no. To be released 2003]		

AIR 16

1199	1952 Sept	Flying saucers: occurrence reports: service personnel at Topcliffe station, Thirsk and local public sector	IIH1/188/1/17
	[Open]		

AIR 20

7390	1950-54	Unidentified aircraft (flying objects): reports	II/127/3/48
	[Open]		
9320	1957	Parliamentary question on UFO's	MR 008614/193
	[Open]		
9321	1957	ditto	MR 008614/213

[Open]

9322	1957	ditto	MR 008614/220
	[Open]		
9994	1953–57	Reports on aerial phenomena	IIH/273/10/4
	[Open]		
11612	1967–68	Unidentified flying objects	MR 073414
	[To be released 1999]		
11694	1968 Jan	ditto	AF/S4f(Air)512
	[To be released 1999]		
11695	1968 Feb	ditto	AF/S4f(Air)513
	[To be released 1999]		
11696	1968 Dec	ditto	AF/S4f(Air)523
	[To be released 1999]		
11887	1967 Aug	ditto	AF/S4f(Air)507
	[To be released 1998]		
11888	1967 Sept	ditto	AF/S4f(Air)508
	[To be released 1998]		
11889	1967 Oct	ditto	AF/S4f(Air)509
	[To be released 1998]		
11890	1967 Oct	ditto	AF/S4f(Air)509
	[To be released 1998]		
11891	1967 Nov	ditto	AF/S4f(Air)510
	[To be released 1998]		
11892	1967 Nov	ditto	AF/S4f(Air)510
	[To be released 1998]		
11893	1967 Dec	ditto	AF/S4f(Air)511
	[To be released 1998]		
11894	1968 Mar	ditto	AF/S4f(Air)514
	[To be released 1999]		

11895	1968 Apr	ditto	AF/S4f(Air)515
	[To be released 1999]		
11896	1968 May	ditto	AF/S4f(Air)516
	[To be released 1999]		
11897	1968 Jun	ditto	AF/S4f(Air)517
	[To be released 1999]		
11898	1968 Jul	ditto	AF/S4f(Air)518
	[To be released 1999]		
11899	1968 Aug	ditto	AF/S4f(Air)519
	[To be released 1999]		
11900	1968 Sept	ditto	AF/S4f(Air)520
	[To be released 1999]		
11901	1968 Oct	ditto	AF/S4f(Air)521
	[To be released 1999]		
11902	1968 Nov	ditto	AF/S4f(Air)522
	[To be released 1999]		
12055	1969 Jan	ditto	AF/S4f(Air)524
	[To be released 2000]		
12056	1969 Feb	ditto	AF/S4f(Air)525
	[To be released 2000]		
12057	1969 Mar	ditto	AF/S4f(Air)526
	[To be released 2000]		
12058	1969 Apr	ditto	AF/S4f(Air)527
	[To be released 2000]		
12059	1969 May	ditto	AF/S4f(Air)528
	[To be released 2000]		
12060	1969 Jun	ditto	AF/S4f(Air)529
	[To be released 2000]		
12061	1969 Jul	ditto	AF/S4f(Air)530
	[To be released 2000]		

12069	1969 Aug	ditto	AF/S4f(Air)531
	[To be released 2000]		
12063	1969 Sept	ditto	AF/S4f(Air)532
	[To be released 2000]		
12064	1969 Oct	ditto	AF/S4f(Air)533
	[To be released 2000]		
12065	1969 Nov	ditto	AF/S4f(Air)534
	[To be released 2000]		
12066	1969 Dec	ditto	AF/S4f(Air)535
	[To be released 2000]		
12067	1970 Jan	ditto	AF/S4f(Air)536
	[To be released 2001]		
12297	1970 Feb	ditto	AF/S4f(AIR)537 ID/48/94
	[To be released 2001]		
12298	1970 Mar	ditto	AF/S4f(AIR)538 ID/48/95
	[To be released 2001]		
12299	1970 Apr	ditto	AF/S4f(AIR)539 ID/48/96
	[To be released 2001]		
12300	1970 May	ditto	AF/S4f(AIR)540 ID/48/97
	[To be released 2001]		
12301	1970 June	ditto	AF/S4f(AIR)541 ID/48/98
	[To be released 2001]		
12302	1970 July	ditto	AF/S4f(AIR)542 ID/48/99
	[To be released 2001]		
12303	1970 Aug	ditto	AF/S4f(AIR)543 ID/48/100
	[To be released 2001]		

12304	1970 Sept	ditto	AF/S4f(AIR)544 ID/48/101

[To be released 2001]

12305	1970 Oct	ditto	AF/S4f(AIR)545 ID/48/102

[To be released 2001]

12306	1970 Nov	ditto	AF/S4f(AIR)546 ID/48/103

[To be released 2001]

THE FOLLOWING FILES ARE AWAITING ASSIGNMENT TO AIR 20

1971-72	UFO reports	ID/47/274 Pt 4
1972 Jan	ditto	ID/48/117
1972 Feb	ditto	ID/48/118
1972 March	ditto	ID/48/119
1972 May	ditto	ID/48/121
1972 June	ditto	ID/48/122
1972 July	ditto	ID/48/123
1972 Aug	ditto	ID/48/124
1972 Sept	ditto	ID/48/125
1972 Oct	ditto	ID/48/126
1972 Nov	ditto	ID/48/127
1972 Dec	ditto	ID/48/128

[File for April 1972 missing. All other files due for release 2003]



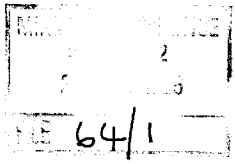
LOOSE MINUTE

D/DAO/1/13

20 Nov 96

Sec(AS)2a1

UNUSUAL AIR PHENOMENON - 5 OCT 96



References:

A. D/Sec(AS)/64/1 dated 5 Nov 96.
B. D/DAO/1/13 dated 7 Oct 96.
C. D/DAO/1/13 dated 13 Nov 96.

1. At Reference A, you forwarded a minute from DI55c concerning the unusual air phenomenon observed on 5 Oct 96, where the author applied his own logic to an early report on the incident at Reference B and provided his own personal observations.

2. Much ink has already flowed on the events of the 5 Oct 96 and the answers to DI55c's comments can all be found in the detailed report at Reference C, however, I have extracted relevant notes below in response to his specific points.

a. Para 2a. The Royal Greenwich Observatory states that `when a bright star or planet is low down in the sky (even to elevation 20^0), it is **quite common** for it to show colours, which are often described as flashing or rotating'. I do not put much store by many of the estimates of elevation provided by the observers; the more reliable Skegness video and the MV CONOCOAST observations put the lights at 15-20^0 elevation. Most significantly, the original observer watched the lights all night and saw them become higher, dimmer and whiter until `it (became) obvious that it was just a star'.

b. Para 2b. The plot over Boston was only observed on one radar and its characteristics confirm beyond reasonable doubt that it was a permanent echo. It cannot be positively stated that the `Boston Stump' (the 273ft spire of St Botolph's church) was the cause without conducting further detailed technical study, however, as the highest local physical feature in the area. I can positively state that this theory is highly probably.

c. Para 2c. Many of the `reported facts' have since proved unreliable and a probable source of the lights has been provided by the Royal Greenwich Observatory as the planet Venus. There was no sign of air movements or military exercises in the area and there was no evidence of unidentified air activity on any radar, air defence or civil; the separate stationary lights were not suspicious in nature or of significance to air or maritime safety and are judged

to have been some form of natural phenomenon of no air defence, air or even maritime concern. All the elevation data on the lights, reliable or otherwise, confirms that, had the lights been associated with a normal flying object, it would have been within the coverage of at least 4 separate radar heads unless advanced stealth or other technology was being applied to remain electronically invisible; if a penetrating aircraft or device was so equipped, however, logic suggests that its crew would not have been so negligent as to have left the lights switched on.

3. You may wish to send DI55c the attached copy of the Skegness video; perhaps DIS can shed some `light' on the subject!

Section 40

Wg Cdr
ADGE 1
MB4227 Section 40 MB

UNCLASSIFIED

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 102

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/1

26 Nov 96

DI55c

UNUSUAL AIR PHENOMENON - 5 OCT 96

Reference: D/DI55/108/15 dated 1 Nov 96.

1. At Reference you forwarded your personal observations in respect of early reports of the unusual aerial activity which was seen during the early hours of 5 October in the area of The Wash.

2. You may be interested to know that following a Parliamentary Enquiry received from Martin Redmond MP about these events, DAO's organisation undertook a very thorough investigation including interviewing key witnesses. This investigation was only considered necessary in view of Mr Redmond's serious allegations about the effectiveness of our Air Defence systems. In respect of the three points you specifically make at reference you may be interested in the following comments:

a. Para 2a. The Royal Greenwich Observatory states that 'when a bright star or planet is low down in the sky (even to elevation 20^0), it is **quite common** for it to show colours, which are often described as flashing or rotating'. DAO staff do not put much store by many of the estimates of elevation provided by the observers; the more reliable Skegness video and the MV CONOCOAST (a maritime vessel) observations put the lights at 15-20^0 elevation. Most significantly, the original observer watched the lights all night and saw them become higher, dimmer and whiter until 'it (became) obvious that it was just a star'.

b. Para 2b. The plot over Boston was only observed on one radar and its characteristics confirm beyond reasonable doubt that it was a permanent echo. It cannot be positively stated that the 'Boston Stump' (the 273ft spire of St Botolph's church) was the cause without conducting further detailed technical study, however, as the highest local physical feature in the area. DAO staff believe that this theory is highly probably.

c. Para 2c. Many of the 'reported facts' have since proved unreliable and a probable source of the lights has been provided by the Royal Greenwich Observatory as the planet Venus which apparently had been exceptionally bright during the week in question. There was no sign of air movements or military exercises in the area and there was no evidence of unidentified air activity on any radar, air defence or civil;

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

the separate stationary lights were not suspicious in nature or of significance to air or maritime safety and are judged to have been some form of natural phenomenon of no air defence, air or even maritime concern. All the elevation data on the lights, reliable or otherwise, confirms that, had the lights been associated with a normal flying object, it would have been within the coverage of at least four separate radar heads unless advanced stealth or other technology was being applied to remain electronically invisible; if a penetrating aircraft or device was so equipped, however, logic suggests that its crew would not have been so negligent as to have left the lights switched on.

3. As requested I forward a copy of the video footage taken by the Skegness Police. I hope this is helpful.

Section 40

Sec(AS)2a1
MB8245 82140MB

Enc.

UNCLASSIFIED

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 100

MOD RECORDS ORGANISATION

To: Section 40 [redacted]

Division /Branch. SEC(AS)2a
Ref No.....

RECORD REQUISITIONED FROM THE PRO

1. The enclosed record(s), as listed at para 3. have been requisitioned at yopur request from the Public Record Office. They are not to be mutilated, altered, annotated or added to any way and on no account be passed toany other authority except via the undermentioned Record Organisation Branch. **The record(s) must be returned complete to this branch b y**

2. You will be held personally responsible for this material while it is on charge to you and accountable for any breach of the above instructions in regard to it.

3. PRO Class/Piece Number,

a). AIR 2/17982
b). AIR 2/17983
c).....
d).....

e).....
f).....
g).....
h).....

i).....
j).....
k).....
l).....

4. **Please complete, detach and return the form of receipt below immediately.**

Name Section 40 [redacted]

Signed [redacted]

Date 4/11/96

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
CS(RM)
ROOM 08a
ADASTRAL HOUSE
LONDON WC1X 8RU

0171 305 7011

Returned to CS(RM) on 26 Nov 96

To CS(RM)

MOD INTEREST IN "UFO" SIGHTINGS

The Ministry of Defence has no interest, expertise or role with respect to "UFO/flying saucer" matters, or the question of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms about which we remain open-minded. To date, however, we remain unaware of any evidence which proves that these phenomena exist.

The Ministry of Defence examines any reports of "UFO" sightings it receives solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance; namely is there any evidence that the UK Air Defence Region might have been compromised by a foreign hostile military aircraft.

The reports are examined, with the assistance of the Department's air defence experts as required. Unless there is evidence of a potential military threat, and to date no "UFO" sighting has revealed such evidence, we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each sighting reported to us. We could not justify expenditure of public funds on investigations which go beyond our specific defence remit. We believe that rational explanations could be found for the "UFO" sightings reported to the MOD if resources were devoted to so doing. From the types of descriptions we receive aircraft or natural phenomena probably account for most of the observations.

6411

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 98

Statement provided to Press Office

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
UNITED KINGDOM
PRESS OFFICE
FAX MESSAGE

Fax: Section 40

To: Section 40

Fax:

From: Section 40

Date: Section 40 **(including this)** 3 **pages**

Tel :

MESSAGE: Section 40

Grateful for the 'standard line' on this F
I will then please be By Issue back. Thanks,
(Although the letter seems to be fantasy!)

Section 40

If any part of this transmission is incomplete please ring Section 40
Ministry of Defence, Room 0389, Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2H

11 NOV '96 15:14 FROM M-B-A PRESS OFFICE PAGE.001

THE BIG ISSUE IN SCOTLAND LIMITED

Please reply to:

14 Albany Street
EDINBURGH
EH1 3QB
Telephone: Section 40
Fax:

29 College Street
GLASGOW
G1 1QN
Switchboard: 0141 559 5555
General Fax: 0141 552 4940

Advertising: 0141 559 5550
Editorial: 0141 559 5558
Fax: 0141 552 3200

Press Officer
Ministry of Defence

Dear Sir / Madam

This is an unusual request. I am inquiring if the MOD has any plans to deal with an alien attack or visitation.

The scenario would be: alien craft hover over the earth long enough to be extensively filmed, photographed and authenticated as not of this world.

They either make contact or attack. What would the MOD do?

I realise for reasons of security you will not be able to go into detail but even if you could confirm or deny that the MOD has plans for such an eventuality.

Thank you

Section 40

Reporter

11 NOV '96 13:16 Section 40 PAGE.002

PAGE.002 FROM M-B-A PRESS OFFICE 11 NOV '96 15:15

1 of 2

From: Section 40 - The Big Issue in Scotland

To: MOD Press Office

FAO: Press Office

My deadline is: Tuesday 2.00pm

CONFIDENTIAL

UNCLASSIFIED

96 Number

D/DI55/108/15

1 November 1996

Sec(AS)2a1

UNUSUAL AIR PHENOMENA - 5 OCT 96

Reference:

A. D/DAO/1/13 dated 7 Oct 96.

1. I have just returned from a prolonged period of absence and sighted Reference A. I would be most interested in the video if you obtain a copy.

2. I have no finance to investigate sightings but:

a. Very rarely, colour effects can be associated with planets, they are usually when the planet breaks the horizon. They **do not occur** when the planet is 40-45 degrees above the horizon, over a prolonged period, and they do not rotate.

b. Did the radar sites positively confirm that the stationary radar return geolocated with the Boston Stump. The reference does not positively state this.

c. The conclusion of the reference does not reflect the reported "facts". The "reported facts" indicate that multi-coloured flashing lights were present in UK airspace for a prolonged period. I know of no natural phenomena that could produce this effect. Logic would then suggest that these lights were artificial. If ADGE 1 could not relate these to any known flights then UK airspace was penetrated by an unknown aircraft or device. Surely this should concern the RAF!

3. These are of course only personal observations!

Section 40

Wing Commander
DI55c
OWOB 277 Section 40

UNCLASSIFIED

CONFIDENTIAL

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC(AS)2
1 NOV 1996
FILE

97

COVERING CONFIDENTIAL

UNCLASSIFIED

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/1

5 Nov 96

ADGE1

UNUSUAL AIR PHENOMENON - 5 OCT 96

Reference:

A. D/DI55/108/15 dated 1 Nov 96.
B. D/DAO/1/13 dated 7 Oct 96.

1. Following the weekend of the lights over The Wash, as usual I copied the reports we had received to DI55c for information. To tie up the loose ends I also copied your note at Ref A for information to DI55c.

2. Following a period of absence, DI55c has returned to work and has had sight of the reports and Ref A. You will no doubt be interested to see his comments at Ref B. In view of the Parliamentary Enquiry we are both currently working on from Martin Redmond, and the serious nature of the allegations being made against our Air Defence system in the MP's letter, I should be grateful for a separate note which I can place on record dealing with the concerns raised by DI55c.

Section 40 [redacted]

Sec(AS)2a1
MB8245 82140MB

COVERING CONFIDENTIAL

UNCLASSIFIED

95
NUMBE

D/Sec(AS)/64/1

31 Oct 96

F I L E N O T E

STANDARD REPLIES TO UFO LETTERS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

1. Head of Sec(AS) has instructed Sec(AS)2a that whereever possible we should aim to reply to as many letters from the public as we can with a two para response which gives a short statement of the MOD's interest in this subject only. Clearly judgement will need to be exercised to ensure that we do not breach the terms of the Open Government initiative. However, Open Government relates to our defence remit and much of the "UFO" subject falls outside our defence remit. I shall draft a suitable template shortly.

2. We have also been instructed that from now on we should not give details of "UFO" organisations out to members of the public. They should be advised to look through the range of "UFO" magazines on sale at newsagents which contain details of a variety of "UFO" organisations which have sprung up over the last few years. No recommendations should be given. We know nothing about any of them anyway, but we must not be seen to be steering people in the direct of any particular organisation.

Section 40 [redacted]

64/1

94

Mon 7 Oct, 1996 16:06 mailbox log Page 1

DATE	TO	SUBJECT	CODES
07/10/96	DPO(RAF)SO2	BOSTON UFO SIGHTINGS OVER THE	[ ]

Sent: 07/10/96 at 16:06
To: DPO(RAF)SO2
CC:

Ref: 841
Subject: BOSTON UFO SIGHTINGS OVER THE WEEKEND

Text: Section 40

ATTACHED DEFENSIVE PRESS LINES. PROPOSE WE DON'T GO BEYOND THE FIRST STATEMENT UNLESS WE ARE PRESSED.

Section 40

Priority: Urgent
Reply Request [ ]
View Acknowledge [*]
Delivery Acknowledge [*]
Attachments [1]
Codes [ ]

PRESS LINES

BOSTON UFO SIGHTINGS - EARLY HOURS OF SAT 5 OCT 96

All available sources of information have been examined and we are satisfied that the sightings were not of air defence significance. We are content that there was no associated threat to UK airspace.

IF PRESSED:

THE RADAR RETURNS

The radar returns have been assessed and were almost certainly caused by a permanent geographical feature (St Botolph's church spire in Boston, 273ft). The church spire is known in aviation circles as the 'Boston Stump' and appears occasionally on some radars in certain radar propagation conditions.

LIGHTS IN THE WASH AREA

The lights in The Wash area were observed from three separate locations high above the horizon and in the same general direction, but without corroborating radar data. No associated air vehicle was detected by civil or military radars. This suggests a distant celestial source.

There were no corroborating radar returns for the visual sightings.



8th October 1996

Section 40
London
Section 40
Tel/Fax Section 40

F.A.O.: SEC - AS/2

RE : UNIDENTIFIED LIGHTS OVER THE WASH - 5/10/96

Dear Sir / Madame,

I am a freelance writer and investigator compiling reports of UFO's.

I am trying to find out a little more about an incident in the vicinity of The Wash on Friday night 4/10 or Saturday morning 5/10.

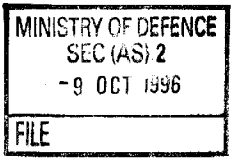
I have received many other reports of strange lights and other phenomena on this night, and would be keen to learn as much as possible about anything anybody there might have seen or heard.

Have you been contacted by anybody else regarding this? Is there an official statement you are prepared to give?

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with me if you can be of any help.

Yours sincerely and many thanks,

Section 40





Loose Minute

D/Sec(AS)/64/1

25th September 1996

AFDO

Copy to:

ADGE1
DI55C

REPORTING OF UFOs

1. Thank you for your minute of 19th September (AFDO/1/3/1) about the reporting of 'UFOs'.

2. The Department's interest in 'UFO sightings' is one of air defence, namely, whether there is any evidence in a sighting of a breach of the UK air defences. Whilst this policy remains in force Sec(AS)2, as the Air Staffs Secretariat, is required to accept UFO reports from members of the public and to keep records of all such reports where the witness is prepared to give his/her name and contact details.

3. In looking at this issue it is important to remember that as our declared interest is air defence, not 'flying saucer' related, MOD must be seen to acknowledge at all times information provided by members of the public about a sighting which **might**, in their view, pose an air defence threat. We cannot expect the civil police to decide what constitutes a potential threat nor who might have information which the MOD might find of importance.

4. MOD and OGDs have to deal with Parliamentary Questions about UFOs and also receive a significant number of letters from MPs acting on behalf of their constituents about this issue. MOD Ministers are required to respond to such inquiries and, in order to staff these properly, Sec(AS)2 must have full and accurate records of **all** reports made to the Department, however misguided we might, at times, feel the informant to be.

5. It is simply not possible for Sec(AS)2 to provide round the clock cover to respond to calls from members of the public about low flying and UFOs and, as you know, out of hours this is done on our behalf by the DCMC. However, I am unable to gauge the scale of your own concerns about the number and content of the calls you receive since, by your own admission, you do not report all of the details on to us. For the last six months we have on record that only 14 reports were forwarded to us by the DCMC. If you maintain a logbook of all calls received it would be helpful to know the details of all of those relating to UFOs which were not turned into reports for, say, the last six months. From this we shall be able to complete our records and assess by how much public interest is increasing.

6. Once we have this sort of information we shall be better able to look again at MOD policy on the handling of calls from the public about UFO sightings. I should be grateful for your assistance.



Sec(AS)2
MB8247 [redacted]MB
CHOTS: SEC(AS)2
FAX : [redacted]MB

Section 40

Section 40

Section 40

91 NUMBER

As mentioned.

Section 40

Section 40

good
A time to look at
my bullet point paper
perhaps

Section 40

LOOSE MINUTE

AFDO/1/3/1

19 Sep 96

SEC(AS)2a (3)
ADGE1
DI55C

REPORTING OF UFOS

Reference: AFDO SOP 502

1. You will be aware that agreement has now been reached on the future of the single service ops rooms, and that the 5 AFDOs will transfer to the Central Duty staffs - under DCDS(Cts) - at some point this Autumn. It may, therefore, be an appropriate juncture at which to consider your reporting posture for UFOs.

2. In my experience of receiving these types of reports, many (arguably most) are transparently timewasting from the outset and I do not believe that we collectively have ever taken any serious action on them; frankly, some of those I have received are not worth the telephone call involved and are not passed on to you via formal report the following morning. Most importantly, however, is the worrying notion that our telephone number seems to be freely given by the police to anyone, at any hour of the day or night, without any preliminary screening of callers. This is especially irritating when one has just received the third consecutive call from the same persistent 'reporter' within 45 minutes, between midnight - 1am !

3. I would suggest that, taken in the round, this topic could be shelved and perhaps handled by one of the many UK 'UFO' bodies. I, for one , have a strong feeling that the AFDO has more relevant matters to deal with, and this will become even more pronounced in the near future when we are 'trans-muted' into CDS Duty staff.

Section 40
Wg Cdr / RO2
AFDO
DCMC136R/MB

Section 40

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC (AS) 2
20 SEP 1996
FILE

How do we know the scale of the problem

DATE	FROM	SUBJECT	CODES
19/09/96	AFDO1	UFO REPORTS	[ ]

Intended:
Sent: 19/09/96 at 19:30 Delivered: 19/09/96 at 19:35
To: SEC(AS)2A (3),ADGE1,DI55C
CC:
Ref: 13
From: AFDO1 Auth by:
Subject: UFO REPORTS

Text:

Priority: Normal SEE PAGE Attachments [1]
Reply Request [ ] View Acknowledge [ ] Codes [ ]

Classification: UNCLASS.

Caveat:

Covering:

F Sigs 927
(Rev 2/95)

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 90

Facsimile Transmission Cover Sheet

Serial Number:	Transmission: Date: 8 AUG 96 Time:
—	

Document Reference: 64/1
Total number of pages including this one: 1

From:	Fax Number:
SEC(AS)2A	x Section 40
	Tel Number: x Section 40

To:	Fax Number:
CS(FM) 2 (PS)	x Section 40

Authorised by:		
Rank	Name	Appointment
EO	Section 40	

Transmitted by:		
Rank	Name	Tel Number
AO	Section 40	.

Signature:

Signature:

Subject: USE OF TV AND VIDEO.

Please could you arrange for a TV and video to be brought to Sec(AS)2A, room 8245, Main Building. If you require further information, please phone me on x Section 40 mks.

Many thanks.

Section 40

Sec(AS)2A

Classification: UNCLASS.

Caveat:

Covering:

TO WATCH "OUT OF THIS WORLD" - UFO slot with Nick Pope.

SECRETARIAT(AIR STAFF) Fax: Section 40

** Transmit Conf. Report **

8 Aug '96 9:23

SECRETARIAT(AIR STAFF)---> Section 40	
No.	1180
Mode	NORMAL
Time	0'56"
Pages	1 Page(s)
Result	O K



LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/1

7 Aug 96

DPO(RAF) - Section 40

DOWNLOW MAGAZINE - REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON MOD INTEREST IN "UFO" SIGHTINGS

1. The attached letter was sent to CDS, requesting a photo of CDS and a quote from him on the "UFO" phenomenon. Not unsurprisingly this has, quick as a flash, been passed to this office to deal with!

2. As usual, I should be grateful if the attached statement could be sent out through you in the customary manner.

3. If you have any queries, please give me a call. Thanks.

Section 40 [redacted]

Sec(AS)2a1
MB8245 82140MB

STATEMENT FOR THE EDITORIAL ADVISER OF DOWNLOW MAGAZINE

MOD INTEREST IN "UFO" SIGHTINGS

The Ministry of Defence has no interest, expertise or role with respect to "UFO/flying saucer" matters, or the question of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms about which we remain open-minded. To date, however, we remain unaware of any evidence which proves that these phenomena exist.

The Ministry of Defence examines any reports of "UFO" sightings it receives solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance; namely is there any evidence that the UK Air Defence Region might have been compromised by a foreign hostile military aircraft?

The reports are examined, with the assistance of the Department's air defence experts as required. Unless there is evidence of a potential military threat, and to date no "UFO" sighting has revealed such evidence, we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each sighting reported to us. We could not justify expenditure of public funds on investigations which go beyond our specific defence remit. We believe that rational explanations could be found for the "UFO" sightings reported to the MOD if resources were devoted to so doing. From the types of descriptions we receive aircraft or natural phenomena probably account for most of the observations.

36/1

downlow

the magazine for hip-hop

Section 40 welwyn garden city hertfordshire Section 40
telephone/fax Section 40

August 3, 1996

Field Marshal Sir Peter Inge, QCB, ADCGen
Chief of the Defence Staff
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building
Whitehall
LONDON
SW1A 2HB

Dear Sir Peter

I'm writing a carefully researched feature about UFO's for a future issue of my son's magazine, the downlow, and it crossed my mind that you, in your official capacity of being responsible for our nation's defence, may have an opinion on the subject which could be shared with our readership.

As you will be well aware, many UFO-ologists believe these 'things' are of extra-terrestrial origin, manned and operated by aliens, and that UK and US authorities are purposely keeping this knowledge secret for fear that the public would go berserk if they were told the truth.

Section 40 my son, and I would be most grateful if you were to give us a quotable quote for the article. If you do, may we please also have a photograph of yourself which we could publish?

For your information, the downlow is a small circulation magazine produced by a multi-racial team of young people (average age 22) who began it while they were in the 6th form. None earns a living from the magazine. Yet. Each contributes their skills simply to broaden their experience of the world of publishing.

The next issue, out on September 4, will have a print-run of 10,000 and these copies will be distributed by Time Out.

If there's any more you would like to know about the magazine, please contact me. I hope to hear from you.

Yours sincerely

Section 40

Editorial Advisor

REDACTED COPY OF ORIGINAL DOCUMENT



7 Aug 96

Sec(AS)ab
Sec(AS)a

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS - POLICY

1. Following the rush of PQs generated by the publication of Mr Pope's book, Head of Sec(AS) expressed his wish that we instigate a formal procedure for logging the actions taken with respect to each UFO sighting report received by the Department. This was intended to ensure that a written record of any action taken is instantly available in future should we be required to respond to PQs or PEs.

2. We briefly discussed the resource implications of undertaking a formal procedure in respect of each of the 300 odd reports we receive annually. I expressed my concern that a closer examination of the Department's policy in general is required, to establish exactly what our role is and what we are under remit to do with the reports we receive. I undertook to put together a few bullet points briefly setting out how matters are currently handled and my general thoughts on where we ought to be heading. This I attach.

Section 40

Enc.

Sec (AS) Policy Review '96

UFOs - MOD POLICY AND SEC(AS) ROLE

Present Position

- MOD policy is to examine and determine air defence significance of reported UFO sightings.

- Sec(AS)2a role is to act as MOD focal point for:

  -- MOD Policy
  -- UFO reports
  -- Parliamentary and Ministerial Business
  -- Public correspondence and telephone enquiries

- Press Office deals with enquiries from media, based on advice from Sec(AS).

- DAO/GE1 advise Sec(AS) on air defence aspects, DI55 advise on technology aspects.

Defence Interest?

- The DI55 remit is to look at sightings to determine whether there is any technology operating in the UK of which, from an intelligence perspective, we are not aware. DI55 has seen no evidence which supports the extraterrestrial hypothesis.

- DAO has no interest in extraterrestrial matters. (They concentrate their efforts on conventional military air defence threats).

- Any extraterrestrial activity of defence significance, if it ever occurred (whether military pilot reported, or detected by air defence radar or early warning system) would be handled by the Air Defence organisation. We might get to hear about it sometime after the event.

- Possible defence interest might stem from sightings by "credible witnesses", eg. professional civil pilots, ATCCs, the emergency services (police/fire), although there is currently no formal procedure for handling these within MOD.

  -- On the two occasions in the last two years that civil pilots have made airmiss reports, they have been investigated by CAA/MOD Joint Airmiss Working Groups. I passed details to D Air Def/GE3 who confirmed that they were not aware of any evidence of a matter of defence concern associated with the sightings.

- There is a public perception (fuelled by my predecessor's book) that MOD has a UFO investigation office. This

perception has significantly increased the number of UFO reports from members of the public received by Sec(AS):

-- 1994 250 reports
-- 1995 373 reports
-- 1996 250 (for the first half year)

- There are no resources to carry out any investigations to find explanations for UFO reports from members of the public. Sec(AS)2a1 is not resourced to provide an "aeronautical identification service" for what are probably explainable flying objects. ~~Thus~~ Instead responses setting out MOD's role and responsibilities ~~is~~ are sent by Sec(AS) to members of the public who request a reply when they make their report, and to all members of the public who write to the MOD. Numbers of letters this subject has generated is as follows:

-- 1994 399 letters
-- 1995 303 letters
-- 1996 273 (from Jan to Jul)

A significant proportion of the letters despatched are tailored to the specific queries raised by the correspondent. It is ~~and are~~ not just a question of sticking an address and ~~redundant~~ signature block around totally standard lines. The ~~drop~~ from 1994 to 1995 has arisen because ~~I do not despatch~~ a standard letter to every member of the public ~~that~~ reports a UFO sighting as ~~my predecessor did~~.

Staff resources allocated the UFO subject are assessed as being:

20% of EO's time per week.
33% of AO's time per week.

This ~~might not have been as significant~~ when the section was manned by 3 members of staff. ~~But since we gave up the (HEO)~~ ~~post~~, and with the activities of ~~my predecessors~~ increasing and more resources are devoted to handling this issue which as far as ~~I am concerned~~ is not considered by anyone within the Department ~~that I have come across~~ to be ~~of~~ defence concern.

[redacted]

Policy Issues

- MOD should confine its interest to those UFO reports which are either internally generated (by air defence system) or from credible witnesses.

-- Whether to establish a formal procedure - involving DAO and DI55 - to assess defence significance of such reports.

- As reports from the public are not investigated, MOD should stop collecting them.

  -- The US DOD does not ~~take~~ accept UFO reports from the public ~~, it~~ and uses the Internet to convey its position to the public. MOD should consider doing likewise (see attached). We might perhaps also arrange for a flyer to be produced similar to the Low Flying leaflet, which could be despatched through DPR's organisation.

  -- It is disingenuous to continue to take UFO reports from the public if no investigation into the reports is to be undertaken. It fuels the belief that the MOD has a UFO investigation department.

    --- The argument that a member of the public might have seen something which our air defence system has missed (because the technology was too advanced for our radar systems to detect) takes us no further. If we were to then investigate such a report, by doing as we currently do and seeking advice from DAO/GE1, it would be unlikely that anything would be revealed on the radar tapes.

Organisational Impact of (Way Forward) Policy Issues

- MOD's role would be reduced significantly, but more focused.

- Sec(AS) would continue its focal point role - including handling PQs/PEs - but focused solely on internally generated (air defence) or "credible witness" reports which may have some defence interest (currently amounting to a handful per year).

  -- DAO and DI55 must be fully involved in this process.

  -- Sec(AS), DAO and DI55 would be involved in answering PQs and PEs relating to such reports.

  -- Press Office would continue to handle any media interest.

  -- We would need to refresh UFO reporting procedures for the CAA/NATS (from professional pilots or ATCCs), and the emergency services (police/fire etc).

  -- We would need to draw up a standard letter to the public explaining why we no longer accept UFO reports from the public and arrange for these to be despatched via DPR's organisation (with the flyer if this idea is adopted).

FACT SHEET BANNER

USAF Fact Sheet 95-03

Unidentified Flying Objects and Air Force Project Blue Book

From 1947 to 1969, the Air Force investigated Unidentified Flying Objects under Project Blue Book. The project, headquartered at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, was terminated Dec. 17, 1969. Of a total of 12,618 sightings reported to Project Blue Book, 701 remained "unidentified."

The decision to discontinue UFO investigations was based on an evaluation of a report prepared by the University of Colorado entitled, *"Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects;"* a review of the University of Colorado's report by the National Academy of Sciences; previous UFO studies and Air Force experience investigating UFO reports during the 1940s, '50s and '60s.

As a result of these investigations, studies and experience gained from investigating UFO reports since 1948, the conclusions of Project Blue Book were: (1) no UFO reported, investigated and evaluated by the Air Force was ever an indication of threat to our national security; (2) there was no evidence submitted to or discovered by the Air Force that sightings categorized as "unidentified" represented technological developments or principles beyond the range of modern scientific knowledge; and (3) there was no evidence indicating that sightings categorized as "unidentified" were extraterrestrial vehicles.

With the termination of Project Blue Book, the Air Force regulation establishing and controlling the program for investigating and analyzing UFOs was rescinded. Documentation regarding the former Blue Book investigation was permanently transferred to the Modern Military Branch, National Archives and Records Service, Eighth Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20408, and is available for public review and analysis.

Since the termination of Project Blue Book, nothing has occurred that would support a resumption of UFO investigations by the Air Force. Given the current environment of steadily decreasing defense budgets, it is unlikely the Air Force would become involved in such a costly project in the foreseeable future.

There are a number of universities and professional scientific organizations that have considered UFO phenomena during periodic meetings and seminars. A list of private organizations interested in aerial phenomena may be found in *Gale's Encyclopedia of Associations.* Interest in and timely review of UFO reports by private groups ensures that sound evidence is not overlooked by the scientific community. Persons wishing to report UFO sightings should be advised to contact local law enforcement agencies.

Point of Contact

News media requiring Project Blue Book files should contact the National Archives Public Affairs Office, (202)-501-5525. Public queries should be addressed to the Project Blue Book archivist at (202) 501-5385. For queries not related to Project Blue Book, contact the National Archives receptionist at (202) 501-5400.

(Current as of June 1995)

keywords:special topics

AirForce LINK Fact Sheet Index

No context
Please will us
of at 22/8

Section 40

8711

CREATIVE INDEPENDENT
PRODUCTIONS (LONDON) LTD

FAX

FAO: Section 40
Secretariat (Air Staff) 2A
Ministry of Defence
Whitehall
London SW1A 2HB
Fax: 0171 218 Section 40

6th August 1996

Dear Section 40

RE: PROJECT X

I am writing to you from Creative Independent, a production company currently in pre production for a 90 minute film documentary based on UFO Phenomena and the influence science fiction is having on modern culture.

We are looking for various experts in their field to comment on their perception of UFO's and their popularity. As you deal with enquiries from the public concerning alleged sitings of UFO's for the Ministry of Defence, we would really like to feature your opinion in the documentary.

I will call you in a few days to ascertain whether you can accomodate our request.

Yours Sincerely,

Section 40

Production Coordinator

Enclosures

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC (AS) 2
-7 AUG 1996
FILE 6411

[redacted], LONDON NW1 0BJ TEL (44) 171 428 0486 FAX (44) 171 428 0486
Incorporated in England Reg. Office 51 Prince Street, Camden Town, London NW1 0BJ Reg No. 3146043



LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/1

31 Jul 96

DPO(RAF) - Section 40

JOHN BROWN PUBLISHING - REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON MOD INTEREST IN "UFO" SIGHTINGS

1. I have received the attached self-explanatory fax. I said that we would be able to provide Section 40 with a statement.

2. As usual, I should be grateful if this statement (along with an attachment giving numbers of sightings reported to the MOD since records were first kept) could be sent out through you.

3. If you have any queries, please give me a call. Thanks.

Section 40

Sec(AS)2a1
MB8245 82140MB



To: Section 40 Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a, Ministry of Defence
From: Section 40 John Brown Publishing
Re: Possible article on UFO reports
Date: 30th July 1996
Pages: 2

Dear Section 40

Many thanks for your assistance on the telephone earlier today. To reiterate my interest, I am doing some preliminary research for an article about UFO sightings in the UK. The article brief is to investigate fifty recent UFO sightings, where possible identifying the cause (kites, aircraft, Venus, etc.) but I would like to include some material on how sightings are reported and investigated, both by the MoD and less skeptical organizations such as BUFORA. The article will be printed in a new magazine, 'Bizarre', which John Brown Publishing will be launching in October.

Obviously you have to respect the privacy of those making the reports to you, as well as the interests of national security and the OSA. Nevertheless, any assistance you can give us would be very gratefully received.

On the phone, you mentioned the possibility of giving us a statement from the MoD. In the context of this, I would be interested in some information about:

The remit of the department and the scope of its activities;
Why the MoD is collecting information on UFO sightings;
Why responsibility for such things is with the MoD and not, say, the Meteorological Office or the Home Office.

I am also interested in information on:

How long the department has been in operation;
How members of the public hear about your department, so they know where to send reports;
How reports come to you from other sources;
How reports are processed, classified and investigated;
How many reports can be discounted as natural phenomena.

(Obviously this doesn't mean the rest are flying saucers, it just means they're

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VAT NO 446 2555 43

still unidentified, and the article will take pains to point that out);

How many people there are in the department;

How much of the department's findings are made public, and where the public can find more information on this.

You also mentioned that you have received around 250 reports so far this year. If you have figures, can you let me know how many sightings you have received each year for the last five or six years? It might be interesting for the article to correlate these figures against the appearance of popular science-fiction/paranormal films or TV series such as the X-Files.

For illustrative purposes, it would be extremely useful to have a copy of one of the forms which you use for collating data on a UFO report – whether blank or completed. I'm sure my chances of getting any UFO photographs for use with the article are less than zero.

And, to give the article a personal touch, it would be great to have a little information on you as well: how long you have been in this department; whether you believe in flying saucers; anything that can be used as a quote from you. Of course this may be impossible or you may be unwilling to reveal this, and I quite understand if that's the case.

I look forward to hearing from you. Many thanks in advance for your assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40 [redacted]

Sub-editor, *Bizarre*

STATEMENT FOR JOHN BROWN PUBLISHING

MOD INTEREST IN "UFO" SIGHTINGS

The Ministry of Defence has no interest, expertise or role with respect to "UFO/flying saucer" matters, or the question of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms about which we remain open-minded. To date, however, we remain unaware of any evidence which proves that these phenomena exist.

The Ministry of Defence examines any reports of "UFO" sightings it receives solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance; namely is there any evidence that the UK Air Defence Region might have been compromised by a foreign hostile military aircraft?

The reports are examined, with the assistance of the Department's air defence experts as required. Unless there is evidence of a potential military threat, and to date no "UFO" sighting has revealed such evidence, we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each sighting reported to us. We could not justify expenditure of public funds on investigations which go beyond our specific defence remit. We believe that rational explanations could be found for the "UFO" sightings reported to the MOD if resources were devoted to so doing. From the types of descriptions we receive aircraft or natural phenomena probably account for most of the observations.

"UFO" reports from members of the public are generally made to police stations, RAF bases, and civil air traffic control centres. The reports are forwarded to the MOD focal point to be looked at. Secretariat(Air Staff)2a, the single service secretariat branch which provides administrative support for RAF activities and operations, is the nominated MOD *focal point* for the subject of "UFOs". Although there are two members of staff in Sec(AS)2a who deal with "UFO"-related queries received by the MOD as part of their much wider ranging secretariat duties, there are no staff who work on this topic full-time.

NUMBERS OF "UNEXPLAINED" AERIAL SIGHTINGS REPORTED TO THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

1959 - 22	1981 - 600
1960 - 31	1982 - 250
1961 - 71	1983 - 390
1962 - 46	1984 - 214
1963 - 51	1985 - 177
1964 - 74	1986 - 120
1965 - 56	1987 - 150
1966 - 95	1988 - 397
1967 - 362	1989 - 258
1968 - 280	1990 - 209
1969 - 228	1991 - 117
1970 - 181	1992 - 147
1971 - 379	1993 - 258
1972 - 201	1994 - 250
1973 - 233	1995 - 373
1974 - 177	
1975 - 208	
1976 - 200	
1977 - 435	
1978 - 750	
1979 - 550	
1980 - 350	

Figures from before 1959 are not available.

NB. The above figures relate to the number of reports, received by the Ministry of Defence, of aerial activity which was not immediately identifiable to the witness. They should not be taken to reflect sightings of "UFO/flying saucers".

641

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 86

DATE	FROM	SUBJECT	CODES
30/07/96	SEC(AS)1B (9)	Menwith Hill Letter	[ ]

Intended:
Sent: 30/07/96 at 14:39 Delivered: 30/07/96 at 14:39
To: SEC(AS)2A (2)
CC:
Ref: 671
From: SEC(AS)1B (9) Auth by:
Subject: Menwith Hill Letter

Text: Section 40 Please see the attached for your files. Thank you,

Priority: Normal SEE PAGE Attachments [1]
Reply Request [ ] View Acknowledge [ ] Codes [ ]

Loose Minute

D/Sec(AS)/71/22

30 July 1996

RAF Cdr Menwith Hill

Copy to:

GCHQ/Z4A
Sec(AS)2a *

*by CHOTS

DRAFT REPLY FOR RAF CDR MENWITH HILL TO SEND TO [redacted]

Reference A:- Letter from [redacted] dated 29 June 1996

1. Please see the attached draft to send to [redacted] in response to his recent correspondence at Reference A. The draft has been cleared with GCHQ and Sec(AS)2a.

2. I would be grateful if you could provide this office with a copy of your final letter to [redacted] for our files. Thank you.

[signed]

[redacted]
SEC(AS)1B
MB7247A [redacted]MB
CHOTS: SEC(AS)1B (9)
Fax: [redacted]MB

DRAFT REPLY FOR RAF CDR MENWITH HILL TO SEND TO [redacted] Section 40

Thank you for your letter dated 29 June concerning RAF Menwith Hill.

RAF Menwith Hill is a Crown freehold site owned by the Ministry of Defence and made available to the US Department of Defense as a communications facility. The station is an integral part of the US Department of Defense world wide network which supports UK, US and NATO interests. It operates with the full knowledge and consent of Her Majesty's Government and the function of the site is regarded as being of the highest importance to this country's defence strategy. Whilst the administration of the station is the responsibility of the United States authorities, Her Majesty's Government retains control over the use of the site and its facilities.

As you will appreciate, for security reasons it is not the Government's policy to comment on the detailed operations at RAF Menwith Hill, however, I can assure you that the base has absolutely no connection with Unidentified Flying Objects.

I hope you find the above helpful.

The Sun
18 July 1996

Top secret UFO mysteries the MoD ignored

By JAMES MOORE

NICK POPE is the man with the real X Files. For three years, sceptical Nick, 30, was UFO investigator for the Ministry of Defence. But he became convinced that alien spacecraft have been visiting Earth. In his startling new book, Open Skies, Closed Minds, Nick says: "My experiences convinced me that UFOs are a real and threatening phenomenon."

Nick ran the UFO desk at Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a from 1991 to 1994 dealing with all UFO sightings. "Since 1959 the MoD has received 9,000 reported sightings of UFOs, though that is probably only the tip of the iceberg," he says.



NICK POPE... investigator

"By the time I finished my stint on the UFO desk I believed they were potentially the most important issue currently facing the human race."

Here Nick looks at some of the "unexplained" mysteries that changed his mind.

● Open Skies, Closed Minds is published by Simon And Schuster, priced £14.99.

Sometime in 1988

Alien encounter cost victim job

A MAN out for a quiet walk in the Quantock Hills encountered a UFO that cost him his job and almost his life.

It was a clear, still day in 1988. The man heard a deep rumbling above and ahead of him and saw a huge black craft moving towards him.

Its body was saucer-shaped but with two bat-like wings, one on each side.

It hovered for about five minutes, close enough for the witness to see that the main fuselage had two decks and a dome on top.

He could even make out a small figure wearing some kind of helmet through the windows of one of the decks.

The craft flew directly overhead, no more than 50ft above ground. Instinctively, he threw himself to the floor and as the shadow passed over him he felt a burning sensation. When he got home he discovered his clothes had been singed.

Suffering

Over the next two years the witness's health deteriorated and he lost his job. He found it difficult to eat and experienced waves of nausea.

His wife was terrified that he was suffering from radiation sickness and would die unless he got help. So she wrote to me.

I got in touch with a UFO organisation and their researchers contacted her husband's doctor. In the end the man was treated and recovered. But I could find no rational explanation for the black craft.

What made me really interested in this case was that it was similar to that of Betty Cash and Vickie and Colby Landrum from America. In 1980 they had an encounter with a diamond-shaped spacecraft while driving through a remote, swampy area in Texas.

After stopping in the road in front of them it left – pursued, they say, by 23 helicopters.

Afterwards they experienced symptoms like those of radiation – loss of hair, diarrhoea and nausea.

December 27, 1980



HIDDEN EVIDENCE... locked gates at military base where a UFO appeared

'Crashed plane' was spaceship

ONE incident I learned about during my time at the MoD's UFO desk helped convince me that aliens really do exist.

Two security guards at the RAF-U.S. Air Force base at Woodbridge, Suffolk, were patrolling the perimeter which borders Rendlesham Forest on December 27, 1980.

They saw bright lights among the trees and their first thought was that it was an aircraft that had overshot the runway and come down in the woods.

They went to investigate and it soon became clear that the object was no plane. They saw a metallic, triangular craft unlike anything they had seen before and chased it through the trees.

Two nights later there was a similar sighting and a larger team, led by the deputy base commander, USAF Lieutenant Colonel Charles Halt, went out to investigate.

As Halt and his men advanced into the forest their equipment started registering interference.

A light came towards them. Halt remembers: "It pulsated as if it was an eye winking at you. Around the edges it appeared to have molten metal dripping off it."

The light suddenly exploded into pieces and three sources from it hung in the sky for three hours. Locals also saw them. Some officals said the beams came from the lighthouse at Orford Ness but Halt's men would had been used to seeing these. The MoD have given no answers to Halt's reports.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR UNEXPLAINED EXPERIENCE

HAVE you had a close encounter with a UFO or alien? Write to: Alien, The Sun, 1 Virginia Street, London E1 9BD.

5

March 31, 1993

'Buzzed' at 1,100mph

I ARRIVED at work at 9am to find there had been a major wave of UFO sightings the previous night, March 31, 1993, with many police and military witnesses.

The first call came from a constable in Devon who had seen a UFO while on patrol with his colleague in their car.

Two bright lights and a third fainter one were flying in perfect formation ahead of vapour trails. From what he told me, they were clearly not aircraft lights.

Then I began to get other calls from people who had also seen the lights. Some described them as travelling at high speeds, others talked of a virtual hover.

If all the sightings were of the same object then it was zig-zagging in a random pattern at incredibly high speed.

It was the biggest wave of UFO sightings ever reported over Britain.

One came from a man in South Wales who was experienced in aviation and mathematics. He had calculated that it was travelling at 1,100mph.

Rocket

In Rugeley, Staffs, a family of five saw a huge diamond-shaped object.

And at RAF Shawbury in Shropshire the meteorological officer reported an object that was first stationary, then moved towards him at several hundred miles an hour.

He estimated it to be the size of a jumbo jet – but jumbo jets don't hover.

There had been no military aircraft activity that came close to fitting any of the sightings.

Officials at RAF Fylingdales early warning centre in North Yorkshire said the sightings might be debris from a Russian rocket. But this would have burnt up in the atmosphere and the flaming tail would have lasted only seconds.

I ordered radar tapes to be impounded and sent to me. They showed little.

Whatever it was had evaded our radar. My frustration turned to fear. There were too many witness reports to ignore.

I drew up a report on the UFO for my bosses. It read: "Type of craft – unknown. Origin of craft – unknown. Motive of occupants – unknown."

October 29, 1993

Cadet told 'Do not be afraid'

IN the early hours of October 29, 1993, something happened which I still can't explain. While on leave, a young cadet from the Britannia Royal Naval College in Dartmouth, Devon, saw a bright object glowing eerily in the sky.

Hovering over a sports field near his home in St Austell, Cornwall, it was disc-shaped with several different coloured lights and three protrusions on its underside.

And it seemed to turn anti-clockwise.

The witness – a trained Navy observer – said he received telepathic messages of greeting, telling him not to be afraid.

However a large bird plummeted to the ground after flying too close to the object.

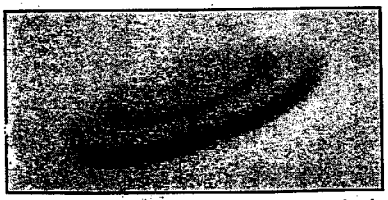
Then a bright light glowed on the underside of the craft and it shot vertically upwards at great speed.

The cadet reported the incident to the police who contacted me.

No explanation was ever found.

February 1994

Hovering craft is snapped . . . but still hushed up



FLYING LOW . . . an alien object over Scotland

FOR many years residents of Bonnybridge in Scotland have reported UFO sightings.

Despite their worries that strange things were happening, the Government did not seem to care.

In February 1994 I received a very detailed report of a UFO sighting in the area.

Civil servant Ian Macpherson, 43, was walking along the banks of Craigluscar reservoir taking photographs of the landscape. Suddenly he became aware of an odd humming noise.

He looked up and saw something coming low over the dark waters. It was several feet in diameter, disc-shaped and metallic, with lights on its rim. It descended until it was stationary, hovering 100ft above the water.

He watched the object for 15 minutes before it began to move off slowly.

Then it accelerated and vanished. He managed to get two photographs.

Blips

The first showed a frisbee-shaped object in the sky. The second, taken only a second or two later, revealed a mere dot in the distance. I carried out all the usual tests.

There were no weather ballons, radar blips or aircraft in the vicinity.

The photographs he took have been analysed and there is no evidence of them being faked.

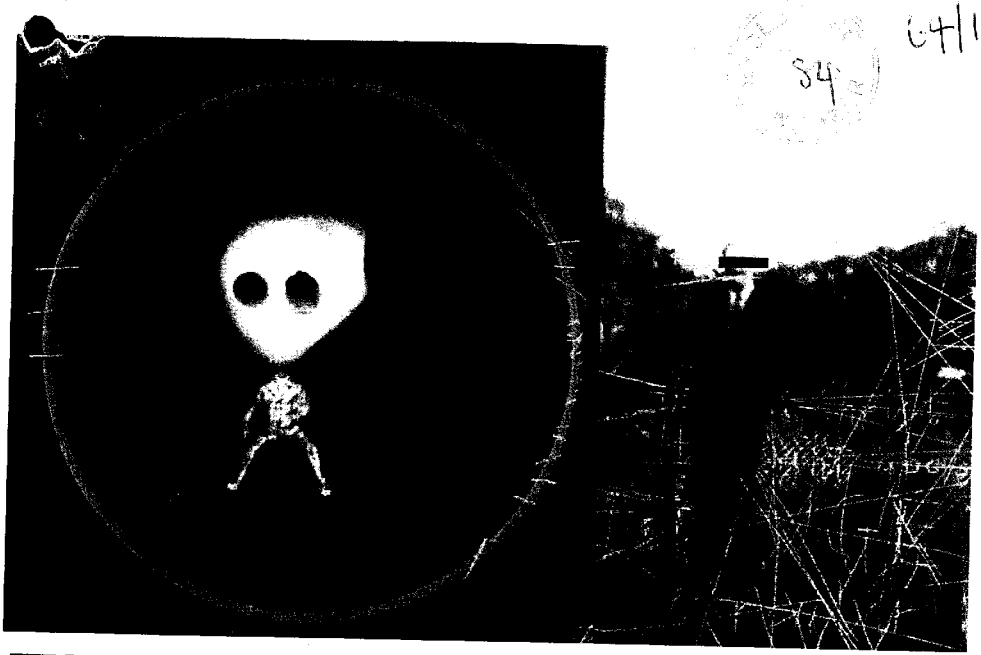
People from UFO groups in Bonnybridge rang me but I told them the Ministry were not reporting their sightings to me.

I wanted to go to there but that was not permitted. The Ministry's official verdict is "unexplained".

I get around 300 official reports of UFO sightings a year but in Bonnybridge thousands of people believe they have seen UFOs.

The party line at the Ministry was that there was nothing going on that could be a threat to national security.

But if there is any truth in just one of the many UFO sightings there then that is enough. How can we say there is no threat if we don't know what we are dealing with?



Flight recorder

In a small back room in the headquarters of the Ministry of Defence, a dedicated penpusher sits behind a cluttered desk. This is London's last line of defence against invaders from the stars. Isn't it time we started to take UFO sightings more seriously?

Report **Tony Thompson** Illustration **David Bray**

The man from the Ministry of Defence tried to remain calm but the voice on the other end of the telephone was distorted by excitement. He was gabbling, his words jumbled, almost hysterical. This was a man on the edge.

The caller was staring out of his window at Capital Radio's Euston headquarters and giving a running commentary on a UFO about to land in Regent's Park. 'It's almost down... it looks a bit like – like a big kite, but it can't be. It's down! It's down! My God, people are gathering round it...' There was a pause. The voice seemed less strained, less panicked. 'It can't be a kite, can it? Oh. The people are putting it back in a box. It is a kite. Sorry for having wasted your time.'

The man from the Ministry was Nick Pope. As the executive officer running the department known as Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a from room 8245 of the MoD's main building in Whitehall, Pope was officially responsible for investigating UFO sightings and handling government policy on the subject.

Prior to his appointment in 1991, Pope was sceptical about the paranormal. By 1994, when he was promoted from his post to elsewhere in the Ministry, his fascination with the subject led to him being dubbed 'the real Fox Mulder'.

He has become something of a hero to the pro-UFO lobby, showing genuine enthusiasm for his work and actually investigating reports rather than just filing them away. Earlier this year, his book, 'Open Skies, Closed Minds', about the real 'X Files' he uncovered during his time at the MoD, was published. Such was the difference in attitude it reflected that many, included the respected UFO expert Timothy Good, began to wonder whether the government's official policy had changed. It had not.

During the 1950s, almost all sightings were explained as 'weather balloons', especially those seen by pilots. When challenged about this, the then Air Minister, George Ward, confided to a colleague: 'What am I to say? I know it wasn't a balloon. You know it wasn't a balloon, but until I've got a saucer on the ground in Hyde Park and can charge the public sixpence a go to enter it, it must be a balloon otherwise the government would fall and I'd lose my job.'

In the years that followed, anyone calling or writing to the MoD about a possible UFO sighting would receive a standard letter explaining that the government's interest also extended to finding out whether the sighting represented a possible threat to national security. The overall tone would be that the person who made the sighting had almost certainly made a mistake. No wonder thousands began to believe the government was trying to hide something.

'I don't believe in cover-ups and conspiracy theories. Not in Britain at least,' says Pope, who describes it as 'unfortunate' that he himself has never seen a UFO. 'In my experience, it's almost a reverse of that situation – people don't know enough and that's what makes them complacent.

'Some have remained that way. Some people even tried to discourage me from writing the book. But I do have my supporters, particularly in the RAF. Many of the pilots have seen UFOs themselves but they have not made official reports because they fear ridicule.'

Seeing is believing

In theory, any member of the public can simply pick up the phone and report a UFO sighting to the UFO desk officer in Whitehall. In practice, those people invariably contact their local police station, civil airport or local RAF base.

What actually happens is something like this. A report is lodged by a member of the public at, say, a London police station. The appropriate form is filled in, usually by a desk sergeant at the dictation of the witness. How seriously this job is taken depends on the the personality and training of the officer. The report is then posted or faxed to Secretariat (Air Staff). The drawback here is that the desk is not manned 24 hours a day so reports made outside office hours will probably be sent via the London Air Traffic Control centre at RAF West Drayton. Up-to-the-minute sightings can then be partially verified by the radar facilities. If a member of the public phones the MoD's switchboard out of hours, they will be put through automatically to the permanently staffed Air Force operation room where details will be recorded and forwarded the next day.

'I have my supporters, particularly in the RAF. Many pilots have seen UFOs but not made reports because they fear ridicule.' Nick Pope

Each of these institutions has a written procedure based around a UFO report form on which the date and time of the particular sighting is recorded, as well as a description of what was seen. The papers are then bundled up and sent to Secretariat (Air Staff) at the MoD.

When Pope took over, this apparently simple operation had broken down. People who should have forwarded forms had not done so. Worse still, some of those who received UFO reports from the public had no idea there was official interest at all, and lumped them along with all the hoax and crank calls. Subsequently, hundreds of reports were not being passed to the Ministry at all. If there was a threat, we would never have known.

Pope decided to update everything, introducing a new standard form which details everything from the distance of the object to the nearest landmark, the angle of sight (estimated heights are notoriously unreliable) and the meteorological conditions at the time.

'It is a commonly held belief among ufologists that two separate forms exist, one for members of the public and one for people in positions of authority – police officers, pilots, the military,' says Pope.

'The implication is that the public's reports are binned or filed out of harm's way whereas the authoritative information is somehow treated differently. I am unaware of

any such system. There should now only be one form in use – mine – to be used by anybody and everybody.'

Pope admits, however, that he is more inclined to believe reports from pilots and military personnel, but only because members of the public feel the same way.

Indeed, the turning point in his own beliefs was a wave of sightings in March 1993 when the same 'structured craft' was seen over two military bases. 'One pilot actually heard a



'It's a tin-pot job – dealing with crank calls from people claiming aliens have landed in their living room.' Civil servant

humming noise coming from the craft, saw it fire a beam of light down towards the countryside and estimated its size to be only slightly smaller than a jumbo jet.'

Mass sightings are also highly regarded. 'Thousands of people cross Waterloo Bridge over the Thames every working day. One of them rang me in 1992 to tell me of a sighting witnessed by hundreds. It was about five in the afternoon and he was crossing the bridge when he suddenly stopped dead on the pavement. A brightly coloured object was hovering just over the brown of the river, just yards away from him. Then it burst away, in sharp spurts of speed, an erratic flight pattern impossible for an aircraft.

This was bizarre, for the object must have been seen by hundreds of people on that bridge as it hovered over one of the most densely populated cities on Earth, yet there was no corroborative evidence. Did it constitute a threat? It was right here in the capital, a scenario that HG Wells might have envisaged. It was as though it never happened. The irony was that this incident took place only a few hundred yards from the Ministry of Defence. A file from 1990 showed that shortly before I took over the UFO job, a number of civil servants from Main Building in Whitehall reported seeing a UFO from their office windows in a separate incident. A mysterious bright light had been observed hovering just above the cloud cover. No explanation was ever found.

'The standard line is that there is no evidence of a threat. I say you simply cannot say that. There is overwhelming evidence that our sophisticated defences are repeatedly being breached by craft. In some cases, our radar is unable to detect them. When it can, our jets are scrambled but unable to catch them. At the very least, that is a potential threat.' This kind of apocalyptic warning is just what the pro-UFO lobby has been waiting to hear. For some of Pope's colleagues, statements like this were the ramblings of a civil servant who had read too much sci-fi.

'It's a tin-pot job. One man and his dog in a cramped broom cupboard dealing with crank calls from people claiming that aliens have landed in their living room,' says one civil servant who worked in the same post some years ago. 'You just take the messages and send out standard letters. It's all about politeness.

'I mean, if it's such a big scandal, if there's such a big cover-up going on, why is there just some junior executive civil servant doing it? People have been doing the job for decades and it was only when Pope came along that it suddenly became this department with responsibility for investigating UFOs.'

In truth, any glamour which has been attached to Pope's position is somewhat misplaced. A realistic measure of its true ranking within the civil service can be gauged from the fact that UFOs are reported to department 2A while just down the corridor, department 2B deals with members of the public reporting low-flying military aircraft causing a nuisance: 'You spend all day listening to people holding their phones up to the sky and shouting: "Oi, can you hear this bloody racket..." ' notes a former MoD official.

But sceptics can only argue their case so far. Around 90 to 95 per cent of UFO sightings can be explained in conventional terms – even Pope agrees with this. But even this statistic leaves nearly 650,000 unexplained sightings worldwide.

The official response to the publication of Pope's book has been low-key. It could hardly be anything else. For the MoD to agree wholeheartedly with Pope's conclusions – 'I believe there is a war going on – a one-sided war so secret we aren't even aware that it's happening' – would cause a national panic. For it to disagree too strongly would simply add weight to the idea of a cover-up.

Conspiracy theorists point out that, because of the Official Secrets Act, Pope's book had to be submitted to the MoD for clearance. Pope himself admits that changes were made to the text, but says they did nothing to 'dilute the message'. The truth is out there, he says, and some of it can be found between the covers of his book. ●

'Open Skies, Closed Minds' by Nick Pope is published by Simon & Schuster at £14.99. To report a UFO sighting, call the MoD on 0171 218 9000 and ask for Sec (AS) 2a.

Manifesto



Single mothers deserve more financial support, says **Laura Johnson** of the Campaign Against the Child Support Act.

Early this month, an all-party group of MPs voted to cut the income support of single mothers who refuse to co-operate with the Child Support Agency (CSA). From October, thousands of mothers like me will live and raise children on £60.94 a week – a cut of £19.16 (40 per cent of the mother's personal allowance). The MPs also shortened the time in which mothers can claim exemption from the penalty on the grounds that they have 'good cause' because they fear harm or undue distress to their families.

When the 1993 Act came in, the Government said it would benefit single mothers and their children, even though single mothers were the first to oppose it. Since then, 115,000 mothers have stopped claiming income support. Now, the higher penalty aims to starve even more single mothers of benefits, forcing them either back to men they don't want to be with or into destitution, prostitution or jobs paying under £57 a week.

Single mothers involved in the Campaign Against the Child Support Act (CACSA) are trained to give accurate and independent advice. Every day we speak to others like ourselves, who have reasons for not co-operating which the CSA won't accept.

Many women want to protect their children's relationship with their father. Others who have suffered rape or other violence find it hard to speak out about it. Many don't get advice until the benefit deduction is in place because the CSA doesn't tell them about their right to claim on 'good cause' grounds. Women who understand little or no English are not told of their rights in their own language.

Over a recent three-month period, 26 per cent of single mothers contacted said they were at risk from harm or undue distress, but 65 per cent were refused exemption. The Government claims that this is simply proof of widespread fraud, in the same way that their refusal of 95 per cent of asylum claims 'proves' that most asylum-seekers are bogus.

Many women struggle long and hard to leave violent relationships. The Act erodes these victories. My child is better off without his father. He will be a kinder, more considerate human being without the teachings of a man who did not respect his own family. The Act takes away my right to make decisions and forces me into contact with him, knowing full well that abusive fathers expect 'something' once they pay.

How much violence and terror is being faced by those hundreds of thousands of mothers who were misled or coerced into 'cooperating' by CSA officers?

How dare the Government accuse mothers, who are living on what most ministers spend on one lunch, of fraud. We have never sold arms to Iraq, asked parliamentary questions for money, held company directorships, pushed legislation to advance those companies' profits, or covered up the dangers of eating beef or eggs or living near Sellafield.

Mildred Gordon, MP for Bow and Poplar – the only one on the Social Security Select Committee and the only one defending single mothers' right to increased financial support – pointed out that the cut in benefit was debated 'on the same day that the House was considering radically increasing the salaries of Members of Parliament'.

Yet support for the Act has come from people who claim to support women on benefits. For example, the National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux doesn't oppose a lower benefit penalty; the National Council for One Parent Families has always supported the Act and helped to draft it. Both organisations are headed by women who would consider themselves to be feminists.

MPs from all the parties have conspired to deny single mothers the right to choose whether or not to apply for maintenance. They have never recognised that the work of raising children entitles mothers to benefits. They have been impressed by the scale of the anti-CSA movement, but it is well-off men who have benefited from amendments to the Act, not their ex-partners or children. Unemployed men on benefits have had only 10 per cent deducted from their income Support, and the average income of employed fathers pursued by the Agency is £196 a week, below the national average. How can this help single mothers?



Request from a local radio station to give an interview on "UFO" sightings.

Caveat:

Covering:

In the interests of Speed I faxed a previous refused which sets out our reasons against an interview.

(Rev 2/95)

Facsimile Transmission Cover Sheet

83

Serial Number:	Transmission: Date: 16 JUL 96 Time:
From: Section 40 SEC(AS)2	Fax Number: Tel Number: 82140 MB
Authorised by: Rank: Eo Name: Section 40 Appointment: SEC(AS)2	Signature: Section 40

Document Reference:	64/1 SEC
Total number of pages including this one:	3
To: FLT LT Section 40 RAF SHAWBURY	Fax Number: Section 40
Transmitted by: Rank: AO Name: Section 40 Tel Number:	Signature:

Subject: REQUEST FOR INTERVIEW ON UFO SIGHTINGS.

1. As promised attached reasons why we prefer not to give interviews on UFO matters. The points made remain valid today — Section 40

Section 40

2. We don't give interviews as would not wish to set an unhelpful precedent.

3. IF requested the MOD Press Desk Section 40 will give them Section 40 on a statement.

Section 40

Classification:

Caveat: 4 Make no comment about Section 40 if asked.

Covering:

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
From: Section 40, Secretariat(Air Staff)2a, Room 8245
Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct Dialling) 071 2182140
(Switchboard) 071 218 9000
(Fax)

No. 5 115

Flight Lieutenant Section 40 RAF
Community Relations Officer
Royal Air Force Valley
Holyhead
Gwynedd
LL65 3NY

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/12/1

Date
7 October 1994

Dear Flight Lieutenant Section 40

INVITATION TO APPEAR ON LOCAL RADIO TO DISCUSS UFOs

Reference: RAF Valley fax of 6 Oct 94.

1. We have considered the invitation you have received to appear on the Section 40 Show on Marcher Coast FM and believe the invitation should be declined. I would like to explain clearly why we have reached this judgement, and how best you might respond to the radio station.

2. The scope of your role during this programme would be to represent the MOD's official policy and line towards the subject of unexplained aerial sightings. We have found that there is widespread misunderstanding amongst members of the public, and indeed amongst some MOD/RAF officials, as to precisely what that role is.

3. MOD interest is concerned solely with whether an unexplained aerial incident represents a threat to the UK's air defences. If we find no evidence of such a threat we make no effort to investigate what may have been seen, and our interest thus terminates. To date we have received no evidence whatsoever to substantiate the existence of any "UFOs" in the commonly accepted meaning of the acronym; ie. flying saucers with aliens aboard. We remain open-minded about those sightings which are not easily explained, as it is beyond our remit to investigate further.

4. During the course of this programme, as a serving officer representing the RAF/MOD, you would not be able to speculate or offer any personal opinions. It would be very difficult to sustain the MOD line, (which would take about one minute at most to deliver), faced with the pressure to say something interesting. It is highly likely you would be asked about your own personal views and about what course of action we would take if we received reliable evidence of extra-terrestrial aggression. This would be impossible to answer, for the appropriate response would, of course, be determined in the light of the particular circumstances. But any speculation on your part risks being run back at us as a statement of UK MOD policy.

5. The result would almost certainly make for an uninspiring programme and may fuel the view that we are actually hiding something. Contrary to your assertion about possible PR value to Valley and the RAF, we believe the opposite to be more likely.

6. Therefore we would suggest that you respond to the invitation in the following way:

- MOD has a specific and limited interest in unexplained aerial sightings: we look at sightings to identify whether they represent any threat and if they do not then that is the end of our interest.

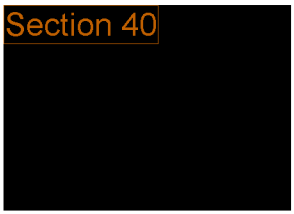
- MOD's role is to maintain the security of the UK and to protect against any aggressor and unless a potential threat is thought to exist we do not try to determine what may have been seen. We do not analyse or undertake any research into unusual aerial sights which represent no threat.

- Role of Valley CRO is to put forward the RAF/MOD position, which it would take one minute to express. As a representative of MOD, unable to speculate beyond the formal position or offer any personal opinions, even if it were stressed these were only personal opinions.

- Do not therefore believe there is any useful contribution that I/RAF Valley could make to this programme.

7. I have discussed the above with the RAF Press Office who agree our line. I am sorry if the above is a disappointing response. Should you wish to discuss this matter further please give me a call.

Yours sincerely,



Copy to:

DPO

SECRETARIAT(AIR STAFF) Fax [redacted] Section 40

** Transmit Conf. Report **

16 Jul '96 15:45

SECRETARIAT(AIR STAFF)---> [redacted] Section 40	
No.	0974
Mode	NORMAL
Time	2'14"
Pages	3 Page(s)
Result	O K

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 82

16-Jul-96 14:55 Section 40 Section 40

CREATIVE INDEPENDENT
PRODUCTIONS (LONDON) LTD

PRESS RELEASE

Creative Independent has signed an exclusive option with UFO expert Peter Paget to produce the definitive documentary on an extraordinary spate of UFO sightings which occurred within a small area of West Wales. The agreement also gives Creative Independent the right to produce a dramatisation of the events. It is anticipated that the documentary provisionally titled **PROJECT X: THE FIRST TRUE UK UFO STORY? (1 x 90 mins)** will be ready for MIPCOM. It is the culmination of three years of research by Peter Paget and writer/director Gary Boulton-Brown and is based on the best selling book THE WELSH TRIANGLE, it promises to shed new light on the currently popular UFO phenomena.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SECRETARIAT
16 JUL
64/1

Creative Independent Productions (London) Ltd can be contacted at 51 Pratt Street, Camden Town, London NW1 OBJ Tel: No. 0171 428 0486

81 PRATT STREET, CAMDEN TOWN, LONDON NW1 0BJ TEL (44) 171 428 0486 FAX (44) 171 428 0486
Incorporated in England Reg. Office 81 Pratt Street, Camden Town, London NW1 0BJ Reg No. 3146043

641



DATE	TO	SUBJECT	CODES
10/07/96	DPO(RAF)	LWT REQUEST FOR INFORMATION - UFO	[ ]

Sent: 10/07/96 at 14:59
To: DPO(RAF)
CC:

Ref: 704
Subject: LWT REQUEST FOR INFORMATION - UFO SIGHTING - 24 FEB 79

Text:

Priority: Normal
Reply Request [ ]
View Acknowledge [*]
Delivery Acknowledge [*]
Attachments [1]
Codes [ ]

To: Section 40 DPG

10 Jul 96

From: Section 40 Sec(AS)2a1

Section 40

LWT REQUEST FOR A MOD STATEMENT ON AN "UFO" SIGHTING ON 24 FEB 79 IN THE SCARISBRICK/SOUTHPORT/ALMSKIRK AREA

1. You will recall a few weeks ago, you received a telephone call from LWT about a "UFO" sighting over a caravan park in the Scarisbrick, Almskirk, Southport area at 0200 hrs on 24 Feb 79.

2. As discussed at the time, the files from this period are held at Hayes. We have now laid our hands on the Feb 79 "UFO" reports file and can trace only three "UFO" sightings reported to the MOD for 24 Feb 79, all took place in the London area:

(1)	2342 hrs	PINNER, NW London
(2)	0130 hrs - 0300 hrs	PUTNEY, SW London
(3)	2359 hrs	STOCKWELL, S London

3. I therefore suggest you respond to LWT along the following lines:

"The "UFO" reports file for Feb 1979 has been recalled from MOD archives and we can find no record of a report of a "UFO" sighting received by the Department for 24 Feb 79 for the Scarisbrick/Southport/Almskirk area."

4. Happy to discuss if required.

Section 40



UFO REPORT - 24 FEB 79 - REQUEST FOR STATEMENT FROM LWT THROUGH PRESS OFFICE

LWT rang the Press Office. Wanted a statement about a sighting which took place as follows:

Date: 24 Feb 79
Time: 0200 hrs
Location: Scarisbrick/Southport/Almskirk area
Over a caravan park

Recalled file: DS8/75/2/4B (opened 15/2/79)
"UFO Reports - 1979 (Feb - May)"

Can trace three "UFO" sightings reported to the MOD for 24 Feb 79, all took place in the London area:

(1)	2342 hrs	PINNER, NW London
(2)	0130 hrs - 0300 hrs	PUTNEY, SW London
(3)	2359 hrs	STOCKWELL, S London

Press Office Statement:

The "UFO" reports file for Feb 1979 has been recalled from the MOD archives and we can find no record of any "UFO" sighting received by the MOD for 24 Feb 79 for the Scarisbrick/Southport/Almskirk area.



LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/1

27 June 1996

Chief Paper Keeper, MOD Archives Hayes - Section 40

RETRIEVAL OF "UFO" REPORT FILE

Reference: D/Sec(AS)/64/1 dated 20/6/96

1. Thank you for forwarding to this office file D/DS8/75/2/3 Part J entitled "UFO Reports" as requested in my minute at reference. The file was required to answer a request from a television company who are investigating a "UFO" sighting from February 1979. However, the file was closed in January 1979, therefore we now require the following file part. According to the information on the cover, the next part should be D/S4(Air)/8/2/4 Part A, although this office has no record of this file's existence. Please could you check to see if you have this file and, if so, please forward it to this office. I would also be grateful if you could let me know if you cannot locate the file.

2. For ease our full address is as follows:

Sec(AS)2a
Room 8245
Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

3. I will return file D/DS8/75/2/3 Part J through the post. If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Section 40

Sec(AS)2a
MB8245 MB
Section 40

Caveat:

Covering:

(Rev 2/95)

Facsimile Transmission Cover Sheet

Serial Number: /	Transmission: Date: 27 June 96 Time:
From: SOC(AS)2A	Fax Number: X Section 40 MS
Tel Number: X Section 40	
Authorised by: Rank: AO Name: Section 40 Appointment:	
Signature:	

Document Reference: 64/1	
Total number of pages including this one: 2	
To: Section 40 Chief Paper Keeper	Fax Number: Section 40
Transmitted by: Rank: Name: Tel Number:	
Signature:	

Subject: "UFO" REPORT FILE.

Classification:

Caveat:

Covering:

** Transmit Conf.Report **

27 Jun '96 12:19

SECRETARIAT(AIR STAFF)---> Records Office,	
No.	0798
Mode	NORMAL
Time	1'09"
Pages	2 Page(s)
Result	O K

FROM: Group Captain Section 40 AFC RAF

Letters from UK should be addressed
British Embassy
BFPO 2

Assistant Air Attaché
British Embassy
3100 Massachusetts Ave NW
Washington DC 20008

Tel:
Fax: Section 40

SECRET
78
NUMBER
64/1

BDS/RAF/3640 (Section 40 22)

Section 40
Secretariat (Air Staff)2
Room 8247
Main Building
Ministry of Defence
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

7 June 1996

Dear Section 40

US project update

REPORTS OF UNEXPLAINED AERIAL PHONEMENA

Reference:

A. D/Sec(AS)/64/1 dated 28 May 96

1. In Reference A you raised a number of points regarding the US approach to the question of unexplained aerial phenomena. We passed your query to an RAF Exchange Officer serving at the Headquarters of United States Air Force Space Command. After posing the questions to a variety of staff - and receiving blank looks in return! - he was referred to the Internet. The attached printout he obtained shows that out here the issue is no longer considered by the DoD; it is seen as a matter for local law enforcement agencies.

Yours sincerely

Section 40

Printed on recycled paper

FACT SHEET BANNER

USAF Fact Sheet 95-03

Unidentified Flying Objects and Air Force Project Blue Book

From 1947 to 1969, the Air Force investigated Unidentified Flying Objects under Project Blue Book. The project, headquartered at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, was terminated Dec. 17, 1969. Of a total of 12,618 sightings reported to Project Blue Book, 701 remained "unidentified."

The decision to discontinue **UFO** investigations was based on an evaluation of a report prepared by the University of Colorado entitled, *"Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects;"* a review of the University of Colorado's report by the National Academy of Sciences; previous **UFO** studies and Air Force experience investigating **UFO** reports during the 1940s, '50s and '60s.

As a result of these investigations, studies and experience gained from investigating **UFO** reports since 1948, the conclusions of Project Blue Book were: (1) no **UFO** reported, investigated and evaluated by the Air Force was ever an indication of threat to our national security; (2) there was no evidence submitted to or discovered by the Air Force that sightings categorized as "unidentified" represented technological developments or principles beyond the range of modern scientific knowledge; and (3) there was no evidence indicating that sightings categorized as "unidentified" were extraterrestrial vehicles.

With the termination of Project Blue Book, the Air Force regulation establishing and controlling the program for investigating and analyzing UFOs was rescinded. Documentation regarding the former Blue Book investigation was permanently transferred to the Modern Military Branch, National Archives and Records Service, Eighth Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20408, and is available for public review and analysis.

Since the termination of Project Blue Book, nothing has occurred that would support a resumption of **UFO** investigations by the Air Force. Given the current environment of steadily decreasing defense budgets, it is unlikely the Air Force would become involved in such a costly project in the foreseeable future.

There are a number of universities and professional scientific organizations that have considered **UFO** phenomena during periodic meetings and seminars. A list of private organizations interested in aerial phenomena may be found in *Gale's Encyclopedia of Associations.* Interest in and timely review of **UFO** reports by private groups ensures that sound evidence is not overlooked by the scientific community. Persons wishing to report **UFO** sightings should be advised to contact local law enforcement agencies.

Point of Contact

News media requiring Project Blue Book files should contact the National Archives Public Affairs Office, (202)-501-5525. Public queries should be addressed to the Project Blue Book archivist at (202) 501-5385. For queries not related to Project Blue Book, contact the National Archives receptionist at (202) 501-5400.

(Current as of June 1995)

keywords:special topics

AirForce LINK Fact Sheet Index

US - Project Blue Book

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 77

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/1

20 June 1996

Chief Paper Keeper, MOD Archives Hayes - Section 40

RETRIEVAL OF "UFO" REPORT FILE

1. This office has received a request from a television company who are investigating a "UFO" sighting from February 1979. In order to answer their query, it would be most helpful if you could arrange for file **D/DS8/75/2/3 Part J** entitled **"UFO Reports"** to be despatched to this office.

2. For ease our full address is:

Sec(AS)2a
Room 8245
Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

3. If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Section 40 [redacted]

Sec(AS)2a
MB8245 [redacted] MB Section 40

Caveat:

Covering:

(Rev 2/95)

Facsimile Transmission Cover Sheet

Serial Number: —	Transmission: Date: 20 June 96 Time:
From: Sec(AS)2A	Fax Number: Section 40 [redacted]
	Tel Number: Section 40 [redacted]
Authorised by: Rank: AO Name: Section 40 [redacted] Appointment:	
Signature: [redacted]	

Document Reference: D/Sec(AS)64/1	
Total number of pages including this one: 2	
To: Section 40 [redacted] Chief Paper Keeper	Fax Number: Section 40 [redacted]
Transmitted by: Rank: Name: Tel Number:	
Signature:	

Subject: "UFO" REPORT FILE.

Classification:

Caveat:

Covering:

** Transmit Conf.Report **

20 Jun '96 10:07

SECRETARIAT(AIR STAFF)---> Section 40	
No.	0700
Mode	NORMAL
Time	0'46"
Pages	2 Page(s)
Result	O K

AS2 – Section 40



LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)64/1(MF133/96)

12 June 1996

PS/2nd PUS

UFOs

We followed up 2nd PUS's suggestion about checking American practice on UFO matters, and I attach a copy of the response. As you will see, the USAF position is consistent with our own but they discourage approaches from the public rather more pointedly than we do.

Section 40

Head of Sec(AS)
MB7257 [redacted] Section 40

ROYAL AIR FORCE STAFF
BRITISH DEFENCE STAFF (WASHINGTON)

British Embassy
3100 Massachusetts Avenue NW
Washington DC 20008-3688
Tel: Section 40
Fax:

FAX TRANSMISSION COVER SHEET

DATE: 7 June 1996

TO: Section 40 Sec(AS)2

FAX: Section 40

FROM: Group Captain Section 40 Assistant Air Attaché

YOU SHOULD RECEIVE 3 PAGES(S) INCLUDING THIS COVER SHEET.
IF YOU DO NOT RECEIVE ALL THE PAGES, PLEASE CALL Section 40

FILE

Hd of Sec(AS)

You asked me to find out what the Americans did about UFO reports. The attached is self-explanatory. Briefly the answer is "nothing".

Section 40
7/6

FROM: Group Captain Section 40 AFC RAF

Assistant Air Attaché
British Embassy
3100 Massachusetts Ave NW
Washington DC 20008

Tel: Section 40
Fax:

Letters from UK should be addressed
British Embassy
BFPO 2

BDS/RAF/3640 (22)

Section 40
Secretariat (Air Staff)2
Room 8247
Main Building
Ministry of Defence
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

7 June 1996

Dear Section 40

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Yours sincerely

Section 40

Printed on recycled paper

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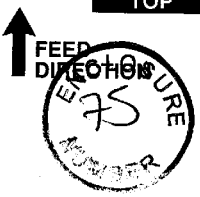
(Current as of June 1995)

keywords:special topics

AirForce LINK Fact Sheet Index

END U N C L A S S I F I E D

TOP



U N C L A S S I F I E D

CWD053 10/1059 162A0781

FOR CAB

ROUTINE/ROUTINE 101013Z JUN 96

FROM MODUK AIR
TO RAF WADDINGTON
INFO HQSTC

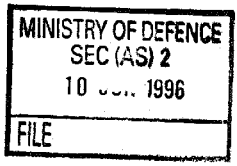
U N C L A S S I F I E D
SIC ACA/JDA
FROM: SEC(AS)2A

SUBJECT: REPORT OF UNIDENTIFIED LOW FLYING OBJECT

REFERENCE: 071525Z JUN 96

1. FURTHER TO YOUR SIGNAL AT REFERENCE, PLEASE NOTE THAT ANY REPORTS OF UNEXPLAINED AERIAL SIGHTINGS SHOULD BE ALSO BE SENT TO MODUK AIR FOR THE ATTENTION OF SEC(AS)2A1 USING SIC JDA
BT

DISTRIBUTION JDA
F
CAB 1 SEC(AS) ACTION (CXV 1 AFDO)



END U N C L A S S I F I E D

ENCLOSURE 74 NUMBER

family life

What does 16-year-old Ellie do after school?

... She looks after her mother, who has multiple sclerosis – she is one of thousands of child carers coping with responsibilities way beyond their years. By Jo Kearney

In most families it is parents who take care of the children and only old age reverses the roles. But for some children the reversal comes much sooner as physical or mental health problems overtake their mum or their dad and there is no one else to take the strain. As many as 40,000 children may be fulfilling the roles of little mothers and fathers, according to a new report*, and one Children's Society report found children as young as three suffering anxiety and stress as a result of caring.

Children lose out on their education, their friends and their freedom as they shoulder practical burdens such as the shopping and housework or the psychological ones of pain, illness or erratic behaviour.

Ellie Davey of Winchester was 11 years old when her mother Ann, 43, was diagnosed as having multiple sclerosis. Now 16, Ellie takes on much of the day to day care for her mother at a time when most other teenagers are still free of the cares and responsibilities that will catch up with them soon enough. Her sister, Charlotte, who used to be able to help has now gone to university in London and her stepfather, Chris, works long hours as a school teacher and is not back until late.

So when Ellie comes home there is dinner to cook, homework to do, dirty clothes that need washing and sometimes tears of pain from her mother lying under a blanket on the sofa. There is no slumping in front of *Home and Away* with a cup of tea and a biscuit.

Her school work has already suffered. She has got nine GCSEs but at grades she knows are beneath her ability. "When I was studying for my GCSEs, I had to let a lot of my schoolwork go. By the time I'd made dinner and cleared up and maybe hung up the washing, I was too tired," she says.

"There was a time when mum was in hospital for eight weeks when I got quite depressed. I just didn't feel like doing school work. Seeing your mum in such pain makes you feel so sad. When I didn't do my essays, I'd get into trouble at school. Some of my teachers warned me if I didn't work I'd fail my exams. They didn't support me by telling me the most essential work I could have done. They just thought I was lazy."

She has lost friends, too. Her best friend was not very understanding when her mother fell ill so they are no longer close. "You really find out who your friends are," she says. "You can confide in some of them, but when you're a teenager, it's just not cool to have a mother in a wheelchair. No one wants to hear about your sick mum all the time."

Yet she is not resentful. "At first you think everything is so unfair. But you can't spend your life being bitter, you have to come to terms with it. What I think is more difficult is the psychological side of things. If mum's crying it's really hard."

One positive aspect is that she feels she and her mum have a very close personal relationship – they are more like friends than mother and daughter. She has also learnt new skills by looking after her mother and is more patient too. "But life is very routine and boring," she says.

'You really find out who your friends are. You can confide in some of them, but when you're a teenager, it's just not cool to have a mother in a wheelchair'

Since she first fell ill in 1990, Ann's condition has gradually deteriorated, making most physical activity such as shopping, cooking and housework impossible. Five years ago she juggled her job as a nursery nurse with running the house and bringing up two daughters. Now she is confined to the sofa or a wheelchair for much of the time, sometimes in excruciating pain. She is deeply frustrated by her lot.

"I still feel guilty about my daughters missing out on normal teenage years, but I now realise there's nothing I can do. You have to come to terms with it otherwise you would become bitter and depressed, and would only end up alienating your family."

She was a vegetarian who enjoyed cooking a variety of dishes. Now she is grateful for whatever Ellie can do. "It's amazing the little things you miss when you aren't able to do them," said Ann. "I still like to cook but I have to get Ellie to cut up the vegetables because my arms are too weak."

Her health fluctuates. On some days she can walk for five to 10 minutes before her legs turn to jelly and she becomes exhausted; at other times she sleeps for weeks at a time. At times the pain has been so bad she has had to spend long periods in hospital.

"We all hate the illness because it prevents us leading a normal life," she says. "But we have had to adapt."

Ellie was 11 when the words MS were first mentioned. "I'd heard of the illness because when I was at primary school we had a sponsored run to raise money for the mother of one of the pupils. I always thought it would be terrible to get something like that.

"When mum was diagnosed I was numb. I was depressed all the time, I couldn't concentrate on lessons. My school friends were worrying about homework and I was thinking my mother might die. Now my life is so strange and my priorities are different. My friends might be concerned about buying the latest bag or fashion, but that's not important to me.

"I go to friends' houses and some of them have parents who make their beds and even serve them meals on a tray. After school my friends can go out, and on Friday nights they hang around town and go out to pubs. I usually go home to care for mum, and anyway I'm so tired a lot of the time."

Ann desperately does not want Ellie to miss out on a social life but concedes it is very difficult for her to have one because her mum cannot drive her to the pictures and it is often difficult to bring friends back home because of her mum's condition.

Ann admits she would be lost without her daughters but she is adamant that they also have their own lives and she is keen that Ellie will go to university as well as Charlotte even if it means her leaving Hampshire. "I will have to rely on the MS support group and Chris," she says.

Ellie says she would prefer not to go too far away. "I know if I phone Mum she will say everything is OK – even if it is not."

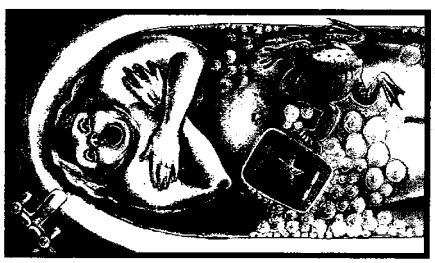
** 'Couldn't Care More' is written by Jenny Franks and funded by the Children's Society, Hampshire County Council and North and Mid Hampshire Health Commission.*

family allowance

In March Tower Hamlets council had to promise the High Court to assess the needs of an epileptic woman and her 10-year-old son who is her sole carer. Annabel Benjamin, 35, is susceptible to black-outs and violent fits. She wanted the council to provide her with a carer to allow her son to be able to take part in out-of-school activities.

the children's story

The Magic Lunch Box



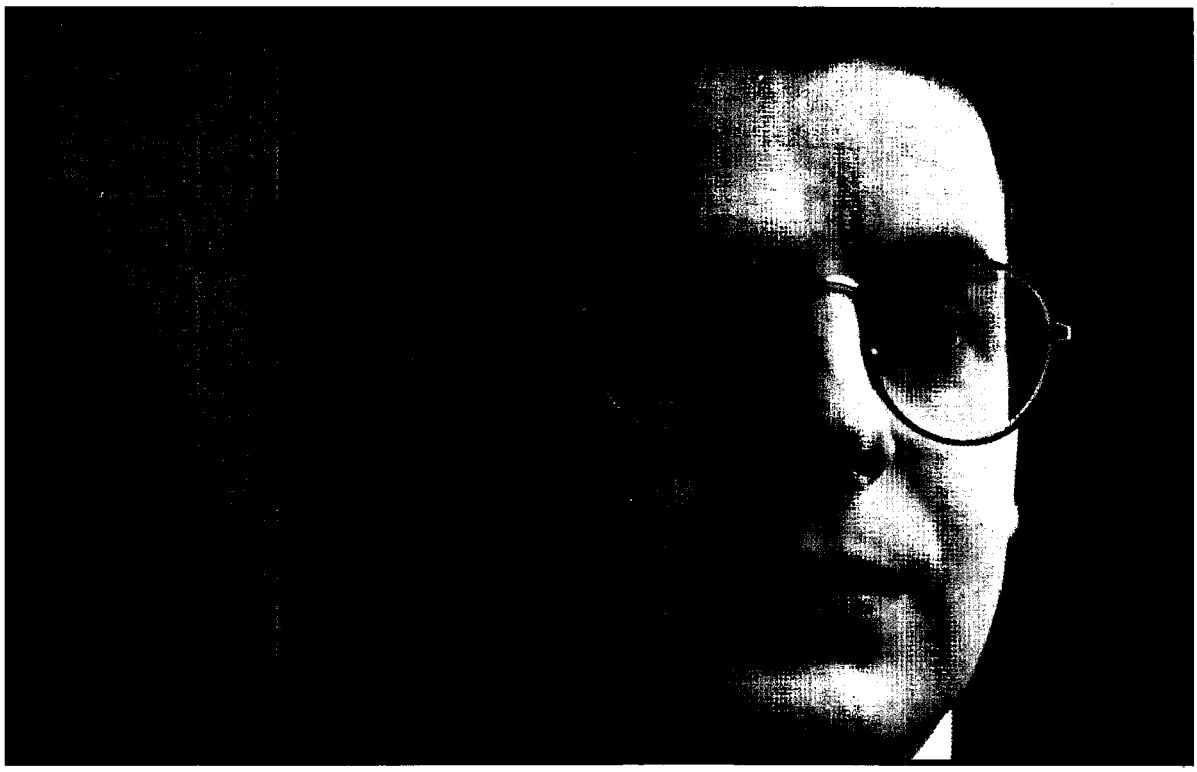
CATHERINE DONALDSON

One bright sunny morning Katy got up. She got her clothes on and went out. She went down the road to the shop to buy her sweets. She went into the shop and she saw a new lunch box and she opened it. It had all kinds of drink and food inside. She ate some of the sweets POP! BANG! She changed into a toad!

When she got home her mum was having a bath and Katy jumped in it. The mum was very frightened.

The next day Katy woke up to discover she was back to normal. Katy went into her mummy's and daddy's bedroom she woke them up. They said "Hello Katy. We did not like it when you were a toad!" Katy replied, "Well, neither did I!"

Later on that same day Katy started to feel thirsty so she decided to have a drink from the flask in the magic lunch-box. POP! BANG! She turned into a seagull and flew across the Channel, and she drank some French wine and that turned her back into a girl, and that's when the trouble started. Luckily, she had brought her lunch-box with her. She opened the lid and ate some chocolate and toffee-flavoured crisps. POP! BANG! She turned into a goldfish! She swam back across the Channel, up the River Thames [illegible] Loughton Brook which went p[illegible]



Nick Pope: 'It is sheer arrogance to believe that we're alone in the universe'
Photograph: Tony Buckingham

substantial input from a commercial writer and is bound to top the best-seller list, merely recaps all the old paranoid chestnuts, most of them from the United States, the ones from Britain being a bit thin on the ground.

All that Pope really has to tell us is that he, a government official, has made the leap of faith. Encouraged by the sheer volume of unexplained sightings and incidents, he is now a believer. "It is sheer arrogance to believe that we're alone in the universe ... and it seems inconceivable that these craft would be coming here, as I think the evidence is now overwhelming that they do, and that these craft wouldn't interact in some way with us. So I think that a very small percentage of these claims of abductions are true."

Pope hopes that his official background will make people consider the subject with a new seriousness, especially as he believes that extra-terrestrials present a potential security threat which the MoD, to his dismay, is not taking seriously. "My book is as much for the establishment ... senior civil servants and military personnel ... as for anyone," says Pope, valiantly placing national security above the personal risk to himself of complete ridicule. "It serves as a sort of briefing document, and I know for a fact that it is being widely read in the Ministry of Defence."

And who knows, perhaps Pope and the extra-terrestrials will have the last laugh yet.

'Open Skies, Closed Minds' by Nick Pope is published by Simon and Schuster at £14.99.

the same time. It's terrible to read because of what it dares to confront: how you deal with an unimaginably horrific ordeal and ending for someone you love. The filth, the pity, the imaginings and the worse reality. How you look agonising death in the eye and stare it out, snatch back from it what you had before: tenderness, sweetness, childhood affection and fun.

I think "I don't want to cry now because we're in Brighton and this is our romantic weekend without children." And yet and yet. I focus on the woman opposite who has soothing white hair and wears a shawl the same Liberty print pattern as Jonathan's mother's sofa-bed. I look at her sandwich. I concentrate on the sandwich's form and width and texture.

The author tells how she finally held her sister's skull in her bare hands and dared to look at where the eyes had been. The skull was like burnished gold. She tenderly arranged the abused and devastated bones in a logical fashion for burial, and left them in peace in the earth surrounded by soft, special things her little sister would have found comforting: poetry, honey, a soft toy, a brown blanket.

I finish the piece. The rain has stopped. Clouds drift in a swollen sky, "Shall we make a move?" says Jonathan.

Evening. We meet our old friend Nadia and go to a Thai restaurant, where her husband Mat will join us. Nadia's a writer and in the cab we talk loudly about a novel we all heartily dislike. At the traffic lights, the driver suddenly turns round. "In actual fact," he says – chewing a sandwich, slowly emptying his mouth. "In actual fact..." We wait, stunned. Does he know the novel? Is the novelist his daughter? "In actual fact, I've never been past that place and seen people there – it's always empty." He means the restaurant.

We arrive and are shown to our table. Mat's not there yet. "Can I get you a drink?" says a young, agreeable-looking waiter.

"We're expecting someone else," we say. "Maybe we'll wait and order some wine in a minute."

A second waiter approaches. "Can I get you a drink?"

"Thanks, no, we're just waiting for someone else."

A third waiter comes up. Same question. "Look," we explain, "You're the third person to come and ask us that. And anyway, there's someone else coming – four in all."

"Oh no," the waiter confidently asserts, "There are only three of us."

"No!" we exclaim in unison, "Us! There are going to be four of us."

"And there are three of you," I add, "And you've now all asked us if we want a drink."

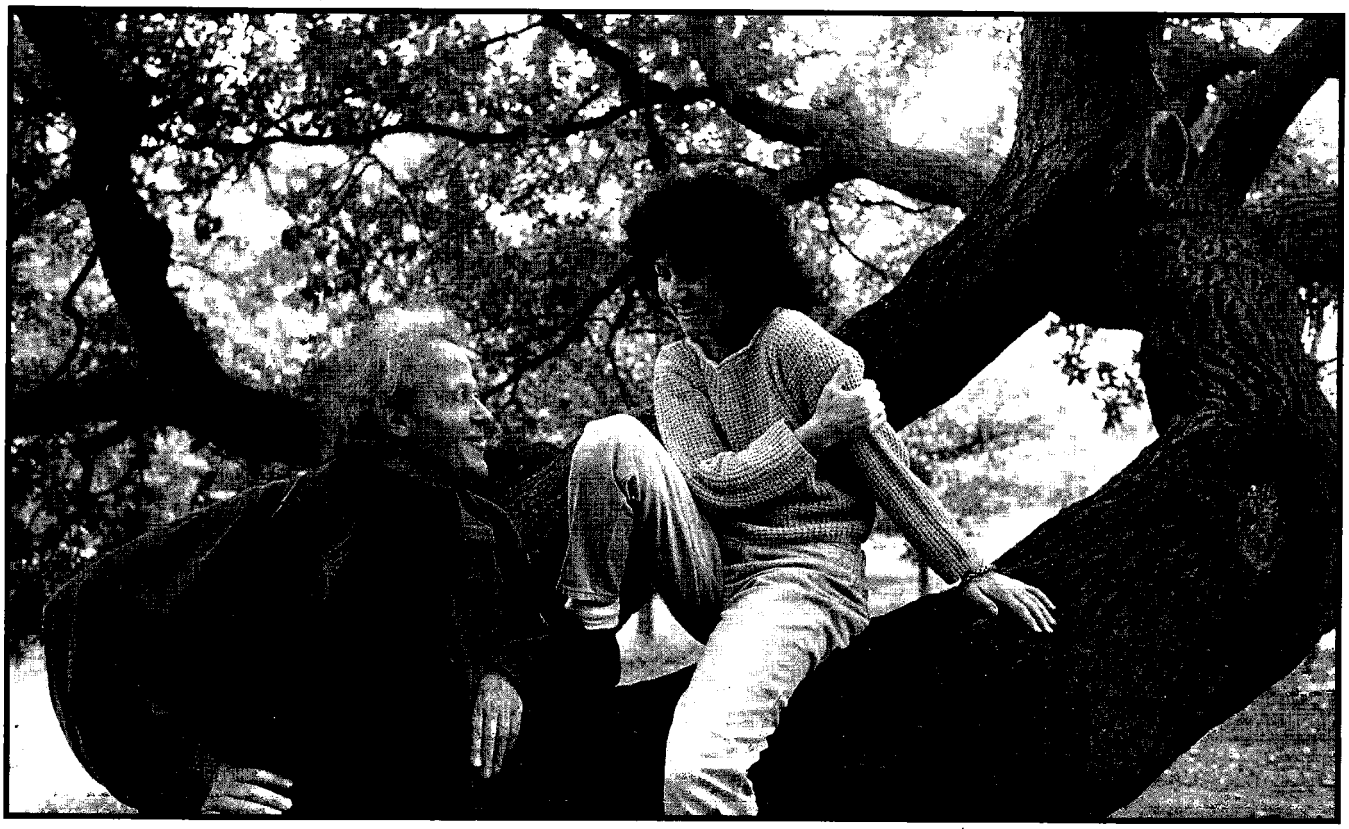
Mat arrives. We kiss. Talk about his work, our work, Nadia's third pregnancy, the vexed, thirtysomething problem of contraception and why the waiters don't seem to be on the ball.

At last, the first waiter sidles up with a tray of drinks, rests it on the table. "Shall I take those off?" offers Jonathan.

The waiter hesitates; something's wrong. "No, these aren't for you – sorry, wrong table."

Later. Jonathan and I walk briefly along by the sea and then climb the stairs to the apricot room. "We should do this more often," we agree. I lie awake a long time listening to the window pane rattling in the wind and when I sleep, I dream of little girls and brown blankets.

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George Delf with Sara Thornton: 'I expected to feel many varying emotions in prison, but not this. I'm walking round in a daze half of the time, with a lunatic grin on my face.'

Photograph: Christa Stadtler

used to be in the days leading up to it, the endless questions and little hints from me as to what I had bought her. Icing her cake; the last one was a strawberry cheesecake, we stuck the candles in whole strawberries. Very popular choice.

All this is remembered with ineffable sadness ... I feel bogged down, unable to formulate even the simplest plans. I've just lost my spirit. I shall probably sob my heart out on Sunday after I speak with her, and feel better next week. It's only a temporary defeat. Write me some strong encouraging words, George – don't criticise me. I feel emotionally battered, vulnerable.

When I went to the hospital yesterday, I seemed to see children everywhere. Brown, blond-haired, in T-shirts, lovely summer children. I could have scooped one up in my arms. I have a list of things I miss in prison: rain, olives; I never thought about it, but I haven't seen a child for six months...

General consensus of opinion is that I should: a) fight for my own freedom, and b) change solicitors. Can I change Counsel, too? Faced with the possibility of 10 years in prison, you find that one suppresses all desire for the outside world. I've done that very well. When I went out yesterday, looking at the world through the windows of the bus, I didn't feel a part of it. It was like watching something on TV. If that's what six months can do, how do you think a person would be after a few years? Do you want to visit again? Let me know, I'll send you a VO. I hope you do.

Sara

September 1990

Dear George,

Congratulations, you finally wrote me a letter that had no mention of 'old', 'father-daughter', etc. Has it finally sunk in? How many hints must I write? I can't be as forthright as you – circumstances, insecurities, but I'm certain I feel as you do, and probably have for a lot longer. I just didn't realise. Everyone close to me did, though, which makes it doubly infuriating. I expected to feel many varying emotions in prison, but not this. I'm walking round in a daze half of the time, with a lunatic grin on my face!

But it's hard, I'm torn between elation and nagging doubt ...Reading your last letter again, may I point out, Mr Delf, that if I should ever find myself in a forest in Finland sharing a sleeping bag with you, playing the guitar is not an occupation that springs to mind...

Lots of love, Sara x

Dear Sara,

It was good to get your letter this a.m. – it and the one I got yesterday make a very good combination – all sides of you, happy, high-spirited, 'chastened' and thoughtful. Don't you realize yet that I love you which means all my (mildly) critical comments exist in a context which is warm and supportive and loving. Where would you sleep here? Either with me or out with the owls. Take your choice.

Much love, George

George,

Have you ever had a flash of understanding that was so deep it took your breath away?

Lying here thinking about prisons, Daddy, Mummy, me. Your comment about loving me and any criticisms being in the context of love, etc. I don't know that sort of criticism. Then it hit me – of course I don't. As a child, all criticism was demoralising, degrading. Mostly from Mummy. Then I started thinking that my real prison is the past, the way I think of myself – why Daddy doesn't love me (us); why does he always call me a liar, etc. Well, it hit me. Whenever Mummy had been hitting us, she always explained our crimes, punishment (whip, locked in room/cupboard, no supper, etc) were because we had been naughty, lying, cheating, etc. I guess Daddy believed her or wanted to. Poor Daddy, poor us. I feel like crying.

When I cut my throat, Billi found out several months later, and when she asked Daddy about it, his comment was, pity she didn't succeed! I'm not such a bad person that I deserve my own father to say that about me. God, that hurts even now. I don't want to store a catalogue of grievances – but I know now why I married Malcolm – Daddy approved, I finally belonged. I was accepted. Daddy even visited my house in Atherstone and thought Malcolm a "super chap" (he'd just come out of the clinic). I lived five years in Coventry as a single parent – Daddy never even phoned me.

The only time Daddy was nice to me was when he was drunk – or had been drinking heavily. Maybe just maybe that's why I tolerated Malcolm's drinking for so long!...

Love you, Sara x

October 1990

Darling,

...We've had a High Court judge and his clerk visit the wing this evening – Judge Ottley, I believe his name was!

I looked for him, but too late, he had gone. I wanted to say, 'If you want to see a life sentence being carried out, why not go to our home and see the children, broken by untimely separation from their mother? Why not come at visiting times and see screaming young children being dragged out after their one and a half hours every fourteen days with mum – whilst inmates weep and officers block their ears? Why not come after 8p.m. and tiptoe round the landings to hear women cry tears of guilt and agony alone behind locked doors?' Because he doesn't want the truth, he wants the platitudes he delivers, and receives from us! I was so cross with myself at missing this golden opportunity that I sat and wrote a furious letter to him.

I wish I could have shouted what I've written above from the second or third landing. The effect would have been electric – and would in all probability have started other women off. Instead, like justice itself – it was all a charade! No doubt he now feels, after one hour in H-wing, well qualified to dish out life sentences left, right and centre.

I've decided that on domestic visits, if you talk too much I'll just kick you, effectively shutting us *both* up and affording us a little bit of silence... When I get out, you can kiss all my other moles! It's 12.25 am.

All my love, Sara xx

'Love on the Wing, Letters of hope from prison' by Thornton and George Delf, will be published by Penguin on 17 June, price £6.99

Tomorrow: "I am not nuts and I never was"

How Sara Thornton's hopes of freedom were dashed

living

Now I'm a believer

Nick Pope's job at the MoD was to pour cold water on UFO sightings. But the one-time sceptic has seen new light. By Emma Brooker

There is a sober-suited government official who investigates every reported UFO sighting, about 250 a year, and responds to each with a letter explaining, more often than not, that the suspected Martian craft seen hovering in the skies over some suburban back garden was in fact a weather balloon, an unusual cloud, or an aeroplane reflecting light in a peculiar way.

The Ministry of Defence post of Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a – otherwise known as the UFO desk – is the perfect job for a prosaic pedant who takes pleasure in pouring cold water on excitement about the paranormal and the unexplained. Perhaps that's the sort of person Nick Pope was when he was assigned to the post five years ago. But he has traversed galaxies since then. "I came in as a sceptic and I came out as a believer," he says today as he launches his book *Open Skies, Closed Minds, A Government UFO Expert Speaks Out*.

Pope has gone from being the MoD's official "Flying saucers! Don't be silly!" man, to a leading harbinger of the extra-terrestrial threat. He believes in the probable existence of extra-terrestrial life forms and that they visit Earth by stealth in spacecraft whose technology far outstrips our own. He is now being dubbed "the real Fox Mulder" after the raincoated sleuth who investigates unexplained phenomena in the cult TV series *The X Files*. His book is being billed as the MoD's "real X Files".

When he joined the civil service a decade ago, he naturally assumed that he would be "writing reports and pushing papers around". The job suited him. Everything about Pope is sensible, cautious even, from his dark jacket and moderate tie to the way he speaks. His sentences are all neat and ordered and whatever he says comes out sounding like a well-rehearsed briefing. He also seems quite a shy and private man. The only time he falters is when asked his age. First he says 31, then he says 30.

After a variety of MoD postings, including a stint working on RAF training policy and another at the joint operation centre during the Gulf War, Pope was assigned in 1991 to the UFO desk – a post neither he nor most of his colleagues even knew existed.

Superficially, Pope's life remained unchanged. As before, each morning he filed with thousands of other government bureaucrats into the vast, expressionless MoD building. Hurrying down its labyrinthine corridors Pope would be seated at his desk by 9am. But from one minute past nine through to 5pm, he found himself in what amounted to a parallel universe.

"People came straight through to me on my direct line, so my phone could ring and it could be a member of the public on the other end saying 'I saw a UFO last night.' Indeed that happened on a daily basis," Pope explains. "There was a regular stable of 'interesting' characters who would phone up often, I got to know them all," he says with a reserved smile.

"I took a healthily sceptical attitude to the people phoning in. Ninety-five per cent of all these sightings do have conventional explanations, so it's very important to keep your feet on the ground when investigating cases," but Pope never dismissed any callers. "I interpreted John Major's Citizen Charter in a full and liberal way and felt that if people wanted to talk to me, even if their views were very off-beat, I would give them a fair crack of the whip."

As he listened, the more Pope was drawn into what he now calls The UFO Mystery. "I found that I was talking to witnesses who claimed they'd been abducted by aliens ... people who were certainly traumatised by their experience ... and I was having to impound radar tapes from the RAF to see if we could track any of these UFOs."

Pope's scepticism was being gradually eroded by "persuasive" reports, particularly from RAF personnel. The turning point – when he actually started to believe in the existence of intelligent life "out there" – came in 1993. "There [redacted] says, a glint appearing in [redacted] were besieged with cal[redacted] detailed investigation. We had clear evidence that a structured craft breached the UK air defences. It was seen by dozens of witnesses all over the country. Many of them were police officers and military personnel."

After weeks of exhaustive research, Pope, in his capacity as the Government's UFO expert, reached his carefully considered conclusion. "We checked for aircraft movements, but there was absolutely nothing up at the time. I think it was an extra-terrestrial craft," he declares.

Pope started to talk to leading ufologists and groups such as Contact International and BOFURA. Overcoming their initial hostility and suspicion, Pope cultivated good relations with the UFO lobby and regularly exchanged information on sightings. But Pope found that the more diligently he investigated unexplained sightings, the more uncomfortable his bosses within the MoD became. "I was never actively blocked by my superiors," he writes in his book, "but there were times when things were made difficult for me; times when I was quite deliberately given one-off tasks to divert me from a UFO case."

At this point, the American series, *The X Files*, started appearing on British TV. By some uncanny *doppelganger* effect – the sort of phenomenon which would take up a whole *X Files* episode – Pope seemed to be turning into its lead character, Fox Mulder. Their blandly pleasant looks are not dissimilar. The faintly geekish, earnest manner is familiar. As Pope walked down the corridors of the MoD, people would whistle the programme's haunting theme tune. He even acquired Mulder's nickname, "Spooky". Both Pope and Mulder certainly subscribed to the same motto, The Truth is Out There.

"Yes, I do identify with him," says Pope. "I developed a reputation as a maverick within the ministry as throughout my three-year posting I was increasingly persuaded by the evidence." His promotion out of the UFO job after three years into the financial planning department, is viewed by some ufologists as evidence of a government cover-up.

Pope dismisses such rumours, but admits that a lot of the changes he made on the UFO desk are being "quietly undone" by his successor. Certainly there was a lot of resistance among some of his former bosses to the publication of his book. "I took the view that if the generals could write their books on the Gulf War, then I would write this book. I think the public has a right to know what's going on," says Pope.

Which is what? Sadly, Pope himself has never seen a UFO or had a close encounter ("I live in hope," he grins). Still, he has no conclusive evidence that there is intelligent life in outer space. The real X files contain no revelations. Pope's book, which has had

a world of deviants & mutants in sec(AS).



At last, the waiter sidles up with a tray of drinks. 'No, these aren't for you – sorry, wrong table'

home life

Julie Myerson

Brighton at the end of May, the sea a soft, choppy grey, a frantic March wind blowing in our faces.

A whole weekend without children: eerie, joyous silence. Only ourselves, our nylon travel bag, our adult rhythms and our musty, apricot hotel room. The plastic and metal clink of the room key. No need to wake at 6.30 (though, of course, we do), no need for plans, time checks, compromises. No need to do anything.

Paralysed and frozen, we stand in the middle of the street. A lorry backs out of a pub car park. The air smells wet and then suddenly it is wet, beads of rain clinging to cuffs, cheeks, hair. We walk along the sea front and look at the pier – a shabby, unlit tangle of rides which will later explode into life. We walk back.

"Thought it would be nicer, end of May," I say.

"Are we going to talk about the weather or what?"

"I wonder how the children are getting on."-In the face of this subject, he is resolutely silent. "OK, you bring up a subject then."

He shrugs. "Like what?"

"Anything you like."

He's silent, smiling.

"That's the thing about you," I say. "You're so easy to talk to."

Our coats shimmy and flap in the wind. My hair blows in my mouth. Taste of pub smoke. End of scene.

Later. Still raining. We sit in Brown's. "I want a Café Rouge," I'd said 10 minutes ago.

"Why?"

"Because the cappuccino will at least be nice there." "Is that all you care about? Cappuccino?"

"One of the things, yes."

Can't find a Café Rouge, so we settle for Brown's. A forest of aspidistras and tall stools and waitresses with dusky shadows under their eyes. We sit and read the Saturday papers. The cappuccino comes and then is taken away again because it was someone else's. Another is put in its place.

I read an article by a woman called Marian Partington, whose younger sister was a victim of the Wests. I begin reading it because it's there, but by the end I am daunted, moved, altered, bereaved.

The piece is long and dark and tangled and straight and shining and pure all at

641



Mon 3 Jun, 1996 18:31 mailbox log Page 1

DATE	TO	SUBJECT	CODES
03/06/96	DPO(RAF)	BBC TV - Section 40	[ ]

Sent: 03/06/96 at 18:24
To: DPO(RAF)
CC:

Ref: 635
Subject: BBC TV - Section 40

Text: Section 40
Attached answer to first batch of questions. We're not taking Qs 1-3 of her second batch seriously. Q4 is answered in the attached. Recommend you weave the introductory sentence into your fax header or cover letter. Happy to discuss if required.

Section 40

Priority: Urgent
Reply Request [ ]
View Acknowledge [*]
Delivery Acknowledge [*]
Attachments [1]
Codes [ ]

RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS FROM BBC TV RESEARCHER - ON "UNEXPLAINED" AERIAL SIGHTINGS

Many of the questions asked are based on a misunderstanding of the MOD's role in respect of this subject, which has previously been explained. However, the following are the answers we are able to give to the questions as posed.

(1) See attached.

(2) Specific records are not kept. The vast majority of "unexplained" aerial sightings reported to the MOD are ground observations made by members of the public.

(3)(4)(5) The MOD and HM Forces have responsibility for the effective defence of the United Kingdom and we remain vigilant for any potential threat, from whatever source. It is in this context alone that we look at reports of "unexplained" aerial sightings in order to establish whether what was seen might have defence significance. If there is no evidence to suggest that the UK's air defences have been compromised we do not investigate or seek to establish the precise nature of what was observed. As such it is quite common for a sighting to remain "unexplained" but not require any further MOD action. The Royal Air Force continually polices the UK Air Defence Region to ensure that no unauthorised or hostile military aircraft enters UK airspace. We would look for evidence that the UK Air Defence Region has been compromised.

(6) The UK MOD does not and has not undertaken research into the nature of the "UFO/flying saucer" phenomenon, either alone or with other Governments.

(7)(8)(16)(17) In accordance with the provisions of the Public Records Act of 1958 and 1967 all surviving paperwork from over 30 years ago on the subject of "UFOs" previously held by the MOD has now been transferred to the Public Records Office and is available for public examination.

(9) See answer to Questions 3, 4 and 5.

(10) Records of the amount of staff time spend on examination of reports of "unexplained" aerial sightings are not maintained, but the sums involved would represent a tiny fraction of the figure quoted.

(11) Secretariat(Air Staff)2a is a MOD civilian secretariat branch which provides administrative support for RAF activities and operations. As part of its much wider ranging secretariat duties, Sec(AS)2a is the focal point for handling any "UFO" reports received by the MOD. As part of the assessment of reports Sec(AS)2a staff consult relevant Departmental air defence experts as required.

(12)(13)(14) The vast majority of "UFO" sightings are reported by members of the public. They are made to a variety of organisations eg. RAF stations, air traffic control centres at civil airports and civil police stations, as well as to the MOD directly. All reports are passed to Sec(AS)2a for examination. Prior to 1992 any reports from members of the public received by RAF stations were, in the first instance, forwarded to the Flying Complaints Flight at RAF Rudloe Manor. The FCF acted as the RAF's coordination point for passing such reports to the MOD. The FCF took no action on the reports received and simply forwarded them to Sec(AS)2a. Since 1992 the FCF's 'post-box' role has been dispensed with.

(15) Cannot answer for Section 40

(18) There were three other sightings reported to the MOD for 2 Feb 96 not four as previously stated. The fourth mentioned earlier was infact observed on 1 Feb 96.

Descriptions of other reports for 2 Feb 96:

	Location	Description Given by Witness
(1)	Clydebank	White light with blue/purple. Like a bright star - looked solid through binoculars.
(2)	M3, just past M25 junction	Cube-like in shape although the top was bigger than the bottom giving it a 'metal cup cake' appearance. Object had a reddish glow to it and was the size of 'several detached houses'.
(3)	Pitlessie	One mushroom shaped brilliant white object with red and blue flashing lights.

(19) The Ministry of Defence does not have a role with respect to "UFO/flying saucer" or extraterrestrial matters. Our interest in reports of "unexplained" aerial sightings received relates solely to whether there is any evidence that the UK air defence region has been compromised. We keep an open mind about the existence of extraterrestrial life, but to date we know of nothing which proves that this alleged phenomenon exists. Against this background, it is felt that a MOD spokesperson would have little to contribute to a programme on this subject.

NUMBERS OF "UNEXPLAINED" AERIAL SIGHTINGS REPORTED TO THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

1959 - 22	1981 - 600
1960 - 31	1982 - 250
1961 - 71	1983 - 390
1962 - 46	1984 - 214
1963 - 51	1985 - 177
1964 - 74	1986 - 120
1965 - 56	1987 - 150
1966 - 95	1988 - 397
1967 - 362	1989 - 258
1968 - 280	1990 - 209
1969 - 228	1991 - 117
1970 - 181	1992 - 147
1971 - 379	1993 - 258
1972 - 201	1994 - 250
1973 - 233	1995 - 373
1974 - 177	
1975 - 208	
1976 - 200	
1977 - 435	
1978 - 750	
1979 - 550	
1980 - 350	

Figures from before 1959 are not available.

NB. The above figures relate to the number of reports, received by the Ministry of Defence, of aerial activity which was not immediately identifiable to the witness. They should not be taken to reflect sightings of "UFO/flying saucers".

64/1

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 72

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
UNITED KINGDOM
PRESS OFFICE
FAX MESSAGE

Fax: Section 40

To: Section 40

Fax:

From: Section 40

Tel: **No of Pages (including this)** _____ **pages**

MESSAGE:

Section 40

(1) I attach notice Qs from Section 40. I would not waste too much time on them! She is not expecting detailed answers.

(2) Have you prepared the other answers yet? She is keen to get them.

If any part of this transmission is incomplete please ring Section 40

Ministry of Defence, Room 0389, Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

BRITISH BROADCASTING CORPORATION
WHITE CITY
201 WOOD LANE
LONDON W12 7TS
TELEPHONE: 0181-752 5252

Section 40
FAX : Section 40

Friday 31st 1995.

Dear Section 40

I rang your office today in an attempt to see if you might have completed the answers to the questions we faxed you on Friday 24th. As you know our filming is fast approaching and we begin tomorrow in the north of England.

Your responses to our questions are directly relevant to material we plan to include in the film.

I would be very grateful if you could fax your responses to us care of the following fax number Section 40 by 1pm on Monday 4th June.

In addition I have four further questions, which I apologise for. Could you please fax your reply to these to Section 40 at our production office on Section 40.

1.Could you please look at the accompanying drawings and tell us if these represent any type of aircraft the MOD may be involved in developing.

2.The press has recently reported that in the event of contact with 'extra-terrestrials' the government has a specific message. What will this message say and how will it be communicated?

3.If the government was presented with incontrovertible evidence that 'extra-terrestrial' life forms existed would this knowledge be made public?

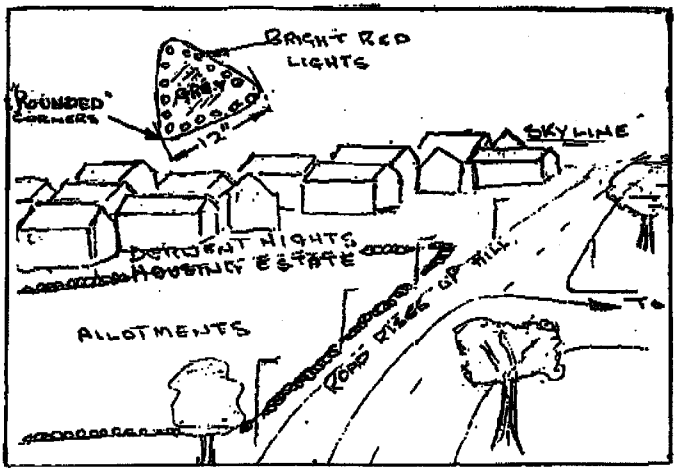
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201 WOOD LANE
LONDON W12 7TS
TELEPHONE 0181 752 5252

4.What investigations happen to UFO reports when they are received by RAF Waddington and RAF Bentley Priory

Many thanks for your consideration.

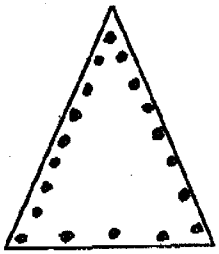
Yours sincerely,

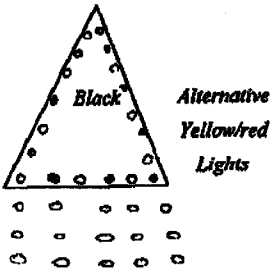
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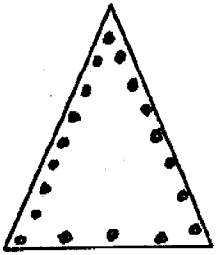


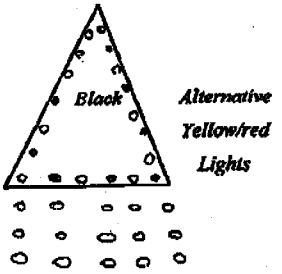
THIS IS THE STRANGEST LOOKING AIRCRAFT I'VE EVER SEEN !!

Section 40

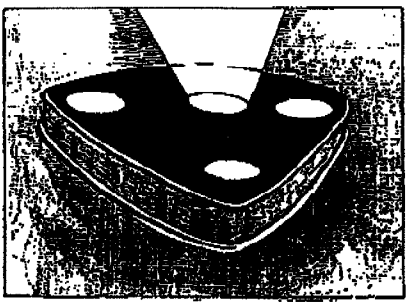



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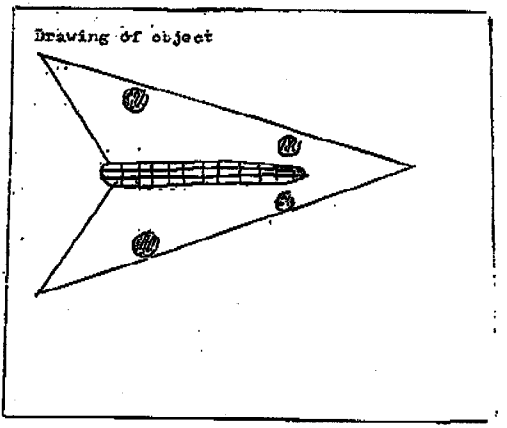



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TOTAL P.08 PAGE.008
Section 40
31 MAY '96 17:17



31-MAY-1996 18:17 FROM TO P.08
Section 40


Drawing of object

64/1

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 71

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
UNITED KINGDOM
PRESS OFFICE
FAX MESSAGE

Fax: Section 40

To: Section 40

Fax:

From: Section 40

Tel: Section 40 No of Pages (including this) 4 pages

MESSAGE: Section 40

Section 40 is looking for more UFO answers. I am inclined to suggest a simple response would be "you've been watching too many episodes of the X Files" however they would not find that acceptable.

Could you prepare suitable answers? I suggest they are channelled back through me, as before.

Thanks.

If any part of this transmission is incomplete please ring Section 40

Ministry of Defence, Room 0389, Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB



BRITISH BROADCASTING CORPORATION
WHITE CITY
201 WOOD LANE
LONDON W12 7TS
TELEPHONE: 0181-752 5252

Section 40
Fax no: Section 40

24th May, 1996

Dear Section 40

Thank you very much for your response regarding unexplained aerial sightings in Morcambe. We now have a large number of new questions that we would like the MoD to respond to as soon as possible. Most of the questions are of a general nature and you probably deal with them every day of the week, but there a couple that are more specific and may require some checking.

Unfortunately, as always in television, we are on a tight deadline and would appreciate as many answers as possible by Thursday, 30th May. Our fax number is: Section 40

Thanks again for your help.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40 & Section 40

QUESTIONS FROM BBC TV: 24th May, 1996

1. How many UFO reports, on average, does the MoD receive each year? (Please provide a break-down by year or by decade, if one exists.)

2. What proportion of these comes from civilian and military pilots?

3. What proportion remains unexplained after investigation? (For example, the BA pilots' sighting at Manchester airport was fully investigated by the CAA and remains unexplained.)

4. What happens to reports of these unexplained sightings? Do you leave them unexplained, or are they referred elsewhere? If so, where?

5. How does the MoD determine whether or not an unexplained sighting is 'of defence significance'?

6. What sort of cooperation/exchange of information is there, or has there been, with other countries' governments?

7. What findings emerged from the Air Ministry's five-year study (1950-55) into unexplained aerial sightings?

8. What was the estimated cost of the study?

9. What investigations have been done since?

10. Can you confirm that in 1978 alone, £11m was spent on investigations into unexplained aerial sightings?

11. AS2a is apparently the collection point for all such reports. What other departments or personnel are involved in receiving or assessing these reports?

12. Section 40 has confirmed that Rudloe Manor was "the RAF coordination point reports of unexplained aerial sightings" up until 1992. Who at Rudloe Manor dealt with them?

13. Was it also the repository for reports from civilian pilots and reports from members of the public?

14. What has been happening to reports since 1992?

15. Why was Section 40 unaware of the role of Rudloe Manor during his sojourn at Section 40

16. In 1957, a 'man from the ministry' visited a reporter at the *Rochdale Observer* requesting the paper to cease reporting on a UFO incident at Wardle. The reporter was read the Official Secrets Act. Why did the ministry use the OSA in this way?

17. Why was it deemed necessary to prevent further investigation by the newspaper, ie was the ministry aware of the identity of the object?

18. A question following up your previous response to the Morecambe sightings: you refer to four other sightings on the same night. Where were these, and what did the witnesses describe?

19. And finally, would the MoD be prepared to put up a spokesperson for the film?

FOCUS - JUNE 1996

Keeping an open mind

Lynne Shiels talked to Nick Pope about why he believes we've been visited by UFOs



PHOTO: Dr G G Pope

Nick Pope.

When Nick Pope first took up his post in the Secretariat (Air Staff), he was as sceptical as the next man about extra-terrestrial visitors. But after three years as the man responsible for investigating reports of unidentified flying objects (UFOs), he was convinced there is something out there, and has now written a book on the subject.

"I fully accept that the vast majority of incidents have a perfectly rational explanation," he explained. "But there is too much well-documented evidence of sightings which cannot be explained."

Nick, an HEO currently working in General Finance Policy, has called his book *Open skies, closed minds.* "'Open skies' expresses my view that extra-terrestrial craft can and do breach our air defences with impunity

on a regular basis. And when they do, people close their minds and filter out data that shouldn't be there. Unless a blip on a screen behaves like a regular aircraft, the radar operator will tend to put it down to 'atmospheric conditions' or otherwise explain it away."

But though some UFOs are "stealthy", others have shown up on radar. "For example, one night in Belgium, in 1990, 2,700 people saw a UFO, which was simultaneously picked up on ground radar. The Belgian air force scrambled two F16 fighter/interceptors which locked onto the object with their radar, but each time it broke the lock. The craft moved from a virtual hover to speeds in excess of 5,000 mph in seconds — way beyond the cutting edge of our own technology." The RAF has also scrambled on occasions, chasing objects which allow nothing to get too close, Nick says.

One particularly famous UFO incident occurred in 1980, in Rendlesham Forest, Suffolk, where a number of Service personnel from USAF bases at Woodbridge and Bentwaters saw either lights in the sky or a craft in the forest. In a clearing where people claimed to have seen it land, there were three indentations in a perfect equilateral triangle, tree damage and radiation levels 10 times that of the surrounding countryside.

"Cases like this convinced me I had to do more than send out standard letters about aircraft lights. MOD's interest in UFOs is to evaluate whether there is a possible threat to the UK, and I felt I could not judge this without further investigation. So I would gather data, run a series of checks, to track down military and civilian aircraft in the area, for example; I'd look at the flight patterns of airships, weather balloon launches; I would speak to the Royal Observatory at Greenwich about possible astronomical explanations, such as fireballs, and I'd talk to the Ballistic Missile Early Warning Centre at RAF Fylingdales for details of satellite tracks, re-entry of space debris and so on. I could call on various other military people to cast an expert eye over the data to see if they could add anything to my investigation.

"I had to do more than send out standard letters about aircraft lights"

"Around 90 per cent of the time I found a conventional explanation. There were a certain number of hoaxes, but that still left a niggling five to 10 per cent which couldn't be explained — and it wasn't just a case of not asking the right person the right questions."

Each year, MOD receives around 2-300 reports but this, says Nick, is just the tip of the iceberg. "Most people don't report sightings, either because they are afraid of ridicule, or simply because they are not aware of official interest. Most of those who do are hesitant, almost embarrassed, and not seeking publicity. Many of the witnesses are military personnel, civil pilots and the police — not people in the business of faking reports."

During his time with Sec (AS), other "weird and wonderful" subjects also came Nick's way; phenomena such as crop circles and animal mutilations. He is now researching a second book, this time into alien abductions, and plans a novel on the official response to a confirmed alien presence on earth. He has also joined the lecture circuit, and will speak at several conferences during the year.

"I've always had an open mind about the possibility of life elsewhere"

He said: "Just as 90 per cent of UFO sightings have a conventional explanation, so do most alien abductions, but there is enough evidence to suggest that a few really happen." He cites the experience of John Mack, a Harvard professor, who began with the assumption that "abductees" were insane. He spoke to hundreds of "abductees", giving them all the standard psychiatric tests and found no more psychopathology in "abductees" than in the control group. He interviewed them and then used regression hypnosis, and ended by changing his mind. "He deserves to be taken seriously," says Nick, who has himself spoken to a number of "abductees". "I'm convinced the phenomenon does occur."

To his evident regret, Nick has never himself witnessed a UFO. "I've always had an open mind about the possibility of life elsewhere," he said. "I wrote the book because I wanted to put the record straight. UFOs are not taken seriously, largely because they have received the 'tabloid treatment'. My book is aimed at sceptics, and at politicians and civil servants, and seeks to persuade them to look beyond the tabloids. Attitudes seem to be changing, and I hope I'm playing a part in that. If I'm right, we should be setting up a proper co-ordinated investigation into the subject."

Open skies, closed minds will be published on 3 June by Simon & Schuster, price £14.99.

From: Section 40 Secretariat (Air Staff) 2, Room 8247
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) Section 40
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax) Section 40

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 69

Gp Capt Section 40
Deputy Air Attache
Royal Air Force Staff Washington
BFPO 2

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/1
Date
28 May 1996

========== by FAX ==========

Dear Gp Capt Section 40,

REPORTS OF UNEXPLAINED AERIAL PHENOMENA

1. One of the roles of Sec(AS)2 is to act as focal point, within UK Central Government, for reports of unexplained aerial phenomena (commonly known as "UFO" reports, although the latter has connotations which we do not seek to encourage). There is a need for such a focal point since members of the public from time to time wish to report sights they have seen in the sky and have been unable to explain. In addition Government departments, and Ministers, receive a steady stream of letters from the UFO lobby. There is a need to deal with and provide responses to such approaches.

2. The task falls to Sec(AS) because the official interest in "UFO sightings" is an air defence one: ie. is there any evidence in a sighting of a breach of UK air defences? Our role in relation to reports is therefore to examine them, with the assistance of the appropriate experts, to ascertain whether the sighting represents anything of defence interest. If we judge that it does not, and this has been the case in respect of every report to date, we do not seek to investigate further or to provide an explanation of what might have been seen. In addition we undertake the normal secretariat functions in drafting responses to letters from the public.

3. Not surprisingly some of the letters we receive from the UFO lobby seek to explain sightings in terms of extraterrestrial craft, and some allege an official cover-up of evidence of extraterrestrial life. We respond to such letters by stating that the MOD has no role or expertise in such matters and that we retain an open mind on them, although we are not to date aware of any evidence to substantiate the existence of extraterrestrial craft or beings.

4. Although Sec(AS) has had this responsibility for many years now, our role has recently attracted a degree of publicity, not least because of the activities of a former member of the division who has written a book on the topic. Our role has therefore come to the attention of senior management, and 2nd PUS has asked how our approach to these matters compares to that of the US Government. Hence this letter.

5. I would be grateful if you could ascertain what the US approach to these matters is. I would stress that we are not specifically concerned with major studies into the UFO phenomenon. We are aware that the US authorities have conducted such studies in the past but to the best of our knowledge have none underway at present (if we are wrong on this point correction would be appreciated). Rather we are interested to know what arrangements are in place to deal with the inevitable flow of routine UFO sightings and correspondence from the UFO lobby. Answers to the following questions would therefore be appreciated:

a. Are there any central arrangements in place at Federal Government level, within the DoD or elsewhere, to deal with reports and enquiries about UFOs? If not, who, if anyone, deals with them?

b. What is the extent of official interest in these matters? Does it extend beyond (or even as far as) the defence interest in sightings, plus the need to handle incoming correspondence?

c. What is the official line on claims of extraterrestrial involvement, and of an official cover-up?

6. I would be grateful for an early response. If you need more information please contact me, or Section 40 on my staff (extn 82140MB) who deals with the "UFO" work.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

F Sigs
(Rev 8

Classification

Caveat

Covering

Facsimile Transmission Cover Sheet

Transmission Details		Document Details
Serial Number:	Date and Time of Transmission: 28 MAY	Reference: 64/1
From: SEC(AS)2	Fax Number: Section 40	Subject: "UNEXPLAINED" AERIAL PHENOMENA POLICY
To: GP CAPT Section 40 Section 40 RAF STAFF WASHINGTON	Fax Number: Section 40	Total number of pages including this cover sheet: 3

Authorizing Officer	Transmit Operators
Rank, Name and Appointment: EO Section 40 Section 40	Rank/Grade, Name and Telephone No.:
Signature:	Signature:

Message/Remarks:

Covering

** Transmit Conf.Report **

28 May '96 15:26

SECRETARIAT(AIR STAFF)---> Section 40	
No.	0449
Mode	NORMAL
Time	1'21"
Pages	3 Page(s)
Result	O K

64/1

"POPE DIARIES" – DAILY MAIL
ABRIDGED EXTRACTS.



MAFF

p 143 – Picked up by Section 40
– Not followed on by Section 40

Sat Extract

30/31 Mar Sightings. New para to lead into the book text. He has let 'MODs UFO Expert" creep in. All other occasions uses 'UFO Desk Officer'.

64/1

D/Sec(AS)/~~65/3~~

Section 40

1. You will wish to see the attached abridged extracts from Nick Pope's UFO book which are being serialised in the Daily Mail. We are currently checking whether the articles contain material not included in the submitted draft; the section on MAFF in the last paragraph of the Monday, 13th May article appears to be new.

2. You may also wish to be aware that Section 40 took a telephone call from a member of the public questioning the propiety of a serving civil servant making money from information he gained in the course of his official duties. We have asked CM(IR&C) to respond.

Section 40

13/5/96

Section 40

Thank you. 2nd PUS has asked me to call on him next week to discuss all this.

Section 40



SECRETARIAT(AIR STAFF) Fax: Section 40

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UFOs OFFICIAL REPORT

THE CIVIL SERVANT WHO MAINTAINED

Why I believe



by NICK POPE

The man who ran the Ministry of Defence UFO desk for three years

OVER the last 50 years there have been thousands of sightings of UFOs, and millions of words written about them but, so far, no one has been able to prove conclusively that they either do, or do not, exist. One reason for the lack of a concrete explanation of these phenomena has been the extreme reluctance of government officials anywhere in the world to make public their investigations into the subject, a reluctance that has led some to suspect a worldwide cover-up.

But now all that is about to change. In an astonishing new book the man who, for three years, ran the official UFO desk at our Ministry of Defence, Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a, reveals the evidence that persuaded him not only that UFOs do exist, but that their activities pose a serious threat to mankind . . .

WERE I to name one day in the three years I spent as the Ministry of Defence's **UFO expert** that convinced me that extra-terrestrial spacecraft are regularly visiting Earth, it would be March 31, 1993.

It was a day I will never forget. I arrived at work at 9am, as usual, to find that there had been a major wave of UFO sightings in Britain the previous night, with many police and military witnesses.

The first call came from a police constable in Devon. He and his colleague had been on routine patrol in their car the night before and had seen a UFO. He was the first police witness I had come across directly and I remember listening particularly carefully to what he had to say.

The constable was often on duty at night, so he was used to all the sights and sounds of the darkness: the hoot of an owl in the woods beyond the stationary patrol car, the barking of a dog, the ghostly appearance of trees on the roadside when headlights dapple their branches.

BUT WHAT he and his colleague had seen was like nothing they had come across before. This was no shooting star, no meteor. Two bright lights, together with a third, fainter one, were flying in perfect formation ahead of vapour trails. I probed carefully over the phone. From what he told me about their colour and movement, they were clearly not aircraft lights. Similarly, they were not fireballs. They were simply unidentifiable.

As the morning wore on, the calls came in thick and fast. Other people had seen the three lights, two bright, one fainter, in the same perfect formation. The pattern began to ring bells. The police report suggested three craft in some sort of squadron. Some of the reports described the lights travelling at high speeds, others talked of a virtual hover. There were references to a high altitude as well as statements putting the lights low in the sky.

Most sightings had occurred between 1 and 1.30am, with a particular concentration at 1.10am. Having established a vague timing for the appearance of the lights, I needed to co-ordinate the sightings on a map, to mark each with a time, height (if that could be ascertained) and compass bearing.

The resulting pattern did not give me the straight line I'd hoped for, but the sightings were concentrated, over Devon, Cornwall, Somerset and Wales. There were sporadic reports, too, from the Midlands and even Yorkshire. If all the sightings were of the same object, then it was zigzagging, in a random pattern, through our skies at incredibly high speed.

By lunchtime it became obvious that I was right at the centre of the biggest wave of UFO sightings ever reported in Britain.

As if to confirm this, the initial police report said that officers all over Devon and Cornwall had seen the lights. And I knew, from experience, that still more witnesses would never come forward.

At that time of night, most people would, of course, have been in bed, so the number of sightings would be reduced accordingly but, even so, I estimated that several hundred people had seen something extraordinary. And the sightings were not confined to mainland Britain. Other reports reached me from the Irish Republic and, in the days that followed, I heard of sightings in France and Belgium.

I hope I don't sound too much like Colonel Blimp when I say that, if a threat to the security of my country was looming, then I was going to do my damnedest to sort it out. That was my job as a Defence Ministry civil servant. An important report came in from a military patrol guarding an RAF base in the West Midlands. This was dynamite. An unidentified craft in any British airspace was threatening enough, but over a high security military establishment? There was better to come.

ONE OF the sightings in Wales was from a man with vast experience of aviation and mathematics. He had watched the object flying low over the coast near Haverfordwest in Pembrokeshire and had timed its passage between two points on the shoreline, whose distance from each other he knew.

From that information he was able to calculate its speed at that point to be about 1,100mph — the same as the top speed of an American F-16 jet fighter.

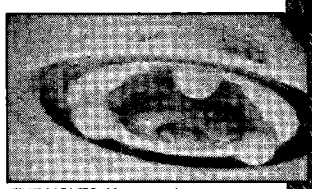
In Rugeley, Staffordshire, five members of the same family saw a huge diamond-shaped object flying steadily over their heads. They estimated its height at less than 300m and the diameter of the craft was about 200m. They also reported a low, humming sound of the frequency you'd experience standing in front of the speakers at a pop concert, feeling the sound waves passing through your body.

It wasn't pleasant, but they decided to jump in the car and follow it. Either they lost the UFO or it lost them; the chase was unsuccessful. They thought it was going to land in a field beyond the road because it was flying so low. They screeched to a halt by the gate but when they clambered out, the craft had gone. They saw nothing after that. They were disappointed but maybe they'd had a lucky escape.

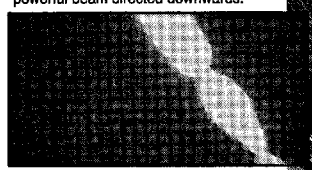
Perhaps the most interesting report came from an RAF base in Shropshire. The meteorological officer there saw the most astonishing sight of that whole amazing night. An object in the sky, at first stationary, moved erratically towards him at a speed of several hundred miles an hour. At one point it fired a beam of light at the ground, which swept the countryside from left to right, as though it were looking for something in the fields and hedgerows.

The sighting was not a

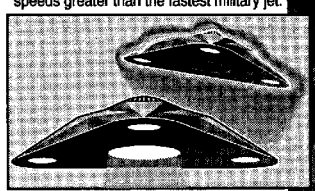
COMMON SIGHTINGS



THE LIGHTS: Most eyewitnesses have reported seeing lights in a triangular arrangement and a powerful beam directed downwards.



THE FLIGHT PATTERN: UFOS are able to hover with great precision then accelerate away in any direction at speeds greater than the fastest military jet.



WARP EFFECT: The shape of the UFO seems to become indistinct – as if parts of it are passing out of the viewers visual spectrum. A similar effect is experienced with radar tracking.



Graphic: PHILIP ARGENT

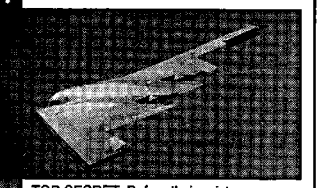
BRITAIN'S UFO WATCH REVEALS EVIDENCE THAT CONVINCED HIM THEY'RE OUT THERE

UFOs really do exist

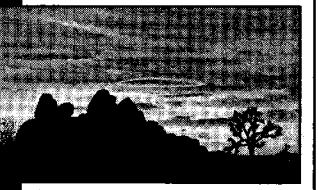


RECENT SIGHTINGS: Military personnel guarding an RAF base were startled by what they were convinced was a UFO and in March '93 reports flooded in from right across Britain. Rather than the traditional hubcap shape, descriptions incidate a more angular vessel. As large as a jumbo jet but much faster, it follows an erratic flight path, alternately hovering, then zooming off.

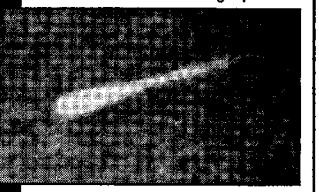
POSSIBLE EXPLANATIONS



TOP-SECRET: Before their existence was officially acknowledged Stealth planes being tested were often taken for UFOs, but they could not hover and then accelerate.



CLOUDS: Atmospheric conditions can produce lenticular clouds which are sausage-shaped and metallic coloured but do not travel at high speeds.



SKY LIGHTS: All sorts of natural phenomena, from ball lightning to falling space debris, can create strange lights in the sky – but never follow a zig-zag path.

second's glimpse but lasted for five minutes, long enough for the witness to estimate the size of the craft as about that of a Jumbo jet. But as he and I knew, Jumbo jets don't hover and they don't scan the countryside with searchlights. He heard the same low-frequency hum the family from Rugeley had heard.

What could I say to this man? He was a trained observer, considerably more familiar with the night sky than I was. On the phone I agreed with him that there was only one conclusion: whatever he had seen was unknown.

I carried out my usual checks, looking for the explicable, hunting for the mundane. I needed to cover my own back, to be ready for the media deluge. What were the Ministry's answers? There was no unusual civil or military aircraft activity that night that came remotely close to fitting anything that had been seen. There were no weather balloons in the area of the densest sightings and no unusual planetary activity, said the Greenwich Observatory.

Then RAF Fylingdales, in Yorkshire, came up with something. It confirmed that debris from a Russian rocket, Cosmos 2238, had re-entered Earth's atmosphere that night and might just have been visible from the United Kingdom. So that was it, the doubters said, orthodox science had triumphed again. But of course, it hadn't.

A piece of re-entering space debris would burn up, like a meteor, and produce a flaming trail which would last only seconds. This couldn't account for the five-minute sighting from Shropshire or the low hum heard there and in Rugeley, neither would it be seen flying low over the coast near Haverfordwest because the debris didn't come down anywhere near Britain. Neither can a piece of even the smallest space debris hover — it falls with the speed dictated by gravity.

I took an unprecedented step and ordered a number of radar tapes to be impounded and sent to me. The results were disappointing. The blips faded in and out all night, like ghosts in the morning light. RAF radar defence experts explained these conventionally enough. Ground clutter, they said, tall trees picked up now and again around one particular radar head.

But there were too many visual sightings and the reports were from witnesses too trustworthy to ignore. Whatever it was that zig-zagged across Britain on the night of March 30 and 31, 1993, that probed our fields and raced our cars, it was not picked up by radar. And consequently, with no radar track to set the procedure in motion, we hadn't even got our aircraft into the air.

Over the coming weeks I tried to find an explanation but every avenue led nowhere. Whatever it was had come and gone. It was time to take the whole problem 'upstairs'. Frankly, I didn't hold out much hope that my bosses would listen.

I drew up a carefully constructed report of the March 30-31 sightings and sent it to my head of division. I deliberately avoided the emotive word 'UFO', inspirer of prejudices, and opted, instead, for 'uncorrelated target' and 'unknown craft'. Government bureaucracies are sometimes accused of inventing jargon for the sake of it, but here I felt it was necessary, it paid off. The report was passed up the chain of command, until it reached the assistant chief of the Air Staff himself.

He noted my report — there was little else he could do. By now I had tried all possible lines of inquiry. There were no other avenues left.

So the official findings (mine) read: 'Type of craft — unknown; origin of craft — unknown; motive of occupants — unknown.' And, although it appears nowhere in the official documentation, I would have to add: 'Conclusion — unsatisfactory.'

The March 30-31 sightings brought about a marked change in my own attitude. I would play no further part in bland platitudes about UFOs being 'of no defence significance'. I sensed that some of my colleagues thought UFOs were only of defence significance if they aimed laser beams at cities. But any craft, conventional or otherwise, that can do what that triangle did, is of extreme defence significance in itself. Our radar couldn't trace it, our jets wouldn't be able to catch it. We can all thank our God — or our lucky stars — that whatever it was it was not, on that particular occasion, anyway, hostile.

IN THE Ministry of Defence, tours of duty last between two and three years. After that, in order to provide a breadth of knowledge and experience, personnel are moved on. In the course of my ten-year career to date, I have been involved in the debate over women flying combat aircraft (we won the debate and now they do); operational duties in the Gulf War and helping to organise the commemorations marking the 50th Anniversary of the end of World War II.

In autumn 1990, I joined the division whose basic role is to provide advice to defence ministers and senior air force officers on policy, political and parliamentary matters, relating to RAF operations. It was this division that was responsible for UFOs.

In July 1991, when an internal shuffle gave me the job of UFO desk officer — Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a — I became the man at the ministry responsible for Unidentified Flying Objects. I was about to become 'the real Fox Mulder' hero of the cult TV series The X Files.

AT THE Ministry, I inherited a situation where any UFO report, however bizarre, seemed to be attributed to aircraft lights; case closed, and those who reported them were more often than not written off as weirdos. When I started I too was generally sceptical about the paranormal,as you would expect a steady career civil servant to be.

I was certainly not the sort of person who subscribed to any sort of bizarre theory without first seeing some proof. I didn't believe in UFOs and I hadn't even heard of the concept of alien abduction.

But my next three years were literally a voyage of discovery. I was able to talk directly to those who have themselves witnessed UFOs and I had unprecedented access to the raw data on the subject — the files which some will tell you the Government is anxious to suppress.

By the time I moved on to another posting, having won an important promotion, my mind had been opened to the possibility that the universe is a very much stranger place than conventional science might suggest.

I believed I had clear evidence that craft of unknown origin were demonstrating a technology, apparently, far in advance of our own and were using it to penetrate our airspace. Our radar could only rarely detect them and even when it could, it seemed that our aircraft and missiles would not be able to stop them. Yet some of my superiors appeared to laugh the matter off. And when they realised I was serious, and they stopped laughing, I was told to drop certain lines of inquiry.

I made it my business to do everything I could to find rational

TURN TO NEXT PAGE

Officials are staying silent to avoid being ridiculed

SINCE the Ministry started to keep records, in 1959, it has received from members of the public reports of 8,890 UFO sightings. Each one is examined and replied to by a civil servant — UFO desk officer (Air Staff) 2a. This is the job I did for three years from 1991.

Many of the reports I received were explicable as misinterpretations of identifiable flying objects or even mere tricks of the light. But my experience there convinced me that Unidentified Flying Objects were a real and threatening phenomenon.

I found this conclusion was supported by expert observers. While the Ministry itself was, by and large, sceptical, the same was not true of the armed forces, especially the RAF. I had fully expected them to be dismissive of UFOs. They weren't. On the contrary, most of the personnel, with whom I had contact, were astonishingly open-minded.

One reason for this might well be that the RAF is more alive to the potential threat of superior technology than any other service. After all, if there were ever to be a hostile action from a UFO, it would be the fighters of the RAF that would be deployed to engage it.

The Civil Aviation Authority, too, requires commercial pilots to log all near-misses and some of them are convinced that what they have almost met with, on occasion, have been UFOs rather than anything they could account for in other ways.

RAF pilots, past and present, have admitted that they have witnessed things in the skies, in all lights and weather and at all times of day and night, that they cannot explain. Two of those I spoke to were station commanders at RAF bases. Such people are impressive witnesses. They are trained in recognition techniques, and reports from such sources are worth taking seriously.

It is unfortunate, then, that on an official basis such reports are almost non-existent. The fear of ridicule is probably the biggest deterrent for them and everybody else in public positions.

If this film was a hoax, what really happened at



by NICK POPE

The man who ran the Ministry of Defence UFO desk for three years

IN THE first two instalments from his extraordinary new book, serialised exclusively in the Daily Mail, Nick Pope explained how the reports he received at the Ministry of Defence convinced him that UFOs do exist, and why he believes they pose a serious threat to mankind. Today, he examines the most controversial of all UFO sightings and argues that those who dismissed film footage of an 'alien autopsy' as a hoax may have missed the true significance of the incident.

ON THE evening of July 2, 1947, Mr and Mrs Dan Wilmot, living in the small town of Roswell, New Mexico, saw 'a big, glowing object' in the night sky over their front porch.

It was nearly 10pm and the visibility was good. Whatever the object was — and it appeared to be shaped like 'two inverted saucers faced mouth to mouth' — it was moving very fast to the north-west.

There was an electrical storm that night, not unusual in the desert regions of the American south-west, but Mac Brazel, a rancher who lived 75 miles from Roswell, heard a loud explosion that was clearly something other than thunder.

In the morning he found an area strewn with wreckage. The fragments were thin, foil-like metal that he couldn't crease or bend with his bare hands. The metal's surface seemed to be covered in hieroglyphics and dangling from it was a tape-like material covered in a floral design.

In Roswell the next day, Brazel visited the town sheriff, who contacted the local army air force base. It was now that events took a rather sinister turn. Brazel talked to a local radio reporter, Johnny McBoyle. But the authorities threatened to remove McBoyle's licence if he continued his transmission, and his attempt to relay the information to the larger radio station at Albuquerque was likewise intercepted.

Meanwhile, Brazel was interrogated at the air base and the army not only visited his ranch to collect the mysterious debris but cordoned off the area.

Although radio silence had effectively been achieved, the newspapers were less easy to control. The Roswell Daily Record of July 8 carried the screaming headline 'USAAF Captures Flying Saucer On Ranch In Roswell Region'. In view of what was rapidly becoming hysterical publicity, Lieutenant Walter Haut, public information officer at the base, issued a press release of unique honesty.

'The many rumours regarding the Flying Disc became a reality yesterday when the Intelligence Office of the 509th Bomb Camp of the Eighth Air Force, Roswell Army Air Field, was fortunate enough to gain possession of a disc through the co-operation of one of the local ranchers and the sheriff's office of Chaves County.

'The flying object landed on a ranch near Roswell sometime last week. Not having phone facilities, the rancher stored the disc until such time as he was able to contact the sheriff's office, who in turn notified Major Jesse A. Marcel of the 509th Bomb Group Intelligence office.

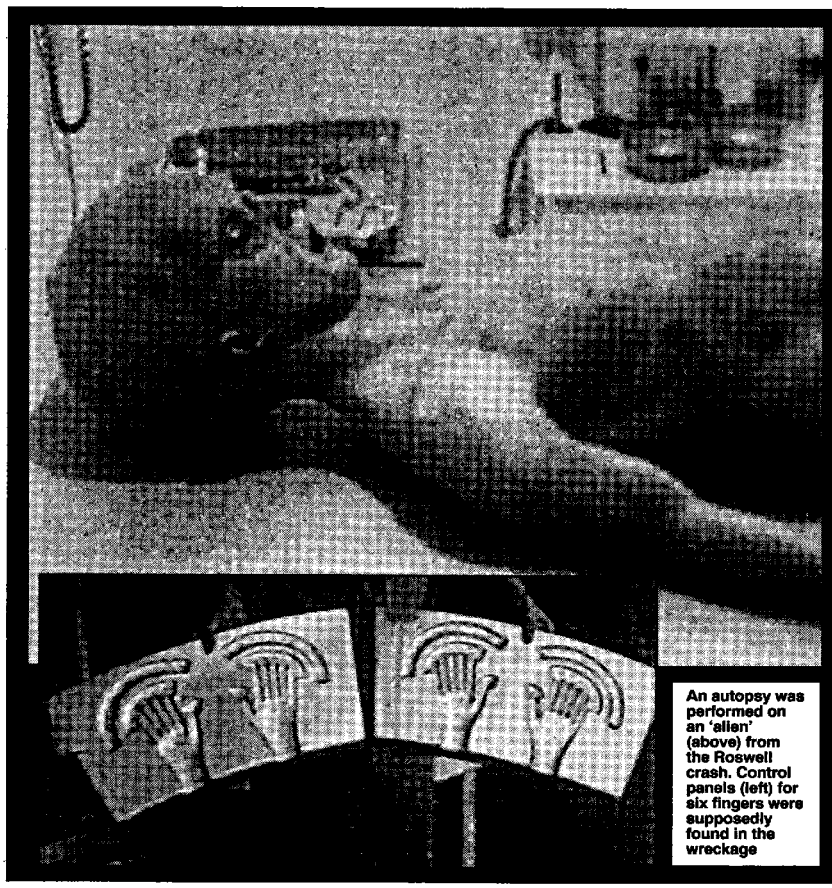
'Action was immediately taken and the disc was picked up at the rancher's home. It was inspected at the Roswell army air field and subsequently loaned by Major Marcel to higher headquarters.'

Haut subsequently claimed that he had cleared this press release with his commanding officer, Colonel William Blanchard. Whatever the truth of the situation, Blanchard went on to become a general; Haut resigned his commission the following year.

Most of the wreckage which Major Marcel had collected was flown to Texas, where a press conference was called and newsmen were allowed to photograph the debris from a distance. A second photo opportunity allowed them even closer. The authorities then announced that the debris was that of a weather balloon. This was certainly not the recollection of the Brazels, who had kept bits of the wreckage out of curiosity. When the younger Brazel mentioned in a local bar that he still had three pieces, he was visited by the military, who promptly confiscated his collection.

This was two years after the crash. Why should the military be so concerned about what they had already said was a weather balloon? Major Marcel, who could be expected to know a weather balloon when he saw one, said he could not recognise the hieroglyphics on the metal's surface and discovered that, though weighing virtually nothing, the metal could not be dented or burned.

But much more bizarre than the compelling evidence of the crashed UFO and the subsequent official cover-up is the alleged discovery of a dead crew member.



An autopsy was performed on an 'alien' (above) from the Roswell crash. Control panels (left) for six fingers were supposedly found in the wreckage

On the morning of July 3, Barney Barnett, a civil engineer working in the desert area known as the Plains of San Augustin, found 'some sort of metallic, disc-shaped object' lying in the sand. Inside the craft and scattered around it were dead creatures, humanoid, but the size of children. Their eyes were small in their outsized heads and they had no hair. They wore grey, one-piece suits without belts, zips or buttons.

BARNETT was not alone. He was allegedly joined by a group of student archaeologists from the University of Pennsylvania, carrying out a dig in the area.

The local undertaker in Roswell, Glenn Dennis, received a number of telephone calls from the air base asking about the complexities of preserving bodies in ice. He subsequently received an order for four child-size coffins. A military nurse at the base claimed to have seen autopsy reports on alien bodies.

There, with hearsay, contradiction and denial, the Roswell story lay for several years. But the U.S. Freedom of Information Act, which became law in 1976, forced the release of many (although not all) government papers on UFOs.

Papers known as the Majestic-12 documents surfaced and they make it clear that a group had been set up by the government to study both the Roswell saucer and its alien crew. The U.S. government at once denounced these documents as fakes.

Was the Roswell 'saucer' an experimental craft, along the lines of dirigible airships and V1/V2 rockets earlier in the century? Certainly, the White Sands Missile Base near Roswell has fired an estimated 30,000 pieces of military hardware into the sky in the half century since 1945.

Until 1964, most of these launches took place at night (which would fit the Wilmot and Brazel evidence) and White Sands admits that 7 per cent of its tests are aborted, allowing for quite a high incidence of crashes. But the unusual metal and the unexplained hieroglyphics would seem to rule out this theory, as would, of course, the alien bodies.

Whatever happened in the sun-baked New Mexico desert in the summer of 1947, it marked the coming of age of ufology in two ways. It produced tangible evidence of a craft and crew that were at least likely not to be of earthly origin. And it produced a wall of silence from the authorities that has blocked serious civilian investigation for years.

BUT in the Roswell case something occurred which lifted it into a different category from other debated UFO stories.

A few years ago, Ray Santilli, the managing director of a London-based firm, was researching a documentary on Elvis Presley when he heard about an American cameraman who claimed to be the first person to film Elvis on stage.

He flew over to meet the man, who was by then in his 80s. Santilli bought film footage from the cameraman, who then offered him some canisters containing 16mm film of

INTO HUMAN HANDS. AND 50 YEARS LATER THEIR FATE IS STILL SHROUDED IN MYSTERY ...

why will no one tell us Roswell air force base?







The alien's face (left), frozen in an expression of horror, is definitely human-like. During analysis, the black membranes covering the eyes were removed (above)

It looks like a human foot but closer inspection reveals six toes *Pictures © Roswell Footage Ltd 1995*

There were 8,000 reports of UFOs — but no one wanted to know

FOR ten years Warminster in Wiltshire became the best example modern Britain has seen of how the heady combination of sightings, media attention, local gurus and rumour can turn a place into a focus of UFO-related activity.

It started in 1965 with a photograph of a disc-shaped UFO over the town, which newspapers gleefully published. Warminster was on course to become the UFO centre of the world.

There were reports of flying objects, ghosts, poltergeists, unexplained buzzing and weird smells engulfing the town. Some were exposed as hoaxes, but this did nothing to undermine Warminster's status as a place of mysterious manifestations.

Its place in UFO culture is well known. But the town that runs it closest in Britain remains a virtual secret. Between 1992 and 1994 the inhabitants of Bonnybridge in Central Scotland made 8,000 reports of UFOs. And yet, despite this extraordinary number, hardly anyone has heard of these reports.

When the Bonnybridge local councillor, Billy Buchanan, held a town meeting to discuss the sightings, hundreds of people turned up. There were television crews from the U.S. and Japan — but the British media stayed away. I wanted to go to Bonnybridge myself but this was not permitted by the Ministry.

A real and natural concern still exists in the area. Strange things were happening, but the Government did not seem to care and even the media did not want to know.

In February 1994, I received a detailed report from very close to Bonnybridge. Ian Macpherson, a 43-year-old civil servant, was walking along the banks of Craigluscar Reservoir taking photographs of the landscape. Suddenly he became aware of an odd humming noise. He looked up and saw something coming low over the dark waters. It was several feet in diameter, disc-shaped and metallic, with lights on its rim. It descended until it was stationary, hovering 100ft above the water.

He watched the object for 15 minutes until it began to move off slowly. Suddenly it accelerated at incredible speed and vanished.

During this sighting, Macpherson felt as though he was paralysed. But as the object moved away he took possession of himself again and managed to get two photographs. The first shows a frisbee-shaped object in the sky; the second, taken only a second or two later, shows merely a dot in the distance.

For some time afterwards, Macpherson would wake up in an armchair in the night, with no recollection of how he got there.

I carried out all the usual tests. No radar blips; no weather balloons; no aircraft in the vicinity. The photographs he took have been analysed and there is no evidence of fakery. The Ministry's official verdict is 'unexplained'.

what he maintained were various autopsies carried out on alien beings killed in the supposed UFO crash at Roswell.

Santilli bought all the footage, allegedly paying $100,000. The cameraman's identity has not been made public, although he has been given the pseudonym of Jack Barnet.

It is claimed that he was serving in the U.S. army in 1947 and was called upon to record the aftermath of the Roswell crash, including the site and the autopsies. He somehow managed to spirit away some of this footage and kept it for nearly 50 years before deciding to sell it.

Rumours about the existence of this film had been circulating among a few ufologists since 1993, but it was not until spring 1995 that the story broke.

A few weeks later a friend rang to invite me to a screening on Friday, May 5 in the lecture theatre beneath the Museum of London. There were about 200 people present, a mixture of ufologists and journalists from around the world.

An edited section of film was shown, lasting for about 18 minutes. It dealt with one of the autopsies. The journalists were in a light-hearted mood. There was lots of laughter and general tomfoolery, but once the screening began, this soon gave way to gasps of amazement and horror.

There was something lying on the autopsy table and it wasn't human. It is difficult to estimate the height, but it was probably around 5ft, perhaps a little less. It was essentially humanoid, with a bulbous, hairless head. The eyes seemed slightly larger than ours, although this might have been an illusion created by the fact that they were completely black.

It had six fingers on its hands and six toes on its feet. The upper left leg appeared to be seriously injured, and the left hand almost severed at the wrist. These, presumably, were injuries sustained in the crash.

Two individuals wearing hooded one-piece protection garments examined the body, and there was a third masked figure visible behind a screen. The footage we saw was edited, clearly short extracts from a fairly lengthy operation. The actual procedure (judging by a clock on the wall) took several hours. After the examination had taken place, the black membranes covering the eyes were removed. It was at this point that the scalpels were brought out and the autopsy became a dissection. The body was slit open at the front and various organs were removed. As each cut was made, a small amount of dark, viscous liquid seeped from the wound.

WHEN THE lights went up at the end of the screening, the perplexed media turned on the unfortunate Santilli, angry that there had been no introduction and no opportunity for questions. He found himself surrounded by a predatory horde of reporters and had to be escorted from the room by a minder.

On Monday, August 28, 1995, extracts from the film were shown in a Channel 4 documentary made by John Purdle of Union Pictures. The extracts were also broadcast in the U.S. and Japan.

In the aftermath of these screenings, the debate on UFOs reached a new intensity. Many claimed this was the final proof that extra-terrestrial life exists and has visited us on Earth. Scientists still disagree, maintaining that it is possible to hoax virtually anything these days.

I suppose they are right, although I suspect some scientists have such a closed mind on the subject that they wouldn't accept the existence of aliens even if the proverbial UFO landing on the White House lawn happened before their very eyes.

I AM still asked by ufologists and journalists alike what I think of the film. I have said simply that it is interesting, although there are still questions to be answered.

There were certainly some important questions: why was the original cameraman not prepared to speak out and be questioned so that details of his military background could be authenticated? Why had he held onto the film for nearly 50 years before coming forward? Perhaps most importantly, why did the aliens shown not match the descriptions given by some of those who claimed to have seen the original entities from the Roswell crash?

As for its authenticity, I keep an open mind, but I am inclined to think it is a very clear hoax. Yet even if it is a hoax, it does not necessarily follow that nothing bizarre and very probably extra-terrestrial dropped on Roswell in 1947.

The shame of the whole business is that if the film is proved to be a forgery, the public will simply assume that the whole Roswell incident never happened. Perhaps, say the conspiracy theorists, that is exactly the aim: to use a cynical piece of disinformation to discredit the whole Roswell saga.

If so, it is fooling very few people, and certainly not the local congressman Stephen Schiff, who continues to maintain that something bizarre happened in Roswell, and that somewhere within the ranks of U.S. officialdom there are people who know exactly what it was.

Perhaps it is fitting to finish with a quote from Richard DeMotto, national security aide to Senator Robert Byrd. Commenting on the Roswell film footage, he said: 'If it happened, if there is even one credible piece of evidence that Earth has been visited by aliens, it changes everything. It only had to happen once.'

■ *ABRIDGED extract from Open Skies, Closed Minds by Nick Pope and M. J. Trow, published by Simon & Schuster on June 3 at £14.99.* © *Nick Pope and M. J. Trow 1996.*

TOMORROW: THE TRUTH ABOUT CROP CIRCLES

UFOs OFFICIAL REPORT

FINAL DAY: THEY'VE BEEN DISMISSED AS HOAXES BUT

What is the message



by NICK POPE

The man who ran the Ministry of Defence UFO desk for three years

IN HIS new book, serialised exclusively in the Daily Mail, Nick Pope explains how the reports he received at the Ministry of Defence convinced him that UFOs do exist, and why he believes they pose a serious threat to mankind. Today, in our final extract, he examines the significance of Britain's best-documented UFO sighting and of the most widely observed unexplained phenomenon — crop circles.



AS FAR as we can tell, the phenomenon of crop circles started in Westbury, Wiltshire, in August 1980. To the south lies Warminster, the most concentrated focus of UFO activity in the country, and to the east, across the rolling expanse of Salisbury Plain, is the Army training area, dotted with red waving flags and rutted with the snaking tracks of tanks.

Three circles had appeared in the corn below the Hill of the White Horse and nobody — least of all the Wiltshire Times, which carried the story — could explain how they got there. There was talk of a prank along the lines of the Devil's footprints found travelling up vertical walls and over rooftops in the Devon snow in the winter of 1855 (and no one has ever proved how that was done, either).

But the circles were too mysterious, intriguing and downright beautiful to be so easily written off. Theories and theorists abounded, offering all manner of quasi-scientific explanations, none of which seemed to meet the case. They included the effect of the strange Wiltshire wind patterns (but these could hardly have produced patterns of such complexity) to New Age-type ideas about the 'Living Earth' sending out messages.

One imponderable which was never properly addressed was why no one had seen a crop circle before 1980 and why the decade saw such a proliferation of them.

There were those who drew immediate parallels with the Warminster 'thing', a disc-shaped object photographed over the town in 1965. And there have indeed been reports of lights (most of them yellow and pulsating — one resembled a huge funfair wheel) in the night sky in connection with crop circles. In 1985, five such lights were seen matching the formation which was to appear in the corn the next day.

THAT year, the Ministry of Defence was drawn into the crop circle debate for the first time. A farmer had found a spectacular quintuplet of circles on his land and telephoned the local Army air corps base at Middle Wallop in Hampshire to ask what they were up to.

They were not, in fact, up to anything. Lieutenant-Colonel Edgecombe, who investigated the matter, was mystified but attended a meeting of crop-circle researchers to give his views. Someone suggested that the circles might be the downwash of the Army helicopter. [illegible] able to [illegible] could informed the meeting that he had photographed the circles from a helicopter and had submitted his photographs and a report to Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a.

The UFO connection with crop circles has never gone away and now here was a senior officer in the British Army, as much a figure of the Establishment as anyone they were ever likely to get, taking a close interest in a phenomenon previously associated (like UFOs themselves) with jokey media reports and odd people in anoraks. In the end, Lt-Col Edgecombe's report was filed, along with some public correspondence, and the Ministry of Defence offered no formal guidance.

The conspiracy theorists had a field day. Wild rumours began to circulate: space-based laser weapons were being tested — though why on farmers' fields, where the results would become public knowledge, and not on the Ministry's private land was never explained; the centre of the circles had been tested and found to be crackling with radioactivity; Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, had asked for a full report on the circles, it was said, and ministers were seen hurrying into Number 10, looking strained.

Very little of it held water. It was true that researchers had carried out soil and crop analyses from within formations, but the results were contradictory and inconclusive. The laser-weapon theory was nonsense, and the high-level meeting at Number 10 never happened. But the speculation continued.

Wiltshire is crowded with Army bases and aerial activity over the county is an everyday occurrence. People — probably the lunatic fringe of the UFO movement whose heads are full of such things — began to notice that the military was paying particular attention to the circles.

In 1985 the phenomenon was (or appeared to be) only five years old, and there was certainly no reason why, before Lt-Col Edgecombe's intervention, the Ministry should have become involved.

But now we were involved. If crops were being flattened in what appeared increasingly to be an unnatural way, then surely some unknown physical force was connected? The force, powerful as it was, might yet have significant defence implications.

By the end of the Eighties, the ferocious media interest had died away, but the job which I took up at the UFO desk of the Ministry in 1991 led me to give the crop circle phenomenon a lot of thought. I reviewed all the theories and I must say that the more complex didn't impress me at all. But what of the simplest one?

FOR ME there is no doubt that many of the circles and even more complex formations are hoaxed. From Piltdown Man to the Hitler Diaries, it is in the nature of some people to con others and in the nature of others to be conned. Some of us simply want to believe, in the same way as we want to believe in the Yeti or the Loch Ness monster.

In my own fields of UFO research, the risk of material being fabricated in many ways, from the stories of fantasy-prone individuals to faked photographs, is high. But a faked circle's edges are rough, where the 'genuine' ones are smooth. In hoaxes, the stalks of the corn are usually broken; in a 'real' circle they are swirled flat. A number of the 'real' circles respond to a dowsing stick; bogus ones generally do not.

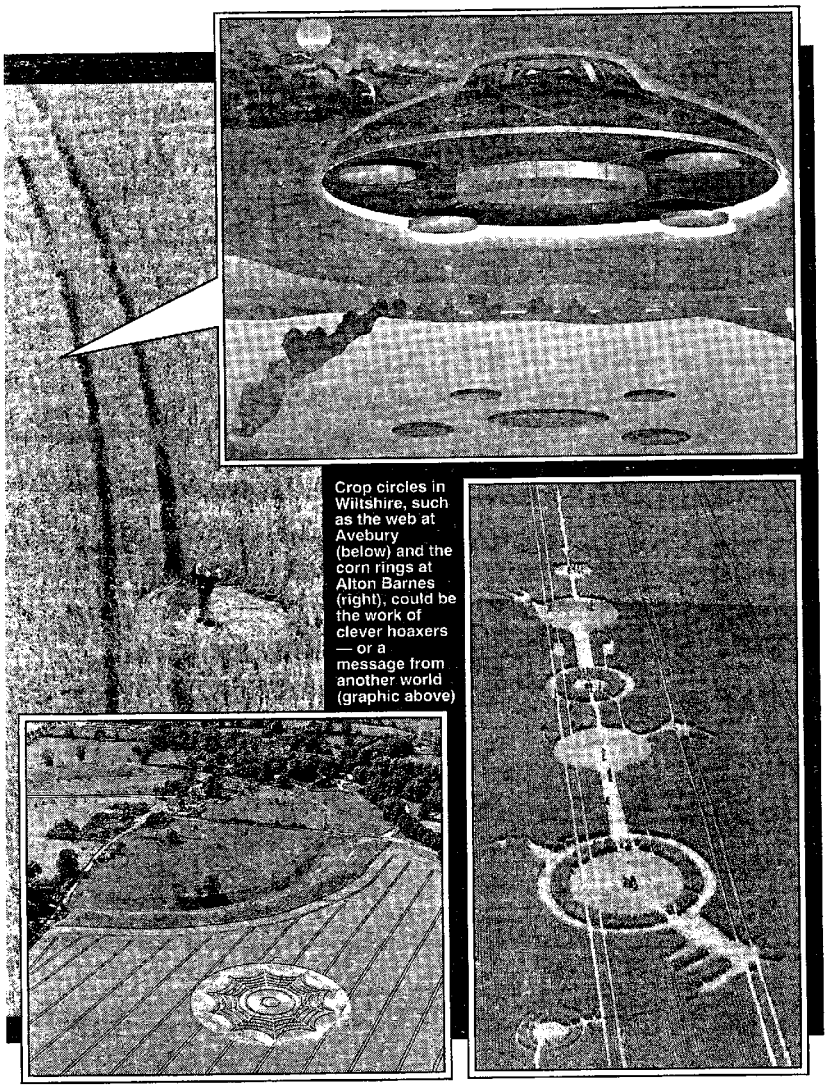
Most significantly of all, some of the crops from 'genuine' circles apparently show distinct cellular changes when analysed; crops from hoaxed circles do not.

Consider, too, the complexities of hoaxing. As Ralph Noyes, a retired senior defence ministry civil servant, says: 'What pantechnicon of skilful technicians has succeeded for 11 years in rushing about Wessex and, latterly, other parts of the country, not to mention the wider world, without ever being detected, even in the most public areas?'

Hoaxers have to work at night, without lights, and are usually in a hurry. They have to avoid a full moon. They can't afford to wake farm dogs or even cattle. They must keep an eagle eye out for shotgun-toting farmers, intent on scaring off trespassers. They must dodge the infra-red lenses of diehard

CAN WE BE SURE EXTRA-TERRESTRIALS AREN'T TRYING TO COMMUNICATE WITH US?

drawn in the corn?



Crop circles in Wiltshire, such as the web at Avebury (below) and the corn rings at Alton Barnes (right), could be the work of clever hoaxers — or a message from another world (graphic above)

cropwatchers. And yet, despite having to contend with all that, they have far exceeded the results of staged competitions to create crop circles, carried out in broad daylight with all the time in the world.

AS FOR the UFO-related theories, I could not give much credence to the idea originating in Queensland, Australia, that the circles were UFO landing nests.

The saucers would be weird indeed if the pictograms were their imprint in the corn. But as far as I was concerned, that was not the end of the UFO possibilities. Far from it.

The designs could certainly still be extra-terrestrial in origin, perhaps made by an energy beam or remote-controlled probe. Again, assuming the existence of alien beings and their ability to reach us, the creation of [illegible] and mysterious patterns in the crop [illegible]ular circles, this explanation goes, is to communicate with us, just as early humans did with each other through pictograms and symbols. To ensure smooth storylines and familiarity among readers and film-goers, science fiction has conveniently assumed that aliens can speak our languages, but we need not be so naive.

Indeed, official attempts are now being made to contact other civilisations in our universe. NASA, for example, transmits radio signals, unmistakably artificial ones such as sequences of prime numbers, so that alien cultures cannot assume they are natural in configuration, and binary code sequences which, when decoded into black and white components, take on the crude figure of a human being. The frequencies are chosen to avoid confusion with signals naturally emitted by pulsars and other stellar objects.

Perhaps someone or something is using our fields in the same way in an attempt to contact us. The corn is a blank canvas. Etch on it patterns which are unmistakably artificial and, as humans attempt to explain them away naturally or scientifically, make them more and more complex so that they cannot be dismissed as either plasma vortices or hoaxes.

Mathematics, it is said, is the only universal language. If this is so, is it possible that extra-terrestrials would use a form of mathematics to communicate with us?

Benoit Mandelbrot devised a shape on an IBM computer as a representation of the concept of infinity. An exact replica of that shape appeared in a corn field in England in 1993. Coincidence? A hoax by a team of university professors? Or something less earthly?

And what of the quintuplets, one large circle surrounded by four smaller ones? Could the message be as simple as 'We come from a star with four planets'? Or 'Our planet has four moons'? Or perhaps 'We come from the fourth planet of this star. We come from Mars'.

■ *ABRIDGED extract from Open Skies, Closed Minds by Nick Pope and M. J. Trow, published by Simon & Schuster on June 3 at £14.99.*
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An intelligence visited the woods — it did not originate on Earth

AT THREE in the morning on December 27, 1980, two security patrolmen on a routine tour of the perimeter of the RAF/USAF airbase at Woodbridge in Suffolk saw bright lights among the trees of the adjacent Rendlesham Forest. Their first assumption was that an aircraft might have overshot or misjudged the runway and been forced into the trees, although they had heard no noise. They asked permission to investigate beyond the camp gates, which was duly granted.

In the forest it soon became clear that the object was no aeroplane. They saw a metallic, triangular craft unlike anything they had seen before and chased it through the trees. And that was not the end of it.

Two nights later, there was a similar sighting and a larger team led by the deputy base commander, U.S. Air Force Lieutenant-Colonel Charles Halt, went out to investigate.

Halt and his men advanced into the forest, leaving others in the vicinity of the powerful lights, known by the military as light-alls, that had been brought up to illuminate the scene. Their equipment behaved strangely. Although the tape recorder, Geiger counter and night-vision scope were in perfect order, all three machines experienced interference. The light-alls refused to work.

It is eerie to hear the 18-minute recording of Halt and his team as they edged their way through the undergrowth to within 150 yards of the light source.

'Strange flashing red light ahead.'

'No, it's yellow.'

'Weird.'

'It's definitely coming this way.'

Halt remembered the light vividly in later years: 'It pulsated as though it were an eye winking at you and around the edges it appeared to have molten metal dripping off it. Here I am, a senior official who routinely denies this sort of thing and works to debunk them, and I'm involved in the middle of something I can't explain.'

WHAT he couldn't explain was that the moving light, now red, now yellow, suddenly exploded into pieces, each of them in a white light, and then disappeared. Immediately he saw three objects in the sky, like stars, except that they gave off red, green and blue lights and darted in all directions in sharp, angular movements. Those to the north appeared elliptical when viewed through a power lens, but their shape changed into full circles.

They were visible for two or three hours and occasionally flashed down beams of light or energy — Halt didn't know which. His scepticism vanished. 'I was really in awe,' he confesses.

A mile away, U.S. airman John Burroughs was with his vehicle, still trying to repair the malfunctioning light-alls. A blue light streaked past him at head height and the light-alls came on. The light passed through the open windows of his truck and vanished into the distance. Then the light-alls went out.

U.S. airman Larry Warren was with another team. He is still able to pinpoint the exact spot where he saw the light, in a strange circle of mist, in a field. The whole field was lit by a bright light. A glowing red ball approached from across the field and at first Warren thought it was an A-10 aircraft coming in to land. But it stopped over the circle of mist and exploded, without sound, without heat, into a galaxy of coloured lights.

SOMEHOW — and Warren was at a loss to explain how — the vapour of the mist and coloured lights transformed into a structured object. He estimated it to be 30ft across the base and 20ft high. There was a bank of blue lights on the underside and the whole thing shone with a rainbow or mother-of-pearl effect, so bright it was difficult to look at it.

There are also reports of local farm animals going into a frenzy.

Halt's report mentions that the following day checks were made in the woodland. Three depressions, 1½in deep and 7in in diameter, were found in the soil. The ground readings on the Geiger counter were 25 times the normal background level.

A cloud of secrecy hung over Rendlesham. Unscheduled flights came and went. People were told to keep quiet and forget the lights. Even Halt was left in the dark. His superiors told him to submit his report to the Ministry of Defence, which he did. My predecessor on the UFO desk seems not to have acknowledged this. Bewildered and angry, Halt is still awaiting his reply from us 15 years later.

So what actually happened at Rendlesham Forest? The science writer Ian Ridpath suggests that the lights in the trees were actually the rotating beams from Orford Ness lighthouse, six miles away. A timing of Halt's tape fits the lighthouse's rhythms. But, as Halt has said, a lighthouse doesn't move through a forest, doesn't explode, doesn't change shape, doesn't send down beams of light.

We have no proof that an alien craft landed in Rendlesham Forest, but we have no proof that it didn't. Clifford Stone, a former intelligence officer, believes that Washington has the answer and is keeping it secret. A highly advanced technology appeared in those woods and there was an intelligence involved. 'The intelligence,' says Ston[illegible] originate on Earth.'



Section 40

As discussed attached a statement with respect to a "sighting" which the BBC programme "Out of this World" has sought our comments on.

You will notice I have weaved in "as detailed in your facsimile message" into the statement. I have done this deliberately because when Section 40 telephoned me she said that they had a video of the sighting (which clearly they are going to show on the programme), but she did not offer to show us the video footage, and is just seeking our comments on her fax.

Section 40

REPORT OF AN "UNEXPLAINED" AERIAL SIGHTING IN THE TORRISHOLME AREA OF MORECAMBE - 2 FEB 96

"The MOD does look into reports of sightings that are sent to us, many of which are very vague, but only to establish if what was seen may have some defence significance. We believe that down-to-earth explanations are available for most of these reported sightings, such as aircraft seen from unusual angles, or natural phenomena. If there is no evidence to suggest a matter of defence relevance we do not investigate or seek to establish the precise nature of what was observed.

Although the MOD did receive four reports for 2 Feb 96, none were in the Morecambe or surrounding areas, as detailed in your facsimile message. We are not aware of any matter of defence concern associated with any of these sightings, or the sightings near Morecombe which you have now brought to our attention. Furthermore, no military aircraft were authorised to operate at low level (below 2000 ft) in the vicinity of Torrisholme at the time of the sighting."

6411

Facsimile Cover Sheet

To: [redacted]
Company: MOD
Phone:
Fax: [redacted]

From: [redacted]
Company: British Broadcasting Corporation
Phone: [redacted]
Fax:

Date: 15/05/96
Pages including this cover page: 2

Comments:

Dear [redacted]

I'd be grateful if you could fax a reply to me on [redacted]

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SECRETARIAT
15 MAY 1996
FILE



BRITISH BROADCASTING CORPORATION
WHITE CITY
201 WOOD LANE
LONDON W12 7TS
TELEPHONE: 0181-752 5252

No military aircraft booked into the low flying system.

15th May 1996.

Dear Section 40

Many thanks for offering to look into the following sightings of a UFO which was witnessed by two people and later filmed in the Morecambe area.

On February 2nd of this year at about 5.30pm two witnesses saw a triangular configuration of lights hovering above the Torrisholme area of Morecambe (just north of Morecambe itself). On looking through binoculars one of the witnesses claims to have seen a solid outline which joined the lights together. The object was silent and stayed in the same position until it disappeared just before 7pm.
At approximately 7pm a bright light which was moving eastwards across the area of Torrisholme was filmed by a separate witness who also says it emitted no sound. On slowing the film down this light seems to break into a triangular configuration.

I'd be very grateful if you could look into the above accounts and let me know if there were any military aircraft in the area that you feel may account for this activity or any unusual radar reports.

Yours sincerely

Section 40



LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/1

14 May 96

PS/CSA

MOD LINES ON REPORTS OF "UNIDENTIFIED" FLYING OBJECTS

As requested, attached please find brief lines on MOD involvement in the subject of "UFOs".

Section 40

[redacted]

Sec(AS)2a1
MB8245 82140MB

MOD POLICY ON REPORTS OF "UNIDENTIFIED" FLYING OBJECTS

- The MOD does not have any direct interest, expertise or role with respect to "UFO/flying saucer" matters, or the question of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms, about which we remain open-minded.

- To date we are not aware of any evidence which substantiates the existence of lifeforms of extraterrestrial origin.

- The MOD does look into reports of "UFO" sightings that are sent to us, many of which are very vague, but only to establish if what was seen may have defence significance, eg. hostile foreign military aircraft in UK airspace. We believe that down-to-earth explanations are available for most reported "UFO" sightings, such as aircraft seen from unusual angles, or natural phenomena.

- If there is no evidence to suggest a matter of defence relevance we do not investigate or seek to establish the precise nature of what was observed.

- Secretariat (Air Staff), the single service secretariat branch which provides administrative support for RAF activities and operations, is the nominated MOD *focal point* for the subject of "UFOs". Although there are two members of staff in Sec(AS)2a who deal with "UFO"-related queries as a part of their much wider ranging secretariat duties, there are no staff who work on this topic full-time.

The Sunday Telegraph
28 April 1996

After 75 years, market forces attack the Naafi

by ANDREW GILLIGAN

Defence Correspondent

SENIOR military officers have attacked moves to commercialise the Naafi and close down many of its shops and bars in Britain's garrisons.

The closures, now being implemented, have been criticised by one garrison commander as "damaging a cornerstone of Service life". Naafi, which celebrates its 75th anniversary this year, has fed generations of troops. Owned by Servicemen themselves as a form of co-operative, its canteens are part of every barracks and post.

Now, however, a review has recommended that control of Naafi should be transferred to the organisation's commercial managers. The review, by Geoffrey Dart, a Marks & Spencer director, also proposed closing all but the most isolated Naafi shops in the UK. Mr Dart takes over as Naafi's new chief executive tomorrow.

"Defence cuts have reduced our customer base considerably and we have to react to that," said Rob Howe, Naafi's spokesman. "We made a loss last year for the first time in three-quarters of a century."

Only 15 of Naafi's 100 British shops make significant profits, with most others breaking even. Naafi says that cuts on the mainland are necessary to safeguard the essential, but loss-making services in such high-risk postings as Northern Ireland and Bosnia. Most Servicemen based in Britain, they say, now have easy access to civilian shops.

"These days Servicemen are much more mobile. They can just jump in their cars and go to Sainsbury's," said Mr Howe. "And where a night out used to mean going down the Naafi, these days they get a cab and go to the nightclub in town."

Naafi managers also stress that most of the threatened shops will be given a chance to improve their finances before they are closed. Nineteen with special welfare value will be preserved and no social clubs will close — only bars within them.

But the arguments have not convinced families' and officers at several of Britain's garrisons. "Naafi should not be run as an commercial business," said one. "It is an essential part of the welfare service for the ordinary soldier and his family."

A base commander said: "The size of the Forces may have reduced, but the number of bases has also reduced. We are now more highly concentrated in particular places, which should make it easier for them to serve us profitably."

But Naafi staff say they need to start making more money "to provide attractive new facilities for Servicemen so they will still want to use us in ten years' time."

The Observer
28 April 1996

ET was here, says MoD man

Ron McKay

IT'S OFFICIAL — there are aliens out there and they have been visiting Earth for years, breaching air defences and endangering national security.

At least this is the belief of a Ministry of Defence official who has investigated more than 600 alleged UFO sightings and had access to all the top-secret departmental files over 40 years. Nick Pope, a 30-year-old civil servant, was in charge of the MoD's X-Files section — prosaically titled Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a — which handles inquiries into unexplained air phenomena. He arrived in 1991 as a sceptic and left three years later convinced.

Mr Pope still works for the Ministry, which stresses that his opinions are his own and are not shared in Whitehall, where the official view is that while we are open-minded about the possible presence of others in our galaxy, there is no proof they have been parking their spaceships on our lawns.

Mr Pope has a book coming out in June based on his MoD experiences, *Open Skies, Closed Minds*, but when the *Observer* rang him at his desk in Whitehall he was decidedly close-mouthed. 'It's in my interest that the news interest manifests itself when there is a book on the shelf,' he said.

He did confirm that he now believed in extraterrestrial visitations and that direct experience of investigating sightings had convinced him.

However, the author has been less guarded elsewhere. He spoke at a conference in London last weekend organised by *Fortean Times* magazine, and even has his own space on the Internet, where he reveals that his departmental colleagues have nicknamed him 'Spooky', the same as Fox Mulder's in the *X-Files*.

'The official reason why the MoD looks at UFO reports is simply to see whether there is evidence of any threat to the defence of the UK,' he says. 'But how can anybody say there's no threat if they don't know what UFOs are?' Stressing this point to his superiors allowed him to 'investigate UFO sightings and handle policy in this area'.

Speaking at the London 'Unconvention' conference, Mr Pope said he had dealt with more than 200 sightings a year and, during his spell at the department, found around 80 that could not be explained. He believes Britain's most famous alleged sighting, on a December night in 1980 in Rendlesham Forest, Suffolk, was compelling evidence of visitors from outer space. American airmen from two nearby RAF bases described an object the size of a tank, triangular with three legs and made out of what looked like black glass, which rose slowly upwards, hovered briefly and then shot off at incredible speed.

His book has been vetted by the men from the Ministry ('We're quite relaxed about it,' said a spokesman). But he stressed Mr Pope's job had been purely administrative: 'It was not his job to investigate. I am not aware that our air defence system has ever been penetrated.'

Nonsense, says Mr Pope. 'Not only is the truth out there,' he says 'but it is much stranger than fiction.'

Section 40

The RAF News asked us if we would like to contribute to an article in their Magazine aimed at setting out the true position of Sec(AS)2a's involvement in reports of UFOs. We provided our standard material to the RAF News and the article is a fair reflection.

Naturally, the Press have picked it up and run a story with a predictable slant - I attach a copy for your interest.

Section 40

Section 40

Thank you!

Section 40

UFO reports shot down

Recent suggestions that the MOD has a high level of interest in Unidentified Flying Objects were greeted with incredulity by the cell actually tasked with overseeing this subject.

The two-man Secretariat(Air Staff)2a in Main Building said they existed to provide administrative support for RAF activities and operations. UFOs were just one of a whole range of responsibilities.

They admitted receiving in the region of 200-300 reports of unexplained aerial sightings a year but denied anybody worked full time on them.

The MOD did not have any direct interest, expertise or role in respect of UFO matters, or those relating to the existence or otherwise of extraterrestial lifeforms, about which it remained open minded. To date, the MOD knew of no evidence which might substantiate the existence of such phenomena.

"With responsibility for the effective defence of the UK, the MOD and HM Forces remain vigilant for any potential threat from whatever source. It is in this context alone that reports of unexplained aerial sightings are looked at in order to establish whether what was seen might have defence significance.

"If no threat is discerned – and in connection with UFO sightings this has been the case in all instances to date – no further attempt is made to investigate or establish exactly what might have been seen. As such it is quite common for a sighting to remain unexplained but not require further official action."

They said that despite the fact that only a small part of their workload was to act as a focal point for answering these type of queries, they were often erroneously referred to as 'the UFO office'.

"The majority of reports which we receive are from members of the public who have witnessed something puzzling, usually lights in the sky, and feel that they ought to inform the authorities of what they saw. We look at these reports, most of which are very vague, to establish whether there is any defence interest.

"Although we are sometimes able to provide a definitive explanation of what the witness saw, for example we may already be aware of unusual aerial activity which ties in with the sighting, we are not constituted to investigate and provide an explanation for every unusual sight in the sky."

Boddington signals stat

THE beginning of April heralded the end of Boddington. The station has been transferred to become a part of Innsworth and its commander post disestablished.

Its operational unit, No 9 Signals Unit, will remain but now as a Logistics Command lodger unit on Innsworth's real estate.

A formal closure ceremony was held on April 1 in the presence of the AOC Signals Units, Air Vice-Marshal McCandless and the Mayor of Tewkesbury Borough.

More than 30 guests included all of the RAF officers who have been in command of the station – 12 in total covering the years 1969 to 1996. The guests, nearly all of whom were accompanied by their wives, toured the unit before an address by the AOC and the lowering of the Station Commander's pennant.

There has been a communications facility at Boddington since 1940. Initially it was operated by the Auxiliary Territorial Service before being taken over by the Royal Signals in 1949. The RAF took on the commitment on July 1 1969 and the facility was then operated as a remote site of the Central Communication Centre at Stanbridge. On October 1 1978, No 9 Signals Unit was formed and Boddington became an independent station.

Its main business has always been as a part of an extensive network which handles telegraph signals traffic. In 1940, all connections were made manually with Patching Jackfields by lots of operators. Advances in technology and increases in signals traffic have seen the capabilities enhanced through several stages over the years and now messages



The last

A trio of lucky air cadets took part Chipmunk air experience flights on March the aircraft's final day of RAF service.

Formal entry by



UFOs are just a flight of fancy, says the MoD

DEFENCE chiefs have broken decades of silence with an unprecedented statement dismissing the possible existence of UFOs.

Whitehall has finally decreed that flying saucers and visitors from distant worlds are simply a product of the imagination.

The announcement has astonished defence analysts, who point out that the Ministry of Defence has never before responded despite thousands of reports of sightings. The official statement — published in RAF News — comes just a fortnight after a television documentary claimed that the highest levels of government had not discounted the possibility of life on other planets.

By SEAN RAYMENT
Defence Correspondent

The BBC-2 programme Secrets of the Paranormal revealed that an unnamed MoD source had claimed a Government UFO monitoring unit had confirmed reports of unidentified craft moving at impossible speeds. The source told UFO investigator Jenny Randles: 'We had radar reports of objects travelling at 4,000mph across the North Sea into British airspace — objects as big as battleships.'

But RAF News, the service's official newspaper, responded by saying there was 'no evidence which might substantiate the existence of such phenomena'.

It was said to have been ordered to print the article in a bid to quell public interest.

The statement — which described the majority of sightings as being 'very vague' — also denied the existence of an official UFO investigation unit. It insisted that the Government only had a two-man team known as the Secretariat (Air Staff) 2A, who provided administrative support for RAF operations.

While admitting that the team receives around 300 unexplained sightings a year, it said UFOs were 'just one of a whole range of responsibilities'. Last night an MoD insider said: 'There have been thousands of programmes about UFOs and only now the RAF decides to say something. One can't help wondering why.'

Cooper Man 2 opens

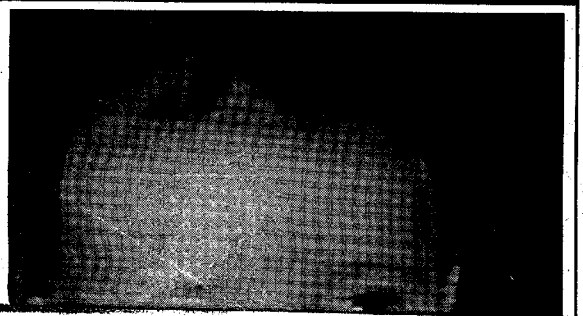
ROVER will pull an 'Italian Job' on Fiat tomorrow with its latest sales drive.

Some 150 of its new 200 models are to recreate the classic scene from the 1960s Michael Caine movie in which police chased three Mini Coopers on the test-track roof of Fiat's former HQ in Turin — now an exhibition centre.

Rover plans to lead the homage to the bullion heist comedy with a current Mini Cooper. The cars will then go to showrooms across Italy.

The stunt will be the first time a foreign car company has been allowed to use the track. 'Fiat were not too happy,' said Rover.

DEATH GAME IN A GARDEN POND



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64/1

ENCLOSURE 63

Cup and saucer men on trail of flying saucers

by ASHLEY WALTON

THE truth is out there! Britain has its own real-life X Files team, investigating reports of the paranormal.

Buried in the Ministry of Defence, in an anonymous office overlooking Whitehall, two Government agents pore over buff-coloured files, examining sightings of flying saucers and visits by aliens to our planet.

They are the British equivalent of TV's Mulder and Scully. A pair of civil servants, generally seen as more at home with cups and saucers than flying saucers, push back the frontiers of human knowledge in a search for the truth. In the corridors of power the team works under the title Secretariat (Air Staff) 2A MOD.

But in typical Yes Minister style, their work is far from glamorous. Unlike the dynamic TV team, they don't go out in designer suits, stay in motels, invade secret army bases or confront crazed vampires, aliens and assorted weirdos.

The X Files which are the work of 2A are delivered every day to their desks, and together they sift through endless reports of UFO sightings and the paranormal.

The Ministry of Defence says it receives 200 to 300 reports of what they call "unexplained sightings" a year, which all go to the 2A team. But a MoD Ministry spokesman said yesterday: "We do not have a special office investigating UFOs. This is nothing to do with little green men."

But the rest of the Ministry statement is as mysterious as a UFO sighting.

It adds: "If people write to us, as they do everyday, with sightings of something of what they believe is unusual then someone has to look into it and reply.

"This is the work of the secretarial team. Yes, many of the reports are about UFOs and other odd sightings, but we are definitely not investigating them."

The 2A operation is revealed in the latest issue of RAF News. It is the first recorded public acknowledgment that the team exists.

■ Help may soon be at hand for astronauts who miss a cuppa in outer space. It is virtually impossible to boil water in weightless conditions.

But NASA is to spend £500,000 inventing a space kettle.



LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/1

29 Apr 96

Chief Paper Keeper, MOD Archives Hayes - Section 40

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION ON "UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS"

1. This office has just received advance notification of the intention of a MP to table a Parliamentary Question in the House of Commons on "UFOs" in the next day or so.

2. In order to answer the question posed it would be most helpful if you could arrange for the following five archived files, all entitled *"UFO Correspondence - General Briefs and Reports"* to be despatched to me as soon as possible:

File References:

D/DS8/10/209	Part A
D/DS8/10/209	Part B
D/DS8/10/209	Part C
D/DS8/10/209	Part D
D/DS8/10/209	Part E

3. For ease our full address is as follows:

Ministry of Defence
Secretariat(Air Staff)2a
Room 8245
Main Building
Whitehall
SW1A 2HB

4. I should be grateful if you would contact me if there are any difficulties with the above. Thank you in anticipation of your assistance in this matter.

Section 40

Sec(AS)2a1
MB8245 82140MB

Classification

Caveat

Covering

F Sigs
(Rev 8

Facsimile Transmission Cover Sheet

Transmission Details		Document Details
Serial Number: —	Date and Time of Transmission: 29 APR 96	Reference: D/SEC(AS) 64/1
From: SEC(AS)2A	Section 40	Subject: PQ on "UFOs"
To: Section 40 CHIEF PAPER KEEPER	Fax Number: Section 40	Total number of pages including this cover sheet: 2

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Rank, Name and Appointment: EO	Section 40	Rank/Grade, Name and Telephone No.: AO Section 40
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Message/Remarks:

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SECRETARIAT(AIR STAFF) Fax [redacted] Section 40

***** Transmit Conf.Report *****

29 Apr '96 14:43

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The Sunday Telegraph
21 [redacted] 1996

How to smell an angel, or cut up an alien

by JO KNOWSLEY

THERE was no evidence of vampires in the lecture theatre. No sign of aliens at the bar. But in the foyer of the University of London Institute of Education yesterday one man was convinced he had "smelled" an angel.

Most of the 1,500 people who attended the third annual "Unconvention" of *Fortean Times*, the magazine which delves into the paranormal, the unexplained and things that go bump in the night, wanted to believe in something.

And there were plenty of people to help them do it. David Heppell, a curator at the Royal Museum of Scotland, spoke on recent reports of modern mermaids. [redacted], a former UFO investigator for the Ministry of Defence, himself a new believer, was content to preach to the converted.

Downstairs, Dr Richard Wiseman, of the University of Hertfordshire, a researcher into paranormal activity, was conducting Victorian-style seances.

"We're not trying to help people get in touch with the dead," he explained. "But we are interested in the phenomena of seances; what does occur and what those who take part believe has occurred are often very different."

There were lectures on the Evolution of the Vampire, the theme at the two-day event; discussions of footage showing the autopsies of aliens; and a debate on What Are Ghosts? Inevitably there was a hall full of products to go with them.

David Lomax, the man who smelled an angel, is a minister of Greenhill New Church in Barnet, Herts. He said he had encountered the presence last year. He has now researched a book on the subject and says his life has been "different" ever since.

But Samantha Hamilton, 23, of Hertfordshire, who has an animal science degree, was interested in vampires. "I find them fascinating and erotic," she said. "Does that sound strange? My mother thinks so."

Marina White, 50, of London, who is compelled by the night skies and her search for UFOs, went so far as to divorce her husband because he did not share her interests.

"I'd be out looking for UFOs and studying the stars and he only wanted to sit and drink," she said. "I think that's perfectly reasonable grounds for divorce."

The Sunday Times
21 April 1996

FINAL 1.5

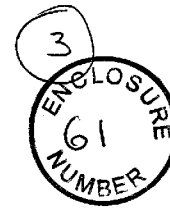
Air force jets were scrambled for UFOs

A SERVING official at the Ministry of Defence (MoD) revealed yesterday that British jets were scrambled to intercept unidentified flying objects (UFOs) as recently as the 1980s, *write Richard Woods and Steve Ball*.

[redacted], who was the MoD official in charge of investigating UFO reports until 1994 and still works for the ministry, said RAF fighters tried to intercept the UFOs but failed to lock on to the objects, leaving open the possibility of error by ground-based radars.

However, Pope said he knew of other credible reports that UFOs based on high technology had flown over Britain.

In June Pope is publishing a book on UFO incidents and his experience at the MoD. "There is no cover-up or a lot of classified information about extra-terrestrials," he said at Unconvention, a conference organised by Fortean Times, the magazine about the paranormal. "What there is is a total lack of official understanding. This is not something that is a joke. Our air defences have been penetrated by structured aircraft."



Evening Standard
12 April 1996

Anoraks from outer space

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 60



LAST NIGHT'S TV

Matthew Norman

AS earthlings, we encounter many mysteries that appear to defeat rational explanation. Who built Stonehenge, and why? What was British Leyland thinking of when it built early models of the Austin Allegro with a square piece of plastic for a steering wheel? And if ignorance is bliss, why does Jimmy Hill always look so miserable?

With conundrums as impenetrable as these — ones for which nothing ever found on this planet offers any clue at all — the temptation to look elsewhere for the answers can be irresistible. We search the skies for evidence of superior life forms, and some of us even find it. Jenny Randles thinks she has, and in **Secrets of the Paranormal: UFO — Britain's Secret File** (BBC2) she argued that the British government has too, but prefers to keep it hidden.

Miss Randles certainly looks the part of what she, in a bid to imbue her obsession with a spurious scientific edge, calls a "ufologist". A plump woman from the Wirral in early middle age, the insane shapelessness of her hair and the zealotry in her face give her the aura of a bit player in The X-Files.

If it wished to be taken seriously, it wouldn't use a picture of Uri Geller in the opening titles, and it would not come from the BBC's Community Programme Unit. Without the budget or the ambition for anything more, it aims to transmit a frisson of mystique for a pittance; to provide, in other words, a cheap thrill.

This it did surprisingly well. Given a camera crew, a tiny budget and access to archive footage, Miss Randles raised enough questions about UFOs to create a state of suspended disbelief that survived the closing titles by several minutes. What she could not — what no one has ever done — was offer any credible answer.

To illustrate her cover-up theory, she detailed various perplexing incidents and laboriously traced references in Ministry of Defence Files.

In equating the British governmental adoration for keeping secrets with deliberate suppression of sinister fact, Miss Randles struck a contrast with America. In one state, we heard, the fireman's manual contains some 30 pages on what to do in case of UFO disaster. Since the state is California, this neatly reinforced the air of crankiness that clung to the film.

Miss Randles interviewed Ralph Noyes, once in charge of monitoring UFO activity at the Air Ministry. He said there were things that couldn't be explained, but denied any conscious policy decision to hide secret files. She insisted that there was. Who do you believe — a former senior Whitehall official, or an overtly eccentric professional conspiracy theorist with a maniacal haircut? In all seriousness, it's much too close to call.

More titillating was the case of the "Cumberland spaceman". In 1964, John Templeton took a picture of his daughter on marshland near a missile base outside Carlisle, and when the film was developed, a huge creature — shaped like a man and wearing an astronaut's helmet — was clearly visible in the background.

Miss Randles concluded a diverting, coherent and slickly produced 30 minutes by contradicting the impression she has striven so hard to create, admitting that the government's secrecy probably derives from the desire to disguise its ignorance.

On that we can all agree. Where many of us will differ, albeit reluctantly, from Miss Randles, Lord Hill Norton and all their fellow "ufologists" is in the fundamental matter of faith.

For the sceptic, as well as for the believer, there are always questions, but never answers. Why, for example, are the inhabitants of UFOs so fascinated with earthling aircraft (they always turn up near airforce bases) when their technology, to get them here in the first place, is vastly more sophisticated? Is it likely, do you think, that, with the whole of Europe to choose from, the favourite country of these superior intellects could be Belgium? And how is it that, despite visiting old Blighty many times, they have never bothered to collect Loyd Grossman, and take him home?

● *Victor Lewis-Smith is away.*

The Guardian
13 April 1996

Zeitgeist

Tom Bussmann

It's a gas

Or rather, it isn't. The MoD's Chemical and Biological Defence Establishment at Porton Down no longer exists. As such. Instead, the site is now occupied by something called the Protection and Life Sciences Division. Locals can at last breathe easy, preferably through a second-world-war Mickey Mouse respirator. Prompting the thought that Sellafield must be due for another quiet re-naming ceremony — Dunglowin, perhaps?

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 6

today's television 23



review
Thomas Sutcliffe

BROADCASTING WRITER OF THE YEAR

Something spooky has turned up in the hitherto dependable expanses of the BBC2 schedules, an alien presence on a channel you might have assumed to be broadly dedicated to the exercise of reason. At first glance **Secrets of the Paranormal** looks like the most cynical kind of figure boosting, an invader from Planet Carlton. On a second glance you realise that even Carlton might disown a series in which editorial control has been surrendered to people so open-minded that bats have taken up residence.

There are some tiny mitigating factors. The programmes have a video diary look and come from the Community Programme Unit, so it might be argued that they simply represent a commitment to all elements of the varied audience — after all, the superstitious and the gullible pay their licence fees, too. And, to be fair to Jenny Randle, the presenter of the first programme, she had pursued her investigations with a passable simulation of scholarship — trawling through the Public Records Office to tally Ministry of Defence accounts with anecdotal recollections.

There the mitigation ends, because what followed demonstrated yet again how malleable the logic of UFO devotees can be — a sort of mental Plasticine out of which monsters are moulded. Government secrecy, for example, is never a simple matter of bureaucratic reflex, always evidence of a conspiracy. Randle talked of the MOD's "secret UFO files", a phrase redolent of denied knowledge. She could equally well have talked of "secret tea-bag procurement files" given the institution's instinct for secrecy, but it wouldn't mean there was anything interesting to uncover.

She also displayed the selective vision so familiar of the type. Investigating a story of unidentified objects spotted at the launch of a Blue Streak missile in Woomera, she found an official letter referring to the incident and a reply that confirmed the existence of the film. "There is nothing about any analysis of the film," she said excitedly. But if you actually read the letter she had shown you it was obvious that the image had both been analysed and explained. "It is clear that the object is nothing more than an internal camera reflection," it explained. "This is a well-known phenomenon among photographic specialists." So well known, indeed, that it had been used at the top of the programme to create a UFO effect.

But then conviction often brings with it an impairment of vision. We were later offered the sad spectacle of three grown people driving around the North Yorkshire moors, working themselves into a frenzy of delicious paranoia about a "top secret American base", an installation so determined to conceal its existence that it had sited itself just yards from a public highway. "They don't want *anybody* to be *anywhere* near here," whispered Randle as she drove past, video camera peeping thrillingly over the edge of the car door. In fact this footage did include an inexplicable object, clearly of non-human origin — a dense, black, fibrous substance that had cunningly taken up position on one of her colleagues' heads, where it was attempting to pass itself off as hair. I suspect that if asked about this the man in question would retreat behind a veil of secrecy — indisputable evidence, clearly, that there is more to this phenomenon than meets the eye.

If *Secrets of the Paranormal* suggested that the BBC had established a Care in the Community Unit, **Undercover Britain** (C4) reminded you that that wretched euphemism is no joke in reality. Fay MacNiece went undercover to find out what private residential care homes were like and her film offered a shocking demonstration of what an unregulated market can do to the vulnerable. In pursuit of ideology the Government has created a bonanza for the greedy and the unscrupulous, battery-farming the mentally ill for their benefit cash. It was an infinitely more dignified and honourable use of video cameras than the BBC's celebration of credulity.

BBC1

6.00 Business Breakfast *(32270).*
7.00 BBC Breakfast News *(50831).* *
9.00 Breakfast News Extra *(7973560).* *
9.20 Can't Cook, Won't Cook *(S) (7106522).*
9.45 Kilroy *(S) (1266015).*
10.30 Good Morning with Anne and Nick *(S) (20367).*
12.00 News, Local News, Weather *(6969725).* *
12.05 Room for Improvement *(S) (8747015).*
12.35 Going for Gold *(S) (3898473).*
1.00 News, Weather *(60218).* *
1.30 Local News, Weather *(94530270).*
1.40 Neighbours *(S) (44649034).* *
2.00 Moon Over Miami *(S) (5196218).* *
2.50 Today's Gourmet. Jacques Pepin makes mushroom-stuffed won tons in red wine sauce *(3919003).*
3.15 Children's BBC: Secret Life of Toys 3.30 Playdays. 3.50 Monster Cafe. 4.05

BBC2

7.15 See Hear Breakfast News *(4887270).* *
7.30 Children's BBC: Christopher Crocodile. **7.35** Postman Pat. **7.50** Peter Pan and the Pirates. **8.15** Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles. **8.35** The Legend of Prince Valiant. **9.05** Mighty Max. **9.25** F.O.T. **10.00** Playdays. **10.25** Star Trek. **10.50** The Tick.
11.10 Daytime on Two: Randall and Hopkirk (Deceased) *(8892725).* **12.00** Great Crimes and Trials of the 20th Century *(38270).* **12.30** Working Lunch *(66541).* **1.00** Postman Pat. *(42886560).* **1.15** The Royal Institution Christmas Lectures *(437299).* **2.15** Open View *(73721763).*
2.20 FILM: The Court Martial of Jackie Robinson (Larry Peerce 1990 US). Above average biopic concentrating on the early life of Jackie Robinson, the first black baseball player to break into the Major Leagues. Stars Andre Braugher, Ruby Dee and Bruce Dern (including

ITV London

6.00 GMTV *(2252396).* **9.25** Win, Lose or Draw *(7114541).* **9.55** Local News, Weather *(6938980).* **10.00** Batman - the Animated Series *(6955657).* **10.25** Cartoon *(1640831).* **10.35** *FILM: A Son's Promise (44341473).* **12.20** Local News, Weather *(6965909).* **12.30** News, Weather *(3884270).*
12.55 Home and Away. Kelly's test results; Chloe's mood swings *(S) (3809589).* *
1.25 Chain Letters *(S) (79225725).* *
1.55 Shortland Street *(44620909).*
2.20 The Chrystal Rose Show *(S) (54732812).*
2.50 High Road *(4086305).* *
3.20 News *(7841560).* *
3.25 Local News, Weather *(7840831).* *
3.30 Children's ITV: Zzzap! 3.45 The Wind in the Willows. 4.15 Garfield and Friends. 4.25 The Geeks. 4.55 Hang On.
5.10 After 5 with Mary Nightingale *(6925742).* *

Channel 4

6.30 Fifteen to One *(R) (S) (23299).* *
7.00 The Big Breakfast *(43541).*
9.00 Saved by the Bell: The College Years *(43102).* **9.30** New Gamesmaster *(8498473).* **9.55** California Dreams *(6795270).* **10.20** Mork and Mindy *(6957015).* **10.50** Tintin *(1140928).* **11.15** The Pink Panther Show *(5668725).* **11.40** Dog City *(5510803).* **12.00** Fruity Stories *(30638).* **12.30** Sesame Street *(42164).* **1.30** Alfred J Kwak *(68348831).* **1.55** Ginger Nutt's Forest Dragon *(44637299).*
2.15 FILM: Two Thousand Women (Frank Launder 1944 UK). Phyllis Calvert and Patricia Roc play leaders of a group of female detainees in a German internment camp in France who help three RAF airmen to escape from the Nazis *(729198).*
4.00 Jimmy's *(S) (928).* *
4.30 Fifteen to One *(S) (812).* *

pick of the day

FLAVA
11.40pm C4

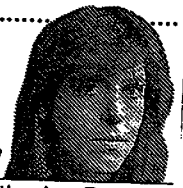
You could call it a black *Chart Show* if you wanted to be like that, but this new showcase for soul, swing, rap, ragga, garage and jungle music videos is more than that. For a start it fills a large hole in the way pop music is played on TV, disproportionately dominated as it is by boys' bands, Britpop or superannuated AOR rockers.

6/4/96

The Guardian
10 April 1996

ENCLOSURE 58

Thrill to the magic of television



Catherine Bennett

HERE'S a mystery. British broadcasters believe in magic. What other explanation can there be for the recent plague of paranormal programmes? At first, when LWT produced Strange But True?, and later, when Carlton came up with Beyond Belief and The Paranormal World Of Paul McKenna, the programmes could be dismissed as a particularly low form of light entertainment, calculated to exploit public credulity.

But that now the BBC has joined forces, we must think again. Perhaps our broadcasters really do believe in ghosts and sorcery, aliens and time slips? This week BBC2 begins a series called Secrets Of The Paranormal, in which six enthusiasts are each allotted 30 minutes to promulgate mumbo-jumbo. It appears they will be undisturbed by sceptics, scientists, or anyone else who might spoil the feast of superstitious speculation. Lest there be any doubt about the quality of these testimonials, the new series is categorised in the current Radio Times as "factual".

The first offering features Jenny Randles, who is proudly introduced as a "world renowned ufologist". Viewers may not, however, be aware that UFO investigation is not Miss Randles' only claim to paranormal expertise. In Jenny Randles, the BBC has picked a paranormal all-rounder, who has previously applied her detective skills to poltergeists, precognition, time travellers, ancient curses, reincarnation, faith healing, hauntings, and a washing machine which mysteriously sucked energy from a housewife.

And now Miss Randles is on peak-time television, promoting her theory that the Ministry of Defence is somehow covering up its investigations into UFOs. Particular attention is paid to a snap of a girl with a spaceman on her head, taken in 1964; and to another taken in 1883, by a Victorian ufologist: "He denied the object was an insect until the day he died."

Further programmes in the series will take the same, uncritical approach to faith healing, ghostbusting, and spirit surgery. Here comes Matthew Manning, the poltergeist fancier and automatic writer turned faith healer. Here, looking hardly a day older than he did in 1973 when he appeared on the Dimbleby Talk-In, is Uri Geller, attempting to sway the fortunes of Reading Football Club with his psychic powers.

Geller's rehabilitation as a paranormal mastermind is the clearest indication that programme makers are no longer prepared to spoil a good story with rational objections. When he reappeared, last year, on David Frost's Beyond Belief, no one mentioned that many of Geller's stunts have been replicated by conjurers: no one objected that if the tricks are examples of mental, rather than muscle power, he should be able to bend spoons with his nose, not his hands. Above all, why are his feats so pointless?

If broadcasters are truly interested in exploring the paranormal, they owe the public something more than this procession of devotees and zealots, many of whom make money from their speciality. It will be argued, of course, that viewers will make up their own minds. But mankind, as Hume said, has a "propensity towards the marvellous". Houdini could not persuade Sir Arthur Conan Doyle that he was nothing more than a conjurer. More recently, the American conjurer James Randi presented six television programmes aimed at disabusing the public of belief in the paranormal and the psychic. An IBA study showed that viewers' belief in the paranormal did not decrease at all after this protracted debunking; indeed the number of people reporting reporting paranormal experiences actually went up.

PARANORMAL investigators like to draw on the past, to justify their fascination. Ghosts have been been around for centuries, they aver; ditto horoscopes; the heavenly armies and hosts of the past were the precursors of our UFOs. But as Keith Thomas says, in Religion And The Decline Of Magic, the societies which believed in these phenomena knew rather less than ours about science and the natural world: "Lacking any natural explanation, men turned to a supernatural one."

Even when no explanation is forthcoming, we can still employ Hume's maxim on miracles: "That no testimony is sufficient to establish a miracle, unless the testimony be of such a kind, that its falsehood would be more miraculous than the fact which it endeavours to establish..." In other words, is it more probable that Randles and her witnesses are deceiving or deceived; or that in the 1960s, alien spacemen were materialising between continents, monitoring the space race?

Again, is it more probable that broadcasters are cynically misleading the public, or that they genuinely believe in the paranormal? According to Hume, you pick the greater miracle, and then reject it. What do you think?

Section 40 Spoke with the piece

Classification

Caveat

Covering

F Sigs (Rev 8

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 57

Facsimile Transmission Cover Sheet

Transmission Details		Document Details
Serial Number: —	Date and Time of Transmission: 10 APR	Reference: 64/1
From: SEC(AS)2	Fax Number: Section 40	Subject: UFO ARTICLE
To: Section 40 RAF NEWS	Fax Number: Section 40 Section 40	Total number of pages including this cover sheet: 2

Authorizing Officer	Transmit Operators
Rank, Name and Appointment: EO Section 40	Rank/Grade, Name and Telephone No.: AO Section 40
Signature:	Signature: Section 40

Message/Remarks:

Section 40

I have re-written the piece ~~if~~ working in a few quotes.

Although as such there would be no problem with naming individuals, I don't think it would add anything as reports are made to the postholder not to individuals, and I therefore suggest the attached approach

Happy to discuss further if required.

Section 40

82140 MTB.

Covering

Caveat

MOD INTEREST IN "UFO" SIGHTINGS

The Ministry of Defence does not have any direct interest, expertise or role in respect of "UFO/flying saucer" matters, or those relating to the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms, about which we remain open-minded. To date, however, the MOD knows of no evidence which might substantiate the existence of such phenomena.

The MOD and HM Forces have responsibility for the effective defence of the United Kingdom and we remain vigilant for any potential threat from whatever source. It is in this context alone that we look at reports of "unexplained" aerial sightings in order to establish whether what was seen might have defence significance. If no threat is discerned, and in connection with "UFO" sightings this has been the case in all instances to date, we make no further attempt to investigate or establish exactly what might have been seen. As such it is quite common for a sighting to remain "unexplained" but not require further official action.

Secretariat (Air Staff), the single service secretariat which provides administrative support for RAF activities and operations, based in MOD Main Building London, is the nominated MOD *focal point* for the subject of "UFOs". Although there are two members of staff in Sec(AS)2a who deal with "UFO"-related queries as a part of their much wider ranging duties, there are no staff which work on this topic full-time.

One of these staff members told us that "despite the fact that only a small part of our workload is to act as focal point for answering queries on the subject of "UFOs", we are often erroneously referred to as 'The UFO office'.

"The majority of reports which we receive are from members of the public who have witnessed something puzzling, usually lights in the sky, and feel that they ought to inform the authorities of what they saw. We look these reports, most of which are very vague, to establish whether there is any defence interest.

"Although we are sometimes able to provide a definitive explanation of what the witness saw, for example we may already be aware of unusual aerial activity which ties in with the sighting, we are not constituted to investigate and provide an explanation for every unusual sight in the sky."

The MOD generally receives in the region of 200-300 reports of "unexplained" aerial sightings per year.

SECRETARIAT(AIR STAFF) Fax: Section 40

** Transmit Conf. Report **

10 Apr '96 9:03

SECRETARIAT(AIR STAFF)---> Section 40	
No.	0054
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Time	1'22"
Pages	2 Page(s)
Result	O K

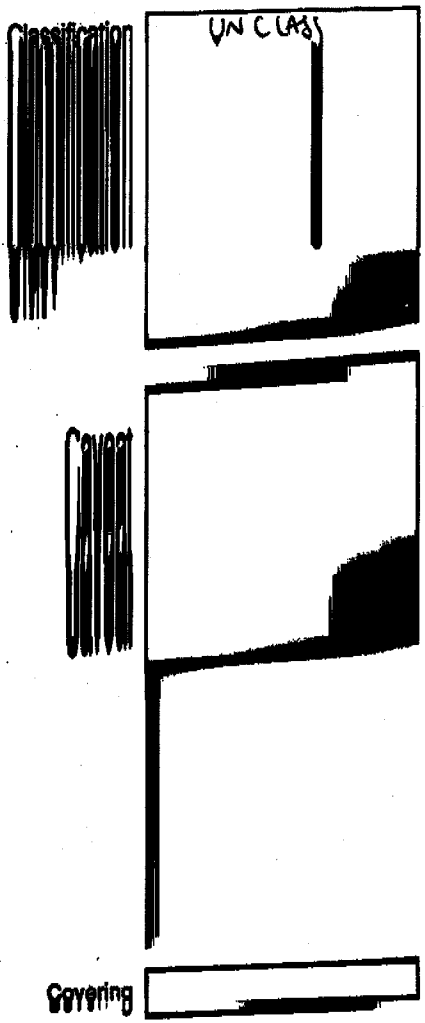
F Sigs 927

Could we have a word please once you have had a chance to read this Section 40 4/4

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 56

64/1

(Rev 9/93)



Facsimile Transmission Cover Sheet

Transmission Details		Document Details	
Serial Number:	Date and Time of Transmission: 4.4.96 10:15	Reference:	
From: RAF NEWS	Section 40	Subject: UFO ROLE SEC (AS) 2	
To: Sec (AS) 2 PRO Section 40	Fax Number: MB x Section 40	Total number of pages including this cover sheet	2

Authorizing Officer	Transmit Operators
Rank, Name and Appointment:	Rank/Grade, Name and Telephone: IO Section 40 Section 40
Signature:	Signature: Section 40

Message/Remarks:

Section 40

MANY THANKS FOR FAX, INFO IS EXCELLENT. I'VE ATTACHED A COUPLE OF QUESTIONS WHICH I'D BE GRATEFUL IF YOU COULD LOOK AT. IT WOULD BE NICE TO ADD THEM INTO THE TEXT — WHICH I WILL FAX TO YOU. COULD YOU PHONE ME ON Section 40 WHEN CONVENIENT TO YOURSELF — IF YOU HAVE ANY SUGGESTIONS, THEY WOULD BE MOST WELCOME

BEST REGARDS

Section 40

Covering

Caveat

Classification

RAF NEWS

Will run with the role of Sec (AS) 2 as follows:

"The MOD does not have any direct interest, expertise or role in respect of 'UFO/flying saucer' matters, or those relating to the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms, about which we remain open-minded. To date, however, the MOD knows of no evidence which might substantiate the existence of such phenomena.

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Secretariat (Air Staff), the single service secretariat which provides administrative support for RAF activities and operations, is the nominated focal point within the MOD for the subject of 'UFOs'. However, there are no staff which work on this topic full-time and the task represents a small part of the overall workload of Sec (AS) 2. Contrary to the widely held misapprehension by some members of the public and media, it is not a 'UFO office' and neither is it constituted to assist members of the public with finding explanations for every seemingly inexplicable sight in the sky.

The MOD receives in the region of 200-300 reports of 'unexplained' aerial sightings a year."

Need to clarify -

1. Can I add an introductory piece saying where the Sec (AS) 2 is based, ie, "based in the MOD Main Building in London."

2. Is it possible to state how many people work within the office that deal with 'unexplained' queries - something along the lines of "xx people in the department deal with 'UFO' queries, however, no-one is exclusively manned to these matters.."

3. Can they be named?

4. It would be great to include a quote from you (named or saying "a member of staff for Sec (AS) 2") repeating what you told me yesterday saying that the majority of calls are from members of the public who contact the office are trying to help by passing on what they think they have seen.

5. Would it be possible to include another quote basically repeating the theme that you are not an exclusively 'UFO office', rather it is one of your many functions.

I will of course, fax you the proof for checking.

Many thanks again.

Section 40

[redacted]

RAF News

PLANET 24

6841

ENCL No. 55

FAX:FOR THE ATTENTION OF Section 40 .MINISTRY OF DEFENCE.

FAX NO: Section 40

Dear Section 40

Monday 1st April.

Following our conversation earlier today,I would appreciate your point of view on the subject of alien encounters.The television programme I am currently researching for is Hotel Babylon,a late night,light entertainment youth programme,aired on ITV and across Europe.I have spoken to Squad leader Section 40 an MOD spokesman,regarding the approximate number of unexplained ariel sightings reported to the MOD.He disbelieves in such a concept.I would however,like for you to send me a fax on letter headed paper,stating your reasons for believing that such "beings" are non-existent and consequently,do not pose a threat to the defence of the UK.In addition,if you have access to any statistics on this subject I would be grateful.It has also come to my attention that both the US and Russia,are involved in a space programme.Is there a reason,aside from the expense of such technology,that Britain is not involved?Thankyou for your willingness to cooperate.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Sqn Ldr Section 40

I agreed to let Section 40 have a statement on our interest in "UFO" sightings and details of the stats a copy of which I attach for your info.

Section 40

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC (AS) 2
-4 APR 1996
FILE

The Planet Building, Thames Quay, 195 Marsh Wall, London E14 9SG. Tel: 0171 345 2424 Fax: 0171 345 9400
New York Office: 95 Horatio Street, Apt. 709, NY, NY 10014. Tel: 212 727 2943 Fax: 212 255 4994.
Planet 24 Productions Limited. Directors: Waheed Ali, Bob Geldof, Charlie Parsons, Nick Amor, Mary Durkan, Gerry McGuinness, Paul Sandler, Sebastian Scott.
Registered in England Company No. 2853485. Registered Office: The Planet Building, Thames Quay, 195 Marsh Wall, London E14 9SG.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
RAF COMMUNITY RELATIONS OFFICER (WALES)

Room 2-04 New Dolanog House
Severn Road Welshpool Powys SY21 7DA

Tel : Section 40
GPTN & Fax: Worcester MOD X Section 40

FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION COVER SHEET

To: Section 40 Sec (1+S) 26

From: Section 40

Date: 27 3 96

Number of Pages Sent (including Cover Sheet): 2

Message/Subject:

Hi, was in yesterdays
Evening & Advertiser, thought
you might like a copy for your
files.

Section 40

PLEASE ADVISE PROMPTLY IF TRANSMISSION IS ILLEGIBLE OR INCOMPLETE

Was Brecon visited by silent Vulcan?

description of ious formation of lights sky near Penlan, Brecon, al mother of two Sarah rd fits closely with s of an unexplained object in a national aper.

's Barnard and her en were frightened and ied when they saw a ing of lights close to the id moving towards iffordd on Thursday 14 and told of their ence in the *Express*.

turday's *Daily Mail* ed an article describing a silent object dubbed the t Vulcan' or 'Flying gle'.

e article reported the announcement by a senior Ministry of Defence official that he believes in the possibility of an extra-terrestrial explanation for UFO sightings.

[redacted], head of Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a from 1991 to 1994 was the government's expert on UFO phenomena.

His statement adds weight to the growing body of UFO testimony and could reduce the scepticism which greets many reports.

● Did you see the object described by Mrs Barnard? The *Express* would be interested in hearing your account. Please telephone the editorial department on [redacted].

The British UFO Research Association also welcomes reports of sightings.

Stamped addressed envelopes should be sent to: BUFORA, 1 Woodhall Drive, Batley, West Yorkshire WF17 7SW.

Section 40

Section 40

03.29.1996 15:17 PAGE.002
29 MAR '96
FROM

Classification

Caveat

Covering

ENCL No 53

F Sigs (Rev 8

Facsimile Transmission Cover Sheet

Transmission Details		Document Details
Serial Number:	Date and Time of Transmission: 3 APR	Reference: 624/1
From: SEC(AS)2	Fax Number: Section 40	Subject: "UFOs"
To: Section 40 "RAF NEWS"	Fax Number: Section 40 Section 40	Total number of pages including this cover sheet: 2

Authorizing Officer	Transmit Operators
Rank, Name and Appointment: EO Section 40 218-2140	Rank/Grade, Name and Telephone No.: AO Section 40
Signature: Section 40	Signature:

Message/Remarks:

Further to your discussion with Section 40 attached please find a piece which sets out the role of Sec(AS)2 in regard of the subject of "UFOs".

Covering

Caveat

MOD INTEREST IN "UFO" SIGHTINGS

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SECRETARIAT(AIR STAFF) Fax: Section 40

** Transmit Conf. Report **

3 Apr '96 15:19

SECRETARIAT(AIR STAFF)---> Section 40	
No.	0036
Mode	NORMAL
Time	1'17"
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Result	O K

DW/96/M/378

Malcolm Moss MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

March 1996

Thank you for your letter of 16 February to the Chancellor of the Duchy on behalf of your constituent Section 40 of Section 40 about electoral reform, a Bill of Rights and a Freedom of Information Act. I have been asked to reply.

Section 40 mentions in his letter the need for more open government and freedom of information. The July 1993 White Paper on Open Government set out our policy in this area. The Government agreed with the aims of freedom of information, believing that legitimate requests for information should be met, but did not accept that a Freedom of Information Act was the appropriate method. The White Paper therefore sought to meet these aims in a less legalistic manner.

In the White Paper we proposed a legislative approach in the following areas where there are questions of personal rights and interests to be defined:

- a statutory right of access by individuals to their personal records; and

- a statutory right to health and safety information, a matter of vital interest both to individuals and to the community at large.

It is worth noting that these two areas account for the great majority of requests under other countries' freedom of information legislation. Legislation to enact these access rights will be brought forward when Parliamentary time allows.

However, a legislative approach is less appropriate where the questions turn not so much on personal rights as on the balancing of two types of public interest: the public interest in disclosure against the public interest in confidentiality. These arise, for example, in the

Daily Mail
30 March 1996

The MoD man and some close encounters

By SEAN RAYMENT
Defence Correspondent 12

A SENIOR Ministry of Defence official has confirmed the existence of UFOs, it was claimed yesterday.

Believed to be a member of the RAF, he was coaxed into appearing on a TV documentary by investigator Jenny Randles.

In a programme to be shown on BBC2 next month, the official reveals how some case reports of UFOs over Britain consistently defy rational explanation.

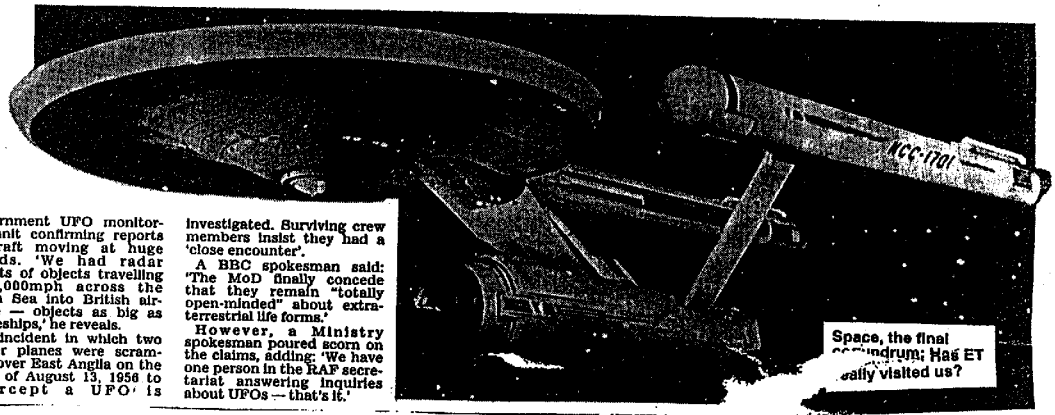
Last night, a BBC source said the programme, UFOs — Britain's Secret Files, would shock sceptics.

'It becomes apparent there are now people at the highest levels of the Government who have not discounted the possibility of life on other planets,' he added. The programme also features a former head of a Government UFO monitoring unit confirming reports of craft moving at huge speeds. 'We had radar reports of objects travelling at 4,000mph across the North Sea into British airspace — objects as big as battleships,' he reveals.

An incident in which two fighter planes were scrambled over East Anglia on the night of August 13, 1956 to intercept a UFO is investigated. Surviving crew members insist they had a 'close encounter'.

A BBC spokesman said: 'The MoD finally concede that they remain "totally open-minded" about extra-terrestrial life forms.'

However, a Ministry spokesman poured scorn on the claims, adding: 'We have one person in the RAF secretarial answering inquiries about UFOs — that's it.'



Space, the final conundrum: Has ET really visited us?

Evening Standard
29 March 1996

WHEN racism is found to be rife in the armed services the Ministry of Defence acts — rightly — to try to stamp it out with "awareness" programmes and the like. When homophobia is found to be rampant, servicemen are encouraged by the Ministry to say resoundingly why they don't want to work with gays.

T Dawson,
Inkerman Road, Kentish Town.

47

The Guardian
30 March 1996

Digitations

W·70

Britain spends a third more than Germany on the armed forces, and Germans spend a third more on new cars.
Annual war spending per head in Britain: **£588**. In Germany: **£429**. New cars bought annually per German: **41.63**. Per Briton: **30.86**.

ENCL No 5P

Classification:

Caveat:

Covering:

F Sigs 9 ENCL NO. 51

Facsimile Transmission Cover Sheet

Transmission Details		Document Details	
Serial Number:	Date and Time of Transmission: 26/3/96 3.50	Reference:	
From: Section 40 OMD14	Fax No: [redacted] Section 40	Subject: Freedom of Information	
To: Section 40 See AS	Fax No: Section 40		
		Total number of pages INCLUDING this cover sheet	5

Authorizing Officer		Transmit Operators	
Rank, Name and Appoint[illegible]		Rank/Grade and Name:	[illegible] Number:
Signature:		Signature:	

Message / Remarks:

As promised, a letter is enclosed which deals with, amongst other things, Freedom of Information.

I know this will be useful in drafting your reply to the Prime Minister's letter.

The [illegible] paragraphs in the letter are probably not relevant to you [illegible] so can be ignored.

Covering:

Caveat:

Classif[illegible]on:

effective conduct of international negotiations, defence or government business generally. Our view is that these are matters for Ministers and for Parliament (rather than for the courts) and that a direct link with Ministerial accountability to Parliament should be maintained.

The White Paper therefore proposed a Code of Practice on Access to Government Information, which came into effect in April 1994. The Code of Practice includes the following commitments:

i) to give facts and analysis with major policy decisions;

ii) to open up internal guidelines about departments' dealings with the public;

iii) to give reasons with administrative decisions;

iv) to provide information under the Citizen's Charter about public services, what they cost, targets, performance, complaints and redress; and

v) to answer requests for information.

Central to the Code of Practice is the enforcement role of the Parliamentary Ombudsman. He provides an independent and external avenue of appeal in cases where Government departments refuse to provide information. He reports to Parliament on his recommendations, thus providing the direct link between Ministerial accountability and Parliament to which I referred above. Recourse to the Ombudsman has the further advantage that, unlike enforcement through the courts, it is free to the applicant.

My department provides guidance and assistance to other government departments and public bodies on implementing the Code of Practice. A report on the operation of the Code during 1995 is currently being prepared and will be published later this month. It is less than two years since the Code was introduced and it is clearly too early to judge its full impact. Nonetheless, evidence so far suggests it is having a positive effect. We have been encouraged by suggestions made to the PCA Select Committee during their current enquiry into open government that a change is occurring not only in the way in which departments respond to requests for information but also in the amount of information which is being provided as a matter of course. This is a reflection of the Code's encouragement of active provision of information, a culture change which an Act would not necessarily bring about.

Section 40 mentions "the need for electoral reform." However, there are a number of proposals for electoral reform, and Section 40 does not say specifically which proposals attract him. However, if this is a reference to proportional representation, the Government has repeatedly affirmed that there are no plans to change the present electoral system at either local or national elections.

Proportional representation often results in some form of coalition government, at either national or local level, based on a programme which the electorate has not had the opportunity to approve or disapprove. Where it is used, general elections have been known to be followed by negotiations between the political parties involving deals and compromises to try to arrive at a solution for workable government, and from which the electorate are

usually excluded and have no means of influencing. Furthermore, the various forms of proportional representation each have particular disadvantages, so that there is no one system which can safely be said to be the best solution.

There is no perfect voting system. However, the Government remains of the view that the simple majority system should be retained for local and parliamentary elections because it is well understood by the electorate, is more likely than alternative systems to produce local authorities and governments which are directly accountable to the electorate and responsible to them for the policies which they pursue, and that it contributes to stable government at both national and local level.

With regard to a Bill of Rights, the Government believes that the rights of the individual in this country are well safeguarded by our existing constitutional arrangements. In our view, the introduction of a Bill of Rights would represent a major change to these arrangements, which have evolved over centuries and stood the test of time, for no advantage.

In particular, a Bill of Rights, and its possible entrenchment in a written constitution, would alter the long-established constitutional balance in this country between Parliament, the executive and the courts, whereby Parliament has primary responsibility for matters affecting the rights and liberties of the individual. Under such a Bill, the final decisions on such matters would rest with judges, who are not directly accountable to the people of this country, rather than with democratically elected Members of Parliament. In the Government's view, this change is neither desirable nor appropriate.

The Government thinks that our unwritten constitution has served us well by providing the system of checks and balances which is essential for the protection of democratic freedoms. Our constitutional arrangements have the flexibility to develop and adapt in accordance with society's needs, through the amendment or enactment of statute law, through judicial decisions and through the evolution of constitutional conventions. Some of the most repressive regimes in the world have a written constitution: to have one is by no means a guarantee of liberty.

It has long been established in this country that a person is free to do as they wish unless the law requires otherwise. We do not need to pass a Bill of Rights because such rights are already inherent in the United Kingdom's legal systems, and are protected by them and by Parliament, unless Parliament has decided that they should be restricted in some specific way.

The Government attaches great importance to its obligations under the European Court of Human Rights, and the other international human rights instruments to which it is a party. In our view, however, incorporation of the ECHR into domestic law of the United Kingdom is neither necessary nor desirable.

In the Government's view incorporation would, like a Bill of Rights, strike at the constitutional principle of the supremacy of Parliament. The areas of public policy covered by the general principles set out in the Convention have traditionally, and rightly, been the province of Parliament, rather than the courts. As things stand, it is for Parliament to enact detailed legislation on matters affecting the rights and liberties of the individual. In doing

so it must, of course, have regard to the United Kingdom's international obligations. Nevertheless, the final decision on such matters remains with Parliament. The incorporation of the ECHR into domestic law, by whatever means, would transfer this final responsibility to the judiciary, enabling the courts effectively to strike down legislation which had been approved by Parliament. The question here, as with a Bill of Rights, is whether it is desirable or appropriate for these matters to rest with judges, who are not directly accountable to the public, rather than with democratically elected Members of Parliament. The Government's view is that it is not.

DAVID WILLETTS

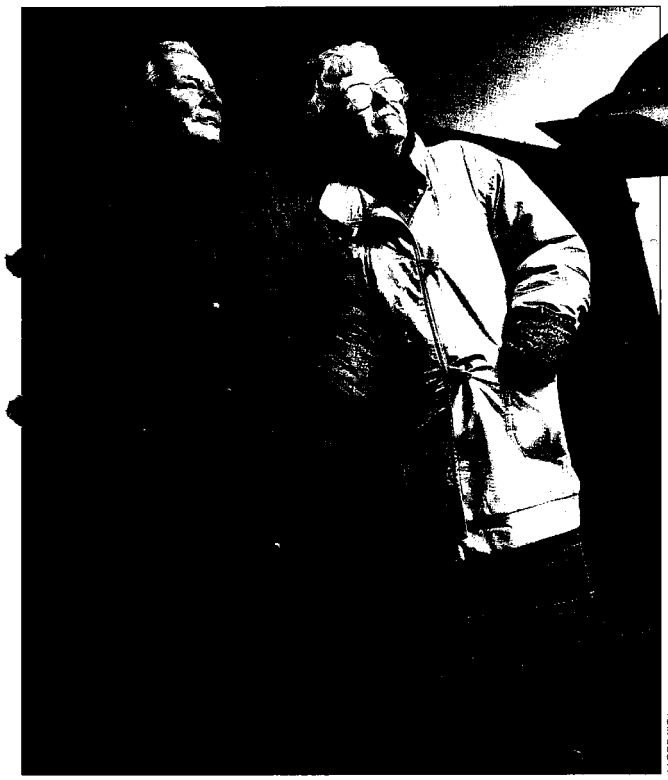
Section 40

Further publicity for Pope + Good's forthcoming books

SAT SUPPLEMENT THE MAIL

Section 40

So *is* there somebody out there, after all?



TOM SCOTT



KOBAL

They've always been dismissed as the fantasies of the soft-minded. But now a senior government official has come out and stated it publicly: 'I believe in extraterrestrials.' MARY GREENE investigates why UFOs are suddenly being taken seriously in the corridors of power

It was a dark, cloudless evening in early January, and British Airways Flight 5061 from Milan was over the Pennines, coming in to land at Manchester Airport. All was going to schedule. Just another routine landing... And then it happened. First Officer Mark Stuart saw the thing first and instinctively ducked. A strange wedge-shaped object, illuminated like a Christmas tree, flashed soundlessly past the Boeing 737's starboard side. Within seconds, it had vanished, but Mark Stuart and his co-pilot Captain Roger Wills were in no doubt about what they'd seen.

The two BA pilots, both sober-minded types not given to flights of fancy, had just experienced a close encounter with what has become known as the Silent Vulcan.

And theirs was by no means the first encounter. Over the past ten years, the Silent Vulcan — so-called because its shape resembles the old Vulcan bomber — has apparently been stalking the skies over Europe and North America. First sighted over the USA in 1983, there have now been hundreds of reported sightings, many of them in the Pennine Corridor which runs from the Midlands up to Yorkshire. In 1990 it was spotted in Belgium and, on that occasion the Belgian air force scrambled fighter planes in a fruitless attempt at interception.

Now even the sceptics in the corridors of power are beginning to take it seriously. The UFO phenomenon, long associated with little green men in starships, can no longer be easily dismissed as simple fantasy. **Even senior-ranking Ministry of Defence officials have now admitted publicly what they have privately been convinced of for many years: that extraterrestrials actually exist.**

Foremost among them is Nick Pope, head of Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a between 1991 and 1994 and, as such, the British Government's expert on the UFO phenomenon. He began his three-year tour of duty as a sceptic but, remarkably, ended as a believer. Still working for the MoD, he has written a book, Open Skies, Closed Minds, due to be published in June (Simon & Schuster, £14.99) and, significantly, far from damaging his career, he has been promoted since he articulated his extraordinary claims.

Of course, the vast majority of the 200 to 300 reports Pope received each year could be explained away. There are, after all, many logical explanations: freak meteorological conditions, an exceptionally bright meteor, even the earthlights that glow in the sky around the time of an earthquake.

Yet, as Pope explains: 'That left a hard core of five to ten per cent of sightings which defied explanation. I am now convinced that there may be an extraterrestrial explanation.' So, too, is Timothy Good, a leading UFO authority, whose new book, Beyond Top Secret: The Worldwide UFO Security Threat, due to be published on April 26 (Macmillan, £16.99), examines the potential threat of extraterrestrial beings. So why is the extraterrestrial theory finally being taken seriously? Significantly, earthly science is at a loss to explain the extraordinary speed of UFOs such as the Silent Vulcan (or, as Nick Pope prefers to term it, the Flying Triangle).

'The Flying Triangle clearly behaves in a way that is beyond the cutting edge of our own technology,' says Pope. 'It can move from hover to speeds of about 5,000mph in less than a second, acceleration that would kill any human occupant... and who knows if indeed there is an occupant?'

Just a few years ago, such suggestions would have been laughed at. Now, however, even the Civil Aviation Authority is taking the matter seriously. After First Officer Stuart and Captain Wills filed a formal report of their near-miss above the Pennines, the CAA spent a year investigating their claims. Last month, it agreed they had seen an Unidentified Flying Object — or, as they prefer to term it, an 'unassessable' object. They commended the pilots, and British Airways, for their courage and enlightenment in making the report. Not surprisingly, the CAA's response was seen as a milestone in official recognition of the UFO phenomenon.

To understand the UFO's sudden rise in credibility, it is necessary to trace the history of what later became known as the Silent Vulcan. As early as 1983, there was an extraordinary surge of sightings in the Hudson Valley in upstate New York. Hundreds, maybe thousands, of people, many of them professionals whose testament would be accepted without cavil in any other circumstances, bore witness to a spectacular phenomenon that reappeared over a period of more than three years.

It was described as a pattern of brilliant flashing coloured lights, generally in the form of a V or boomerang. It moved slowly, silently, and was as big as a football pitch; some said it was as big as three football pitches. Often, it was no more than a few hundred feet from the ground, and generally stayed in view for ten minutes or more. If it turned, it did not bank as a plane would, but simply moved sideways.

The Federal Aviation Authority denied its existence, and no rational explanation was forthcoming. Sightings in the Hudson Valley tailed off during 1986, though there were sporadic reports of triangular or boomerang-shaped phenomena elsewhere in the country. But as sightings of the 'Silent



e encounters: Audrey and Trevor Boon, opposite page, are among the hundreds of people across Britain who insist they've seen a UFO that fitted descriptions of the Flying Vulcan, illustrated left

Vulcan' waned in America, reports came in from the Midlands and North of England throughout 1986 and 1987. In October 1986, Mark Smith, 30, a company director from Leeds, and his wife Allyson, 28, an office clerk, had a mysterious unter on the M1 just south of Nottingham.

As Mark recalls: 'There were no other cars about when we saw this light in the sky, about 200 feet above ground level but coming down on us at a 45-degree angle. It seemed to be travelling at about 50mph, but slowed down as it crossed the motorway, at a height of about 50 feet. It was round, nearly as wide as the motorway itself, with what looked like windows around it and oblong structures that seemed to protrude from the sides. It seemed to be made of a grey metal.

A very bright light lit up the whole motorway but the object didn't make any sound: it just seemed to glide on. It landed in fields about 200 yards away from the motorway, and its light went out. I say it landed, but as it was dark it could have disappeared over the brow of a hill. At first I thought it was a plane going to crash and I slowed down. It wasn't a helicopter, it wasn't an aeroplane. If I'd been on my own I'd have thought I was just imagining things, but we both saw it.'

Other witnesses gave similar accounts. August 1987 showed intense UFO activity over this part of the country and, on the night of August 16, more than 20 people in Derby reported a brilliantly-lit object 'that seemed to change shape, opening out from an oval into an arrow-shape'. Among them was Audrey Boon, 66, a retired catering assistant from Belper, Derby, and her husband Trevor, 69, a former RAF sergeant. According to Audrey, they saw a massive object 'with big square lights all the way round... all lit up like a couple of double-decker buses end to end in the sky'.

Then came the best-documented manifestation of all. On November 29, 1989, a wave of mysterious sightings was reported across Belgium. In the early evening, two police officers observed a 'dark, enormous triangle', seemingly solid, lit by white lights in each corner. It moved very slowly, at low altitude and they followed it by car. The policemen described what they saw as a dark, flat structure, with a windowed platform on top 'like the windows of a train at night'. Nearly three hours after they logged it, the object accelerated and disappeared. Similar sightings continued for more than a month.

Next, on March 30, 1990, on a cold, cloudless night, at 23.03 hours, the Belgian air force observed three strange lights in the sky, constantly changing colour, forming the points of an isosceles triangle. Soon a second set of lights was spotted, forming a smaller triangle.

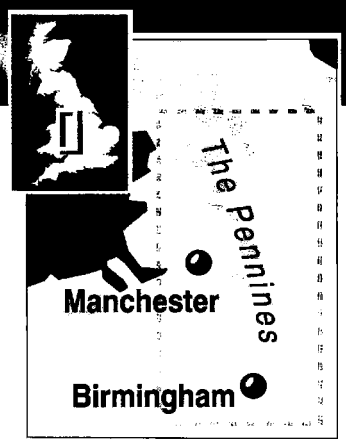
The air force recorded blips on its radar screens and at 00.05 hours scrambled two F16s to intercept the 'intruder'. Several times they obtained a radar lock-on, once for as long as 20 seconds, but nothing was sighted. As soon as contact was made, the object seemed to manoeuvre out of the way. No rational explanation could be made of the events of that night.

In this country, meanwhile, the evidence is steadily growing. Since the Fifties, our own Ministry of Defence has accumulated information on more than 8,000 UFO sightings, much of which is withheld from the public under the 30-year rule. There is a standard response to such reports: 'Our only concern is to establish whether or not they pose a threat to the security of the United Kingdom. Unless we judge that they do, and this has not been the case so far, we do not attempt to investigate further, or to identify whatever might have been seen... We are not aware of any evidence that might support the existence of extraterrestrial life.'

Ironically, it was Nick Pope who used to sign such letters until, as he says, he became persuaded 'by the sheer breadth and depth of the evidence over the years: the good reliable witnesses — people with recognition training like pilots and police officers, hard evidence like radar tapes, the ministry's own X files, and my own investigations both professional and personal.'

Nor is Pope a lone maverick at the Ministry of Defence. Retired Admiral of the Fleet Lord Hill-Norton, a former Chief of Defence Staff and the senior military officer in Nato during the mid-Seventies, has gone on record accusing the Government of covering up UFO incidents, including the Belgian air force sighting. 'It is absurd to pretend there is nothing going on





Convert to the cause: After three years spent investigating the UFO phenomenon, Nick Pope is now convinced that extraterrestrials exist. Right, many sightings have been in the Pennine Corridor

when it is perfectly plain that there is,' he has said. So is there a high-level cover-up? Or simply bafflement? Ralph Noyes, now retired, was head of Defence Secretariat 8 (as Air Staff 2 was known before reorganisation) from 1969 to 1972. Like Pope, he was a sceptic when he first took up his post. 'I thought it was nonsense,' he says. 'That was the official line but I know a number of my Air Staff colleagues were pretty uneasy about what was going on.

There wasn't a cover-up. There was ignorance,' he alleges now. 'Ninety-five per cent of cases can probably be explained in rational terms but there is a hard core that nobody understands.' He himself claims to have sighted a UFO over London in 1984. Intriguingly, he does not believe the UFOs' behaviour is simply random. 'There is a persistent phenomenon around this planet which manifests itself in a very odd way and which seems to indicate a degree of intelligence. The experience of the military is that it teases them. If there's an aircraft, it plays tricks on it. There's usually a lonely witness, out in the country, and it teases.

'The fact is that on a number of occasions it has come jolly near to causing aircraft accidents, though it hasn't been directly blamed for any accident. Hard-headed civilian airline pilots are extremely reluctant to report sightings. But it would be intellectual cowardice to argue away the hard core of these UFO reports.'

So what *is* behind the phenomenal rise in sightings — and what do they really mean? As yet, no one is offering answers. What does emerge, however, is a new and worrying suggestion — that the UFO activity may not be as benign as the authorities would like us to believe. As Philip Mantle, director of investigations for the British UFO Research Association, points out: 'They call it an "unassessable" object... but I wonder how they would have tabled a collision instead of a near-miss? Whom would they have blamed? The Russians? The IRA? Speculation would have been about bombs and terrorists. If I were part of the powers-that-be at British Airways or the CAA, I'd be worried...'

If the experts are right, and UFO sightings continue at their present rate, one thing seems likely: that sooner or later the 'near-miss' may become a collision. Only then, perhaps, will we begin to understand a phenomenon once dismissed as fantasy, now recognised as the greatest mystery of our times. Until then, witnesses such as Mark Stuart and Audrey Boon can only wait and wonder...

The British UFO Research Association welcomes reports of sightings. Write to: BUFORA, 1 Woodhall Drive, Batley, West Yorkshire WF17 7SW, enclosing a stamped, addressed envelope.

64/1

EN 499

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

MP: Martin Redmond (Labour)(Don Valley)

PQ REFERENCE: 0611H

PQ TYPE: Ordinary Written

DRAFT ANSWER REQUIRED BY: 1200 Monday 11 March 1996

QUESTION: To ask the S of S for Defence, if he will list the types and nationalities of military aircraft booked into (a) Area 5E and (b) Area 3A of the night low flying system between 1800 hours and 1930 hours GMT on 6th January 1995.

DRAFT ANSWER: No military aircraft were booked into night low flying sectors 3A and 5E between the times stated on the 6th January 1995.

APPROVED BY:

Head of Sec(AS) Signed _____ M J D Fuller Tel: Section 40 MB Date _____

Sec(AS)2 Signed _____ Section 40 Tel: [redacted] MB Date _____

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RCRO(Borders)
RCRO(C&T)
RCRO(Wales)

BACKGROUND NOTE TO PQ 0611H

1. Much of Mr Redmond's Don Valley constituency lies within the Sheffield Transit Area and therefore experiences relatively little military low flying. He has, however, asked a large number of PQs on low flying over the years and it is our understanding that Mr Redmond tables many of these questions on behalf of Section 40, a researcher into low flying and other military aviation issues, rather than as a result of any direct personal interest.

2. This is one of four PQs (0590H, 0611H, 0618H & 0621H) Mr Redmond has tabled for answer this week on aerial activity on 6th January 1995. It is likely that these questions have been prompted by press coverage last month following the publication of the report by the Joint Airprox Working Group (JAWG) of an alleged air miss between a British Airways Boeing 737 and an [redacted] near Manchester airport on the same day (an extract from "The Times" is attached). The JAWG, which consists of both civil and military aviation experts, concluded that, in the absence of any firm evidence to explain or identify the other craft, it was not possible to assess the degree of risk of collision. The incident has also been considered by the Department's Air Defence experts who concluded that there was no evidence to substantiate that the sighting represented a threat to the UK Air Defence region.

3. It is evident that Mr Redmond is seeking to establish whether a military aircraft could have been responsible for the air miss.

The Observer
3 March 1996

Peter Beaumont looks at military cover-ups

Behind closed doors: conspiracies and cover-ups

HIDDEN IN THE MAZE of the Ministry of Defence's peeling, blue-painted corridors in London, a solitary civil servant sits behind frosted glass. The acronym printed on his office door gives no clue as to his job – but it is the strangest in the building. Each day the single executive officer of the Secretariat of the Air Staff, Department 2a – to give the section its full name – comes into work, hangs up his coat and brolly and sets to opening the latest batch of letters reporting UFO sightings across the British Isles.

Despite the apparent glamour, it is pretty tedious stuff. He notes the address, sends out a pro forma letter of thanks then files the reports, uninvestigated. These are the RAF's own 'X-files'. And for those who believe 'we are not alone', they are the source of the British military's alien cover-up.

After years of secrecy Nick Pope, the last man to lodge his umbrella in Department 2a, broke the official silence in the summer of last year to announce, to the embarrassment of the MoD, that he 'believed' aliens had visited these isles. The RAF's response to 'Spooky' Pope, as he is now inevitably known within the MoD, is phlegmatic. 'We just send the letters out as a matter of politeness,' explains a squadron leader wearily. 'We do not believe that aliens present a threat to Britain's national security. OK?'

'You see,' insists Phillip Mantle, director of investigations for Bufora, the British UFO Research Association, 'there are people who would say: "How do they *know* they're not a threat? How did they reach that conclusion?" See what I mean?'

Indeed. In the weird and wonderful world of alien cover-up theories, denials take on a sinister new meaning.

Nick Pope claims he was finally convinced of the existence of UFOs by the wealth of accumulated data, after undertaking his own study. 'The vast majority,' he says, 'can be explained by weather balloons, satellites, high-flying planes, but there is a core of five to 10 per cent that simply defy any explanation. That's what convinced me.'

The view of British alien watchers is that the MoD are complacent and lazy rather than masterminding a cover-up. But in the United States' UFO community, stories of a military cover-up are legion and 'evidence' of visits of UFOs or IACs (Identified Alien Craft) has been in circulation for years. Compulsive reading it is, too.

At the epicentre of the canon are the pictures of an 'alien autopsy' carried out following the crash of an alien craft near Roswell, New Mexico, in 1947. The conspiracy theories have been given added weight by the interest of two Republican members of Congress – Steven Schiff of New Mexico and Dianne Feinstein of California.

Indeed, Schiff's campaign has prompted an investigation by the General Accounting Office, which last year disclosed that key documents relating to the crash had gone missing. Under the Freedom of Information Act he is now seeking the release of all documents related to the Roswell incident.

While the US Air Force has recently changed its story to claim it was a secret spy balloon, not a weather balloon that actually crashed, Schiff has done little to help them get off the hook, speculating in the Washington Post on an 'apparent cover-up by the military'.

But it is in the wealth of leaked 'evidence' that the real glory of the US military cover-up theories lie: not least the 'Majestic' documents, allegedly abandoned on the doorstep of a Hollywood television producer, now posted widely on the Internet and purporting to tell the hidden inside story of a series of projects set up by President Eisenhower in 1953 to contact, meet and obtain a UFO from a mysterious race of aliens known as 'greys'.

Mantle is sceptical about their real provenance, but his explanation echoes that of other more 'serious' ufologists: that they are deliberate 'disinformation' but containing a core of truth.

'The Majestic documents have been proved to be bogus,' says Mantle. 'But they are a smoking gun. There is some truth behind them.'

Peter Beaumont



ENCL NO 47

D/Sec(AS)/64/1

5 Mar 96

F I L E N O T E

PRESS ARTICLES ABOUT HARRIER AIRCRAFT
CHASING "UFOs" NEAR BALMORAL ON WED 28 FEB 96 AT 2200 HRS

1. Following the New of the World and The Times articles about the above mentioned alleged incident, the low flying complaints cell established that two Harrier aircraft from No 4 Squadron which were on detachment at RAF Leuchars from Laarbruch were conducting flying training in the rough area at the time in question.

2. Spoke to CRO at Leuchars, Flt Lt [redacted] Section 40 who confirmed the above. He had received a few enquiries about this matter. The crews were undertaking routine Night Vision Goggle training and saw nothing unusual.

3. There was no question (as usual) that they were 'scrambled' to chase off any "UFOs".

Section 40

[redacted]

Golf Operators' Association claims the terms of the sale of starting times to a London-based firm, Keith Prowse Hospitality, on behalf of an American finance company, are potentially restrictive. The tee times can be bought only as part of travel packages costing up to £900 per person for a two-day visit.

"A complaint has been lodged with us and we are looking into it," an OFT spokesman said. "We are concerned with establishing whether or not this distorts the competition, and if it does, then what do we do about it."

The investigation follows an Inland Revenue inquiry into the financial affairs of the body that administers the golf courses at St Andrews, the Links Trust. The trust currently enjoys charitable status for income and corporation tax purposes.

"We have a separate commercial arm known as St Andrews Links Ltd," Peter Mason, Links Trust's external relations manager, said. "St Andrews Links Ltd transfers profits to the parent company. It is a perfectly proper way of doing things. The National Trust does exactly the same. Our understanding is that our deal does not contravene any legislation."

The boom in the popularity of golf prompted the Links Trust to begin a big expenditure programme in 1986. It has spent more than £7 million since then on a new golf course, a new practice facility and a £3 million clubhouse.

CS spray used on one-eyed rugby player

By Richard Ford

POLICE used CS spray for the first time yesterday when they arrested Barrie McDermott, the 17½ stone rugby league international, outside a nightclub.

Mr McDermott, 23, a prop for England and Great Britain, has sight in only one eye after an accident with an air rifle when he was 15. Original trials of the spray were postponed after a Metropolitan Police officer taking part in training complained of burns to his eyes, for which he is now suing.

Police were called to the Cabaret Club, Oldham, as it closed at 2am to investigate allegations of criminal damage made by a taxi driver waiting to collect a passenger. Mr McDermott, who quit Wigan to join Leeds for £100,000 last year, was sprayed after allegedly becoming aggressive when officers tried to arrest him. Last night he said at his home near the club's Headingley ground: "I have been advised by police not to say anything."

Greater Manchester Police said that officers went to the club after a call from a private-hire driver. "Whilst attempting to effect the arrest of a male for an offence of criminal damage, the officers were subject to aggression. The officers deployed CS incapacitant spray. It effectively subdued the male sufficiently to be restrained and placed under arrest."

A spokesman for the force said that the man received medical treatment and appeared to suffer no lasting effects from the spray.

The rugby player was released on bail while police inquiries take place. He is to return to Oldham police station on Thursday. Mr McDermott, a joiner from Oldham, succeeded in being called up to the Great Britain rugby league squad despite the handicap of having lost his left eye.

He was sprayed less that 48 hours after 16 forces in England and Wales began a six-month trial with CS spray. Oldham is the only division in Greater Manchester where the spray is being carried by officers. Chief Superintendent Eric Hewitt, head of Oldham police, said that the value of the CS spray was in shocking an individual.

Royal couple buzzed by unidentified flying gossip

By Alan Hamilton

A BRIEF but merciful weekend lull in the Princess of Wales's public negotiations on her divorce forced yesterday's newspapers into the realms of frantic speculation.

The *News of the World* reported that two RAF Harriers chased an unidentified flying object from the skies above Balmoral, the Queen's Highland holiday home, on Wednesday night. Unnamed witnesses said the jets appeared to have engaged in a dogfight with a bright light, which was visible eight miles away in the town of Ballater.

But a flying saucer on Royal Deeside is as nothing compared with the enemy forces said to be buzzing the Instantly Identifiable Flying Object currently lying low in Kensington Palace while her estranged husband breezily skis the pistes of Klosters, where he has been visiting an exhibition of his own paintings at a local bank.

The *Sunday Express* reported that Tory backbenchers were pressing the Prime Minister to prevent the Princess ever becoming a Labour MP, not an ambition she had hitherto been suspected of harbouring.

For its part, *The Sunday Telegraph*, normally less excitable, claimed that during their private meeting at St James's Palace last week, the Princess suggested to her husband that they should appear together on television to announce their divorce, in the same way that they appeared together to announce their engagement.

The Prince, hardly surprisingly, is reported to have declined firmly to have anything to do with such an endeavour. No doubt he had an awful vision of himself and his wife lounging on pastel sofas like daytime television presenters while a procession of therapists offered passing and helpful thoughts.

Richard and Judy are married, apparently quite successfully; Anne and Nick are merely a professional pair who work well together. The Prince and Princess are neither.

Photograph, page 20

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criteria apply. See in branch for details. Abbey National,

Section 40

With
Compliments

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Cpl C. Section 40

PA
to
OC P & SS (UK)

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC(AD)2
-1 MAR 1996
FILE

Royal Air Force
Rudloe Manor
Hawthorn
CORSHAM
Wiltshire SN13 0PQ

Tel: RAF Rudloe Manor Ext 5606
01225 810461 Ext 5606

Hidden Copy

From Group Captain [redacted] RAF

Headquarters Provost and Security Services
(United Kingdom)
Royal Air Force Rudloe Manor Hawthorn
Wiltshire SN13 OPQ

Telephone Hawthorn [redacted] ext [redacted]
fax

ENCL No 45

[redacted]
Walsall
West Midlands
[redacted]

Please reply to
The Officer Commanding
Your reference

Our reference
PSS/260/8/Air
Date
28 Feb 96

Dear [redacted]

COORDINATION OF ALLEGED UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT SIGHTINGS

Thank you for your letter dated 30th January 1996 which Air Commodore [redacted] passed to me as Officer Commanding, Provost and Security Services (United Kingdom). The matters referred to in the report which you enclosed with your letter occurred in 1962. I am sure that you will appreciate that it is difficult for me to provide definitive answers to all of your questions as the vast majority of correspondence and documentation dating from that era would have been destroyed many years ago.

I can confirm that Flying Complaints Flight, which is part of Headquarters Provost and Security Services (United Kingdom) (HQ P&SS(UK)), was responsible for coordinating reports of unexplained aerial sightings until 1992. I have not been able to determine the date on which Flying Complaints Flight began to fulfil this role. Please note, however, that Flying Complaints Flight only moved to RAF Rudloe Manor (with the rest of HQ P&SS(UK)) in 1977. RAF Rudloe Manor itself would have had no role in the coordination of unexplained aerial sighting reports prior to the arrival of HQ P&SS(UK). Indeed, it is likely, although we are unable to confirm this, that Flying Complaints Flight coordinated such reports whilst at the previous location of HQ P&SS(UK) at Acton.

Flying Complaints Flight would have received reports regarding unexplained aerial sightings from members of the public as well as from RAF witnesses. They would merely have forwarded these reports to the Secretariat (Air Staff) at the Ministry of Defence and no further action would have been taken either by Flying Complaints Flight or by any other HQ P&SS(UK) personnel. It is probable that reports would have been retained by Flying Complaints Flight for a limited period of time before routine destruction.

Many thanks for your enquiry and I trust that the above details answer your questions. For your information, I have also written to Section 40 who wrote to Flying Complaints Flight recently requesting similar information.

Yours sincerely

Section 40

Hidden copy

From: Group Captain Section 40 RAF

Headquarters Provost and Security Services
(United Kingdom)
Royal Air Force Rudloe Manor Hawthorn
Wiltshire SN13 OPQ

Telephone Hawthorn Section 40

Section 40

Beckenham
Kent
Section 40

Please reply to
The Officer Commanding
Your reference

Our reference
PSS/260/8/Air
Date
28 Feb 96

Dear Section 40,

COORDINATION OF ALLEGED UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT SIGHTINGS

Thank you for your letter dated 18th January 1996 to which I am replying as Officer Commanding, Provost and Security Services (United Kingdom) of which Flying Complaints Flight is a part. Please note that RAF Rudloe Manor itself has never had a role in the coordination of unexplained aerial sightings. This role was fulfilled, until 1992, by Flying Complaints Flight which moved to RAF Rudloe Manor with the rest of Headquarters Provost and Security Services (United Kingdom) (HQ P&SS(UK)) in 1977. Although I have been unable to determine the date from which Flying Complaints Flight became responsible for the coordination of reports of unexplained aerial sightings, it is probable that it performed this role prior to 1977 whilst HQ P&SS(UK) was located at Acton.

Thank you for your enquiry. I hope that the above details answer your questions.

Yours sincerely

Section 40

Section 40 Section 40 Section 40

None of this material.

return

6B/1

ENCL NO 44

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uller, the author and direc
tor, has written..." he told
his audience, "The Lords
provides a platform for truly
independent thinking."

Very smart. Very apt. Just one tiny, little mistake. The 1994 *Sunday Times* article he mentions is by a completely different Jonathan Miller — a bog-standard Murdoch scribbler, not the famous veteran of *Beyond the Fringe*. The real J M is most upset. "I'm horrified to be misidentified like this," he tells me. "Mawhinney's an absurd figure and I'm distressed to find that I've been credited — or debited — with these sentiments, which are completely the opposite of my own."

Tory Central Office, no doubt by now familiar with the form, is weary and wary. "Accidents happen," I am told. "Haven't you got anything better to write about?" Bring back Hanley — all is forgiven.

features include slimming advice from actress Sally Farmiloe, and — best of all — a gripping page on "the unexplained" by one [redacted], a full-time civil servant at the MoD.

I should explain my excitement. Pope, formerly the head of the Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a Office, used to spend much of his time reassuring alarmed members of the public that their sightings of little green men from outer space were unlikely to be true. Last year, you may remember, he moved to another post, after declaring that he'd changed his mind and now believed in UFOs.

How delightful, then, to learn that Pope has finally found a grateful audience for his musings. "We monitor exactly how many people read each page," I'm told by *Hot Gossip* founder Georgina Bruni. "Nick's scores lots of hits."

BRMMM. BRMMM. Brrrrrrmmm. Screech. My cabbie is convinced that the very merry fare he picked up late last Tuesday evening in Parliament Square was the famously dour Labour chief whip, Donald Dewar. It *couldn't* have been him, I insist. The jaunty passenger spent his entire journey imitating, in a loud whine, the sound of the taxi's engine. "He was awfully good at it," Cabbie confides. "Very authentic gear-crunching." Sounds far too much like fun for a New Labour man.

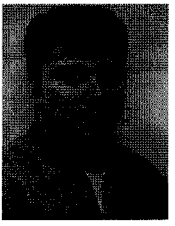
Page boy

EXCITING NEWS for computer-literate Sloanes (surely an oxymoron?). The Internet now boasts its own "society magazine" — the chirpily-titled *Hot Gossip*. Its



HOT GOSSIP UK

Welcome To The Unexplained Page



Edited By Richard Fair NOTE: The Editorial on this page is copyright. You may download it for your own information only. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form electronically or otherwise without the permission of the authors and HOT GOSSIP UK Magazine.

- The Real X-Files?
- Ghost In The Machine?
- Nick Pope, The British Government's Expert On UFO's
- Interview With Nick Pope Other UFO & Unexplained Sites

The Unexplained By Richard Fair

The Real X-Files ?

I remember sitting down in front of the TV one night and getting totally absorbed by what I was watching. A top executive at a computer company had been electrocuted and the FBI had been brought in to investigate. It turned out that the building where the company was based had a highly sophisticated security system. The computer itself was guilty of murder.

The programme was the popular FOX Television series, X-Files, starring David Duchovny and Gillian Anderson as two FBI agents investigating paranormal cases. I can understand why so many people believe that the stories are based on real events. In fact sometimes the stories seem very close to 'actual' events, such as the alien recoveries at Roswell in New Mexico, mentioned in more than one episode.

Programmes like the X-Files and Outer Limits seem to have renewed people's interest in the paranormal. But what exactly is the paranormal and is it all bunkum? What real evidence do we have that the spirits of the dead come back to haunt us or that aliens are abducting people? Evidence in this field is very difficult to gather and even when you think you have something positive, along comes an expert to dismiss it all.

Through this column I'd like to share with you some of the stories I've come across over the years and, hopefully hear from you with your stories. If any of the stories can be classed as proof of paranormal activity, then all well and good. I won't stand as judge and jury on any of them.

Ghost In The Machine?

I begin with a story that I was involved with in the early 1980s. I don't think there is a connection to the X-Files story!

Debbie and Ken owned a terraced cottage in Dodleston near Chester, England. In 1984, during alterations, they began to experience `poltergeist` activity in the cottage. It began with dusty footprints on the kitchen wall, followed by some spectacular construction work! I remember Debbie telling me about how they arrived home one evening to find a collection of food containers, including plastic bottles, stacked up in the kitchen. At first they thought that one of their friends were playing jokes on them. What seemed odd to me was that things usually happened when the house was empty. Usual poltergeist activity surrounds adolescent girls. Debbie was well past this stage! Ken worked at a school in North Wales teaching and he often used to bring a BBC computer home with him at the weekend. (Remember this is 1984, computers were still a thing of mystery to most people!) One occasion Ken powered up the computer and noticed a new file. Upon opening it he found that it contained a strange poem. This

obviously disturbed Ken and Debbie. But they were still convinced that it was a hoax.

After some thought they decided to `post` a reply to see what happened. What followed was a series of exchanges between Ken/Debbie and someone calling themselves Lukas. He claimed to be living in the same house, but in 1521!.Here's an example of one of the messages:

MYNE GOODLY FRIEND KEN METHINKS RAVENSCROFT AN CHIRCHE BE SUCHE A THYNG THAT DO ME SUCHE DISESE AN WO THAT ME ADVISE DISCRECIOUN AN PREYE YOW SPEKE NAMO ON SUCHE MATEERES MAUGREE MYNE WILFUL WAYS TO PLEESEN YOWSELVE YOWR SCRIT BE ALS AMENDED WER DOTH MYNE MAYDE SLEPE NOWE TIS GOOD YOW MAKE MURIE ME DOE DELYTE TO THINKS OF YOW UPRYGHT AN DREYNT WTH WYN OR BOTTLE ALE BUT ME HOPES YOW BE NAT TO FORSPENT THAT YOWR LIVER BO NO GOOD TO YOWR WOMJAN AFT TWEYE DAYES OF SUCHE FESEMENT ME JESTS ME BIDDS WEL AN FARWEL LUKAS

As mentioned earlier, Ken was a teacher and he showed these messages to some of his colleagues. Much research followed, as did more messages. It seemed that Lukas was playing a game with them at first, by deliberately mis-spelling words and feeding them false information. At all times, though, the language was consistent and Lukas insisted that Ken and Debbie were living in HIS house! messages continued via the computer, along with the poltergeist activity. Early research into what had been said in the messages received so far showed that they were inaccurate. Lukas later confessed to joking with them. It appeared that Lukas had been well educated at Oxford and had met Erasmus (a humanist from Rotterdam . He taught at Cambridge where Lukas met him. His `masterpiece` was Colloquia).

Debbie and Ken went through phases of belief and non-belief, acceptance of what was happening and times when they were totally spooked. I remember Debbie telling me about a message they received on a Sunday while listening to the ringing of the local church bells. Lukas mentioned them too! Quick research showed that they were probably hearing the same bell! Debbie also told me about a time she was alone in the house. She felt a presence. It was next to her and actually squeezed her shoulder. She ran out ofthe house and stayed there until Ken returned a few hours later. On another occasion Debbie and Ken came home to find all of the lounge furniture piled up against the kitchen door.

I remember visiting the cottage for the first time with a colleague from the Society for Research into Psychic Phenomena. There were a lot of things that bothered me about the case and I wanted to visit the house personally. Debbie met us before hand and accompanied us to the cottage. The front-door opened directly into the lounge. As we entered, Debbie's face went quite pale. She stood pointing at the wall mirror above the fire place. We could see some red lettering on it. `He's at it again`, she said. It turned out to be a message from Ken written in red lipstick. The way Debbie reacted upon entering the house told me that she was either very frightened or an excellent actor.It appeared from what Lukas had been saying in his messages that he was now putting together a book about his contacts with Debbie and Ken. As far as I understand it he did finish the book. Should it ever be found the implications would be enormous! Debbie and Ken are convinced it will be found in their lifetime.

When Debbie first contacted me about the case she told me that they had been in touch with the SPR. I got the feeling she wasn't happy with what they had told her. She also told me later that she thought she had been followed a couple of times and that the phone had been tapped. (She was never happy to talk to me on the phone. She always insisted that we met away from Dodleston.) I do remember sitting with her in a quiet pub somewhere discussing why anyone would want to tap her phone. She thought that the British Government may have been trying to find out how these messages were appearing on her computer. I asked her how she thought the Government had found out about it. She said nothing but I felt that he had ideas as to who was responsible. Things ticked over, until one of the messages from Lukas questioned what year Ken and Debbie were living in. For some reason he thought it was 2109. Ken and Debbie tried an experiment. They posted a message to 2109. 2109 answered! The communication channel now appeared to be spanning three different time zones.

In his book Ken says "In my imagination I saw all of time as a vertical plane, climbed by a spiral staircase." The messages from 2109 were very different to those from Lukas. They too were written in upper case, however the English used was more modern. It contained many spelling mistakes but Ken and Debbie put this down to developments in the language in the future. Ken had been quite keen to involve friends and colleagues in research but was a little more hesitant to bring in outside researchers

such as the SPR. However, Debbie convinced him that perhaps he should involve them and two people came to visit them in their home. It seemed that, after the exchange of a couple of messages, the researchers from the SPR began to become more interested in 2109 than in Lukas. Ken was not happy about communicating with 2109, as he felt more affection towards Lukas, and at one point he disallowed anybody from making contact with 2109.

One evening, the two representatives from the SPR were allowed a short time in the house alone to set a question for Lukas. Ken discovered shortly afterwards that they had in fact tried to communicate with 2109 and this displeased him very much. Eventually Ken decided to resume communication with 2109 and it came to light that Lukas was not the real name of the person in the 16th century. Eventually, after many promises and many messages, Lukas admitted that his real name was Thomas Harden (Harwarden). Research into this person showed that he did exist at this time and many of the things which had been said originally under the name of Lukas were pertinent to Thomas Harden.

A couple of interesting points regarding the messages from 2109. Ken asked them to explain what poltergeist phenomena is. This is the reply he got:

"SURPLUS KENETIC ENERGY PROJECTED BY EITHER ONE OR MORE INDIVIDUALS OR BY STORAGE CHANNELS HELD WITHIN BUILDINGS AND PLACES WHERE STRONG EMOTIONS, SUCH AS FRUSTRATION, HAVE BEEN FELT MOST COMMON ENERGY CENTERED AROUND AN INDEVIDUAL.RELEASED FOR MANY REASONS.USUALLY CHILDREN OF THE AGES BETWEEN 12-19.87.9% GIRLS."

They also mentioned that in all but three recorded cases no injuries had been inflicted. They quoted that last case of injury was caused by a falling beam, recorded in 2006. This was really their only reference to time. They were questioned as to whether 2109 related to the year that they were communicating from. They didn't directly answer this question but suggested that they were communicating from outside of our universe.

Ken and Debbie decided to contact a local newspaper. They ran a front page feature in which they claimed to have spoken to one of the researchers from the SPR. The article said: The case has been investigated by the respected academic body, The Society for Psychical Research, who are satisfied that `human agencies` are responsible.....the society has not analysed the computer print-outs for linguistic or historical accuracy. The researcher in question never filed a report to the SPR and resigned from the Society in 1986. Since then no one has been able to trace him. His partner did return to the house at a later date with another man. 2109 was suspicious of this person and eventually the two men stopped visiting the house. Questions to the SPR showed that they had no record of these two men.

In one of the later messages from Lukas (Thomas), he told how his sister Katherine had been taken away to nearby Chester where she was burned as a witch. Research uncovered no evidence of burnings at Chester. When questioned about this Lukas said that it did happen, but the `King`s men turned a blind eye`. She was fourteen. 2109 continued communications and suggested the name and telephone number of an investigator that they wanted to contact. This man was traced to his home in North Wales and began a series of communications with 2109 by writing messages to them, placing them in a sealed envelope and leaving them on the computer. After a short while the envelopes would disappear. Replies were sent to this man via the computer screen, with instructions to Ken to print them off without reading them and to take them personally to the investigator. Ken and Debbie never read the communications, as far as I am aware, either from the man or from 2109. Not long after this, communication channels between Ken and Lukas, or Thomas as he was now known, and 2109 concluded. As mentioned earlier, Thomas Harden is said to have written a book. According to 2109,. this book will be found `within a few years`. I have deliberately omitted the names of the investigators from the SPR and the man from North Wales as I am attempting to trace them at the moment. Should anyone feel that they may be able to help me in this matter, if they contact me personally I will be happy to discuss this further. The evidence given shows that Thomas Harden was alive at the time given by the correspondents on the computer. The existence and the identity of 2109 is still a mystery.

Richard

Nick Pope, UFO's & The MOD

For The First Time, The Government's UFO Expert Reveals All

NICK POPE: PROFILE

Nick Pope worked as the British Government's expert on the UFO phenomenon. Now for the first time he steps in to bridge the gap between the believers and the sceptics. .....His book due to be published in June 96' will present convincing auguments in support of the existance of UFO's by using cases that he has researched in his official capacity, and warns that there is an alien presence on Earth and that something should be done about it very soon.

Nick Pope was born in 1965. After having completed his education he undertook a number of temporary jobs before joining the Ministry of Defence in 1985.

During his career in the MOD, Nick has had a number of interesting and difficult postings, and his duties have ranged from preparing briefing material for senior officers, to involvement in the policy inititive enabling women to fly as pilots in the Royal Air Force. He has also been involved in work on the Gulf War and the situation in Bosnia.

From 1991 to 1994 Nick was responsible for investigating UFO sightings for the Ministry, and handling policy on this subject. His brief was to evaluate whether or not there was any evidence of a threat to the United Kingdom. His conclusions were both startling and controversial, and he uncovered a number of cases which seemed to involve craft with technologies considerably more advanced than our own. He concluded that some UFO's were indeed extraterrestrial in origin.

Nick also became officially involved in research into alien abductions , crop circles and animal mutilations, and has a good knowledge of the paranormal in general.

Nick still works for the MOD, where he holds the rank of Higher Executive Officer, which equates to a Major in the British Army.

Although no longer researching UFO's in an official capacity, Nick has kept up his interest in the phenomenon, and has written a book on the subject. Entitled "Open Skies, Closed Minds" it gives an overview of the UFO phenomenon, coupled with an insight into his official research and investigation at the MOD. The book will be published by Simon & Shuster in June 1996.

Nick is currently researching a book on the alien abduction phenomenon, and is actively investigating a number of interesting cases. He is also planning a fictionalised account of the official response to a confirmed alien presence on Earth.

Nick has given a lecture in America on the general theme of official interest in UFO's, and has accepted invitations to speak at several conferences in 1996, including the Fortean Times "Unconvention 96". He has given a number of television interviews, and has been featured extensively in newspapers and magazines. There are a number of other media projects currently being planned.

Hot Gossip was able to get an exclusive interview with Nick

OTHER UFO & UNEXPLAINED SITES

VJ Enterprises

has to be the best site for...The Golden Age, Crystal Skulls, UFO's and PERU, with links to other sites . Illinois & Vera Shapiro take you on a magical trip into the New Age.

For everything you wanted to know about Crystals. A really interesting site and well worth a visit.

UFO Guide. A great site listing UFO information

Pauls Page. Links to the best

http://www.pixi.com/~navsrchf

BUFORA on-line

EBE Page
Pictures and information on Roswell

The British Crop Circle Page

If you are with Compuserve Go .....UFO and join a great forum which specializes on the subject of UFO's. They have a European section where you can chat, read and send posts or join in a conference.

If you have any interesting mysteries or reports and would like us to print them, please e-mail me, Richard Fair, I'd like to hear from you.

NEXT ISSUE

Please look out for our next up-date which will be around the end of February 1996. We will have more interesting true stories and interveiws.

Please mail any comments to Hot Gossip

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INTERVIEW WITH NICK POPE

Contributed by Georgina Bruni

GB: Hi Nick thank you for taking the time to talk to me for WWW Hot Gossip UK Magazine

GB: Can I ask you , do you believe in UFO's?
NP: When I began working on the section for UFO sightings, I was a sceptic but I came out a true believer.

GB: What was it that made you into a true believer?
NP: There were a number of cases which I researched which led me to believe, I'll be mentioning some in my book so I don't want to give too much away at the moment.

GB: What kind of people reported these sightings, the general public? military?
NP: Most of the reports were from the public, we had some from the services, RAF pilots, etc. but they were quite nervous about reporting sightings so there were very few. I think most of them probably reported to their commanding officers. On several occasions members of the public turned up in person at the MOD building anxious to report sightings.

GB: Did you follow up the sightings, check them out, interview the people who made these reports?
NP: I didn't always go out to interview people, it was mostly a desk job, I would contact the local Air Force Bases and the royal observatory in Greenwich to check if they had any unusual sightings in those areas, and I'd get as much information as I could from the people making the reports.

GB: What was the most unusual report you ever received?
NP: I arrived at my office one morning and the phones were ringing like crazy with calls from the public and police stations all over the country. The night before March 30th 1993 there had been a wave of sightings all over the UK, from South Wales, Devon, Cornwall etc. What was so incredible about this wave was that it was exactly like the well known Belgium Sightings, three white lights in a triangular formation, as reported in Belgium in 1990. Even more incredible was that the UK sightings happened three years to the exact day of the Belgium sightings.

GB: Historically, in your opinion, what was the most interesting UK case reported?
NP: I didn't work on this one personally but apart from the wave on 30th March 1993, I think the Rendlesham Forest incident is historically very interesting, There you have a case were a UFO was seen by many United States personnel from Bentwood and Woodbridge bases, including the Deputy Base Commander Lt Col Charles Halt, himself from the Woodbridge Base. The most remarkable thing was that the area of the sighting was checked for radiation, and the readings which were taken were ten times above the normal level. The Rendlesham forest case was featured in two recent British television programmes. The subject being covered in the documentary series Network First titled UFO, and also in an episode of Michael Aspel's ' Strange But True'

GB: Did you ever receive any alien encounter reports at the MOD ?
NP: I covered many reports, some from people claiming to have been abducted by aliens. This concerns me because if these reports are true then our citizens are being abused and taken against their will and that is extremely serious.

GB: Do you personally believe that our citizens are being abducted against their will?
NP: Yes I do, and like I say; I'm concerned because very few people understand it enough to do anything about it.

GB: Do you think there's a cover- up in the UK ?
NP: I don't think it's so much a case of a cover-up, I think it's just that there's no lasting evidence and I don't think the officialdom know how to deal with it. I think that officialdom is just not convinced that there's any real proof.

GB: But what about all the reports ?
NP: Well I would be frustrated after researching a case, to find that it was filed *Object Unexplained Case Closed* When I inquired I was told that whatever it was, it had been and gone and that was it!

GB: Do you think that many sightings weren't reported to the MOD, that people would rather confide in a UFO organization, or keep quiet?
NP: Yes I think that the media and society in general tend to ridicule anyone who claims to have seen a UFO or been abducted. And that is sad because most of these people are intelligent citizens. And you're quite right only very few of those people who had experienced an encounter of some kind, would actually report it to the MOD.

GB: Why did you leave the UFO reports section ?
NP: Because I was promoted. But in any case, I had completed three years in one section and was due for a move, most civil service postings last from between three to five years.

GB: OK, but why is the MOD allowing you to continue on the staff knowing that you are about to disclose these UFO files to the public in your forthcoming book.
NP: Let's just say that I've had a very interesting time over the last six months, and I have no idea what the future will

bring.

GB: Can you elaborate on what's happened to you in the last six months?
NP: I don't think I'd better!!

GB: What's your feelings about some Ufologists and organizations, are you afraid they may attack you like they have others who came forward with this information.
NP: I have a huge number of friends and contacts among Ufologists, and I have received lots of much welcomed support from them. In September 1995 I gave a lecture at the New Hampshire branch of MUFON, and I will be giving several lectures in the UK during 1996.

GB: Are your successors as keen as you were in following up these reports?
NP: I'm aware that many of my initiatives { such as closer co-operation between the MOD and the UFO lobby} seem to have been reversed.

GB: Many of us, especially from the UK are looking forward to the publication of your book, can you tell us about it and when it will be available.
NP: Yes, it's called 'Open Skies Closed Minds' and is being published by Simon & Schuster in hardback, and it will be released on June 3rd 1996.

GB: From your publishers press release I read that you have "stepped in to bridge the gap between the believers and the sceptics, and that the governments are just as much in the dark as the rest of us about these unexplained sightings" Myself, and I'm sure I speak for many others, would welcome your move in this center position, but I'm not sure that any serious ufologist /researcher would accept that the governments are in the dark about this matter.
NP: I think most of the cover-up stories concern the US government rather than the British government {were I've made it clear that my view is that people know too little about UFOs as opposed to too much.} And there are bound to be areas were some Ufologists and I disagree, but wouldn't it be a boring world if everyone had the same opinion!

GB: Nick can I ask your opinion of the *Santilli Autopsy Footage*?
NP: I think the film is a fake! There are just too many holes in the story. But don't get me wrong, I'm convince that the Roswell Incident is genuine.

GB: Can you leave us with one quote for our readers.
NP: I'd just like to encourage people to keep plugging away.....keep up the research.....keep asking questions.....keep up the pressure.....and if we all work together, maybe we'll solve the UFO mystery.

Thank you Nick for your time and good luck with your book. We are pleased to announce that Nick Pope will be joining The Unexplained Page with his own section called *POPE'S CORNER* We'll keep you posted. Nick's book is being published in hardback. # 0 684 81664 4 . 304 pp

He can be contacted through his agent. Andrew Lownie Voicephone: 0171 436 1898 Fax: 0171 636 4917

Please mail any comments to Hot Gossip

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The UFO that buzzed a BA jet

AN unidentified flying object overtook a British Airways passenger jet at high speed as it made its final approach to Manchester Airport, an official report disclosed last night.

The close encounter between the Boeing 737 and the wedge-shaped craft happened at about 4,000ft as the BA flight returned from Milan with 60 passengers.

The UFO, described as having a black stripe down its side and a 'Christmas tree' arrangement of lights, flashed past the jet with no sound and no wake.

Investigators remain baffled more than a year after the incident which happened on January 6 last year and was reported by both pilots on the Boeing.

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Mark Thomas (Mark Thomas Friday Nights Channel 4): 122

venture when we haven't even formed the party until May 1," he said.

Tony Blair will be delighted by Mr Trickett's 15,817 votes, even though the turnout on a freezing day was only 39.5 per cent, compared with 76 per cent at the general election. He will see it as a decisive victory for his new Labour, particularly in the light of the controversy over Harriet Harman's son's education.

John Prescott, Labour's deputy leader, described it as an excellent result, and said: "So much for the so-called Tory revival.

"Despite ten candidates in the field, including Arthur

The swing from Conservative to Labour was 5.43 per cent, but the Tories were given some compensation when their candidate Norman Hazell secured second place with 1,942 votes ahead of the Liberal Democrats' David Ridgway, who polled 1,516. Six minority candidates lost their deposits.

The Government is now bracing itself for another by-election defeat — which would reduce its majority to three — at the Conservative-held Staffordshire South East, which fell vacant with the death of Sir David Lightbown.

General election: D. Enright (Lab) 29,942. G Harrison (Con) 7,867; V Megson (Lib Dem) 4,4459; Labour majority 22,075. Turnout: 76 per cent.

By Nick Nuttall, Technology Correspondent

THE Internet is set to become a multibillion-pound world superstore. Two leading credit card companies yesterday announced that they have developed a way of making safe payments over the electronic computer network.

Experts are predicting within four years the computer purchase of goods from wine, cars and clothes to computer games and information services.

Until now development of the Internet for shopping has been hampered by the difficulty of ensuring that electronic payments are secure from hackers and credit card fraudsters. Most computer shopping is done over private networks run by firms such as Compuserve.

But the breakthrough by Visa and Mastercard, with help from such firms as Microsoft and RSA Data Security, opens up commerce to millions of users of the Internet. The secure payments system requires special software which will be embedded in standard products such as Windows 95. When the user dials the credit card details in, the software scrambles the numbers into a code which is transmitted to the seller.

The Times on the Internet: http://www.the-times.co.uk

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PLUS Vision, the TV and radio guide

UFO 'buzzed' airliner at Manchester airport

By Harvey Elliott
Air Correspondent

BRITISH Airways passenger jet ad a close encounter with an unidentified flying object while landing at Manchester airport, an official report disclosed last night.

The Boeing 737, with 60 people on board, was overtaken at high speed by a wedge-shaped craft as the plane descended through 4,000ft on the final stages of a journey from Milan.

Captain Roger Wills reported that the UFO, which was emblazoned with small white lights and possibly a black stripe down its side, flashed silently down the side of the jet so close that his co-pilot, First Officer Mark Stuart, involuntarily ducked as it went by.

There was no sound and no wake but both pilots were so concerned that they filed a formal "airmiss" report. The Civil Aviation Authority launched an investigation, the fourth such incident since 1987, and after a year-long inquiry concluded yesterday that they could find no likely explanation. The three previous reported sightings also baffled the CAA experts.

The incident happened at 6.48pm on January 6 last year with the aircraft just above the clouds and visibility at least ten miles. Then air traffic controllers had the following conversation with Flight 5061:

B737: "We just had something go down the right-hand side, just above us very fast."

Manchester: "Well there's nothing seen on radar. Was it an aircraft?"

B737: "Well, it had lights, it went down the starboard side very quick."

Captain Wills and First Officer Stuart are certain that the object was solid and not a balloon, a model aircraft or even a military Stealth aircraft which the captain had seen before and would have recognised.

Both pilots should be commended for their courage in submitting a report, the investigators said.

TV & RADIO 38, 39
WEATHER 20
CROSSWORDS 20, 40

LETTERS 17, 25, 37
OBITUARIES 19
BERNARD LEVIN 16

ARTS 29-31
CHESS & BRIDGE 35
COURT & SOCIAL 18

SPORT 34-38, 40
EDUCATION 33
BUSINESS NEWS 21-28

Section 40

We received a report of this incident on 19 JAN 95. Copied it to D155C + GE3. No apparent defence concerns. I also received an advance copy of the Joint Air Miss Working Group report which was inconclusive. This was released last night. I have given DPO a paragraph should they get any further queries.

Section 40

64/1

7-1

Learning the - with thoro Basic addition multiplication

For FREE br or return P.O. Box 1

Please tick: 7-10

Mr/Mrs/Miss: ___

Address: ___

64/1

ENC 42

DATE	TO	SUBJECT
02/02/96	DPO(RAF)	REPORT OF "UFO" SIGHTING ON Ref: 489

Sent : 02/02/96 13:12
To : DPO(RAF),DPO(RAF)SO2
Cc :

Ref : 489
Subject: REPORT OF "UFO" SIGHTING ON 6 JANUARY 1995 MADE BY TWO BRITISH AIRWAYS PILOTS
Text : In view of the fact that this story appears in several newspapers this morning, and I have received one enquiry from the Press which I put onto you from a Manchester newspaper, I thought you might find the attached statement of assistance. This sighting was looked at by the CAA Joint Airmiss Working Group last year but the findings were inconclusive..

Section 40

Priority: Urgent View Acknowledge [*] Attachments [1]
Reply Request [ ] Delivery Acknowledge [*] page 1

Bcc :

Auth by :

Defer Date : Defer Time :

No Redirection [ ]

REPORTED "UNEXPLAINED" AERIAL SIGHTING BY BRITISH AIRWAYS PILOTS - 6 JAN 95

As a matter of routine, the Civil Aviation Authority notified the Ministry of Defence of the report of an "unexplained" aerial sighting made by the British Airways pilots on 6 January 1995. The information received was looked at, in consultation with the Department's air defence experts, and as there was no evidence to substantiate a matter of defence significance, MOD interest in the sighting concluded.

To: Section 40

AIR STAFF 2A

From: Section 40

Section 40

I Wonder if you can help me. At the moment I am finalising a documentary for BBC television about the British government and the way in which it handles UFO documents. To this end I have had lots of help from the PRO (where we have filmed) and spoken with former staff,notably Ralph Noyes and Nick Pope,who was previously in your position at Air Staff 2A.

As I am sure you realise Ralph and Nick will be offering a perspective that may well differ from your own and I wonder if you would be willing to express the current position of the MoD on camera. One way to do this which would not be too consuming is for you to view some of the rushes at the BBC studios perhaps in a week or so. You might then want to comment upon what you have seen.

I would hope to offer the same opportunity to Ralph and [redacted],but I think it is important for the balance of the feature that a more cautionary approach - which I suspect you would want to provide - should be seen on camera. I do not want the viewers to feel that I am steamrollering them into any particular viewpoint,as it is well known within this field that (whilst I am a professional UFOlogist) I do not believe there is a massive government cover-up,as do many of my colleagues. In fact I actively spoke out last year against the so-called Roswell autopsy footage (eg in the Independent last July) and even parted company with BUFORA,for whom I served as Director of Investigations for many years,whose actions over this case I found indefensible.

I recognise that you will probably need to seek permission for this matter but I can assure you there are no tricks . We just want you to put the official position in whatever way you chose.

The half hour programme will be transmitted on BBC-2 - probably in May. If you wish to know more about it please contact my producer - Section 40 at White City on Section 40

Section 40

Section 40

Thank you. I can understand why sharing the screen with the precious Ralph and Section 40 did not appeal to you!

Section 40

Section 40

You may wish to be aware that we received this faxed request last Wednesday from Section 40 a prominent member of the 'UFO' fraternity. We declined to appear and offered a statement (attached) setting out our position. DPO later advised that Section 40 was 'hopping Mad' at our approach and failure to cooperate and wanted us to know that Mr Pope would be appearing and explaining what he used to do when he worked in Sec(AS)2a.

Section 40

SECRETARIAT(AIR STAFF) Fax: Section 40

** Transmit Conf.Report **

7 Feb '96 14:13

SECRETARIAT(AIR STAFF)---> Section 40	
No.	1189
Mode	NORMAL
Time	1'12"
Pages	2 Page(s)
Result	O K

Classification

Caveat

Covering

F Sigs
(Rev 8

Facsimile Transmission Cover Sheet

Transmission Details		Document Details
Serial Number:	Date and Time of Transmission: 7 FEB 96	Reference:
From: SEC(AS)2	Fax Number: Section 40	Subject: UFO PROGRAMME
To: Section 40 DPO	Fax Number: Section 40	Total number of pages including this cover sheet: 2

Authorizing Officer	Transmit Operators
Rank, Name and Appointment: EO Section 40	Rank/Grade, Name and Telephone No.:
Signature:	Signature:

Message/Remarks:

Section 40

Attached, as discussed.

We'll send down a statement to respond to this request shortly.

Section 40

Covering

Caveat

Classification

64/1

Mon Feb 12, 1996 11:29 mailbox log Page 1

DATE	TO	SUBJECT	
12/02/96	DPO(RAF)SO2	BBC TV "UFO" PROGRAMME -	Ref: 500

Sent : 12/02/96 11:22
To : DPO(RAF)SO2
Cc :

Ref : 500
Subject: BBC TV "UFO" PROGRAMME - REQUEST FOR INTERVIEW

Text :

Priority: Urgent View Acknowledge [*] Attachments [1]
Reply Request [ ] Delivery Acknowledge [*] page 1

Bcc :

Auth by :

Defer Date : Defer Time :

No Redirection [ ]

page 2

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/1

12 Feb 96

DPO - Sqn Ldr Section 40

BBC TV "UFO" PROGRAMME - REQUEST FOR INTERVIEW

1. You should by now have seen a copy of the fax which Sec(AS)2a received from Section 40 last Wednesday, the content of which I briefly discussed with you. Section 40 wishes to interview a MOD representative about the current MOD policy on "UFO" matters.

2. In view of the fact that the MOD has no role in respect of "UFO/flying saucer" matters, we do not consider it appropriate to consent to an interview of this nature. However, we propose to respond with a standard statement about our role concerning *"unexplained"* aerial sightings, which Section 40 might choose to quote from during the TV programme.

3. I should therefore be grateful if the following statement could be forwarded to Section 40 via your office.

"UFOs"

"The Ministry of Defence does not have any direct interest, expertise or role in respect of "UFO/flying saucer" matters, or those relating to the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms, about which we remain totally open-minded. To date, however, the MOD knows of no evidence which might substantiate the existence of such phenomena.

The MOD and HM Forces have responsibility for the effective defences of the United Kingdom and we remain vigilant for any potential threat, from whatever source. It is in this context alone that we look at reports of "unexplained" aerial sightings in order to establish whether what was seen might have defence significance. If no threat is discerned, and in connection with "unexplained" aerial sightings this has been the case in all instances to date, we make no further attempt to investigate and establish exactly what may have been seen."

Section 40
Sec(AS)2a
MB8245 82140MB

64/1

ENCL NO 40

Fri Jan 26, 1996 12:09 mailbox log Page 1

DATE	TO	SUBJECT	
26/01/96	DPO(RAF)SO2	QUESTIONS FROM "LA FUN LTD"	Ref: 484

Sent : 26/01/96 12:08
To : DPO(RAF)SO2
Cc :

Ref : 484
Subject: QUESTIONS FROM "LA FUN LTD" ON "UFOs"

Text : Section 40
The attached statement represents our standard approach to answering Rendlesham Forest questions. We do not get drawn into answering individual questions.
Any queries give me a call.
Section 40

Priority: Urgent View Acknowledge [*] Attachments [1]
Reply Request [ ] Delivery Acknowledge [*] page 1

Bcc :

Auth by :

Defer Date : Defer Time :

No Redirection [ ]

page 2

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE STATEMENT ON "UNEXPLAINED" AERIAL SIGHTINGS

The Ministry of Defence does not have any direct interest, expertise or role in respect of "UFO/flying saucer" matters, or those relating to the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms, about which we remain totally open-minded. To date, however, the MOD knows of no evidence which might substantiate the existence of such phenomena, and there is no question of the MOD seeking to cover up any information on the subject of "UFOs".

The MOD and HM Forces have responsibility for the effective defences of the United Kingdom and we remain vigilant for any potential threat, from whatever source. It is in this context alone that we look at reports of "unexplained" aerial sightings in order to establish whether what was seen might have defence significance. If no threat is discerned, and in connection with "unexplained" aerial sightings this has been the case in all instances to date, we make no further attempt to investigate and establish exactly what may have been seen. To date no threat to the United Kingdom has been discerned which has been attributed to a "UFO".

Alleged Events at Rendlesham Forest, December 1980

When the Ministry of Defence was informed of the events which are alleged to have occurred at Rendlesham Forest/RAF Woodbridge in December 1980, all available substantiated evidence was looked at in the usual manner by those within the MOD/RAF with responsibility for air defence matters. The judgement was that there was no indication that a breach of the United Kingdom's air defences had occurred on the nights in question.

As there was no evidence to substantiate an event of defence concern no further investigation into the matter was necessary. Although a number of allegations have subsequently been made about these reported events, nothing has emerged over the last 15 years which has given us reason to believe that the original assessment made by this Department was incorrect.

64/1

ENCL NO. 39

Section 40

BBC WORLD SERVICE PROGRAMMES ON "UFOS" - QUESTIONS TO THE MOD

The Press Office has received the attached series of questions from the makers of a forthcoming set of 3 programmes on "UFOs"

The questions centre on events at Rendlesham Forest, but also mention Mr Pope and Lord Hill-Norton. Rather than be drawn to answer individual questions I propose that we provide them with a general statement on our interest in this subject, and the standard line on Rendlesham Forest.

I attach a draft statement and should be grateful if we can discuss tomorrow at some point.

Section 40

[redacted]

25/1

Have fun !:

Section 40

I DO (Hair)

x Section 40



LA FUN LIMITED
FROM: Section 40
Section 40
London Section 40
Fax/Phone: Section 40
Managing Director:
Section 40
Broadcasting Consultant:
Section 40

FAX TO: SQUADRON LEADER Section 40
COMPANY: PRESS OFFICER RAF
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

THURSDAY 25 JAN '96 13.

PAGES
THREE - FROM ANI

SUBJECT:

DEAR SQUADRON LDR Section 40
I PAGES OF QUESTONS
ON THE SUBJECT OF
UFOs. I WI TELEPHONE
VERY SOON TO
THE MATTER. THANKS IN
ADVANCE FOR YOUR HELP
— SINCERELY Section 40

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC (AS) 2
25 JAN 1996

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE STATEMENT ON "UNEXPLAINED" AERIAL SIGHTINGS

The Ministry of Defence does not have any direct interest, expertise or role in respect of "UFO/flying saucer" matters, or those relating to the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms, about which we remain totally open-minded. To date, however, the MOD knows of no evidence which might substantiate the existence of such phenomena and there is no question of the MOD seeking to cover up any information on the subject of "UFOs".

The MOD and HM Forces have responsibility for the effective defences of the United Kingdom and we remain vigilant for any potential threat, from whatever source. It is in this context alone that we look at reports of "unexplained" aerial sightings in order to establish whether what was seen might have defence significance. If no threat is discerned, and in connection with "unexplained" aerial sightings this has been the case in all instances to date, we make no further attempt to investigate and establish exactly what may have been seen. To date no threat to the United Kingdom has been discerned which has been attributed to a "UFO".

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As there was no evidence to ~~indicate~~ substantiate an event of defence concern no further investigation into the matter was necessary. Although a number of allegations have subsequently been made about these reported events, nothing has emerged over the last 15 years which has given us ~~any~~ reason to believe that the original assessment made by this Department was incorrect.

ENCL No 38

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
From: Section 40, Secretariat(Air Staff)2a, Room 8245
Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct Dialling) 0171 218 **2140**
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax)

CARLTON TELEVISION
Attn: Section 40

== by fax ==

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/1
Date
18 January 1996

Dear Section 40

DETAILS OF NUMBERS OF "UNEXPLAINED" AERIAL SIGHTINGS REPORTED TO THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Attached, as requested, numbers of "unexplained" aerial sightings reported to the Ministry of Defence per year since 1959 when records were first kept.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Enc.

NUMBERS OF "UNEXPLAINED" AERIAL SIGHTINGS REPORTED TO THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

1959 - 22	1981 - 600
1960 - 31	1982 - 250
1961 - 71	1983 - 390
1962 - 46	1984 - 214
1963 - 51	1985 - 177
1964 - 74	1986 - 120
1965 - 56	1987 - 150
1966 - 95	1988 - 397
1967 - 362	1989 - 258
1968 - 280	1990 - 209
1969 - 228	1991 - 117
1970 - 181	1992 - 147
1971 - 379	1993 - 258
1972 - 201	1994 - 250
1973 - 233	1995 - 373
1974 - 177	
1975 - 208	
1976 - 200	
1977 - 435	
1978 - 750	
1979 - 550	
1980 - 350	

Figures from before 1959 are not available.

NB. The above figures relate to the number of reports, received by the Ministry of Defence, of aerial activity which was not immediately identifiable to the witness. They should not be taken to reflect sightings of "UFO/flying saucers".

Classification

Caveat

Covering

F Sigs
(Rev g

Facsimile Transmission Cover Sheet

Transmission Details		Document Details
Serial Number:	Date and Time of Transmission: 19 JAN 95	Reference: 64/1
From: SEC(AS)2.	Fax Number: Section 40	Subject: NOS OF 'UNEXPLAINED' AERIAL SIGHTINGS REPORTED TO THE MOD
To: CARLTON TV Section 40	Fax Number: Section 40 Section 40	Total number of pages including this cover sheet: 3

Authorizing Officer	Transmit Operators
Rank, Name and Appointment: Section 40	Rank/Grade, Name and Telephone No.: AO Section 40
Signature: Section 40	Signature:

Message/Remarks:

Covering

Caveat

Classification

** Transmit Conf.Report **

19 Jan '96 9:30

SECRETARIAT(AIR STAFF)---> Section 40	
No.	0987
Mode	NORMAL
Time	1'26"
Pages	3 Page(s)
Result	O K

with the compliments of

Ministry of Defence

64/15

Sec (AS)

[redacted] will be known to you.

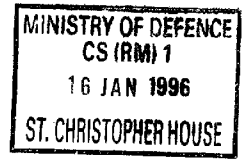
I attach a copy of Dr Meant's letter to me, together with my draft reply and one to Rachel Reeves.

[redacted]

MOD Form 195 (Revised 6/89)



TEL. Section 40



Section 40
Walsall
West Midlands
Section 40

10 January 1996

Dear Sir/Madam,

In 1995 I wrote to the Public Record Office in an attempt to determine if it would be possible to access 1947-1964 files which originated with the Royal Air Force's Provost and Security Services (P&SS), which has its headquarters at RAF Rudloe Manor, Wiltshire.

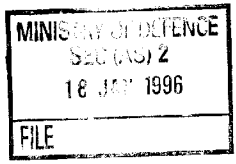
I was informed by the Readers Services Department that the 'Public Record Office Current Guide' makes no mention of P&SS records, either open or closed. In addition, I have accessed a number of other files which the PRO suggested might contain P&SS records, but was unsuccessful in locating anything relevant. In light of this PRO suggested that I contact you to see if you could possibly advise me if P&SS files covering the period in question are still retained by MOD, or if it appears to be the case that they have been destroyed.

I appreciate that it is not the role of the DRO to conduct searches on behalf of the public, but if you can advise me in any way, or offer any advice, it would be most gratefully appreciated. Thankyou for taking the time to read my letter.

Yours faithfully,

Section 40

Note
Spoke to Section 40 P&SS records at Kew yes. Section 40 will check Roc needs to speak to contact at Security Policy
16/1 for VFO
Section 40



16/1 None
Section 40

ED

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

St Christopher House Southwark Street London SE1 0TD Room [redacted]

Telephone (Direct Dialling) [redacted] Fax: 071-921-

[redacted]

Walsall
West Midlands
[redacted]

Your reference

Our reference
CS(RM)/4/6/37

Date
16 January 1996

I acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 10 January 1996 concerning the fate of records that might have been created by the Royal Air Force's Provost and Security Services (P&SS) during the period 1947-1964.

I am investigating whether any papers created by P&SS during the above period have, for some unknown reason, by-passed the review process. You may expect me to reply on completion of my action.

[redacted]
Deputy Departmental Record Officer

ED

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
St Christopher House Southwark Street London SE1 0TD Room 7127

Telephone (Direct Dialling) Section 40 Fax: 071-921-

Officer Commanding
Royal Air Force
Rudloe Manor
Hawthorn
Wiltshire
SN13 0PQ

Your reference

Our reference
CS(RM)/4/6/37

Date
16 January 1996

HISTORIC RECORDS - PROVOST AND SECURITY SERVICES

Under the terms of the Public Records Acts, 1958 and 1967, all government departments are required to review their records with the view of selecting those worthy of preservation. These are transferred into the custody of the Public Record Office where they become available to members of the public at the start of the 31st year. Records not selected we are required to destroy. Responsibility for ensuring that the Ministry of Defence, and those areas operating under its control, comply with the terms of the Act rests with the Departmental Record Officer.

From time to time members of the public approach the Department seeking assistance in clarifying the status of records that, for whatever reason, have not found their way into the public domain. I have recently received a letter from an individual who is concerned that no records from the RAF's Provost and Security Service have been selected for preservation. He is particularly interested in records covering the period 1947-1964.

Will you please advise:

a. whether you hold papers from covering the period 1947-1964, if you do,

b. please provide a broad indication of the types of record, and

c. reason for retention.

Section 40

Section 40

Deputy Departmental Record Officer Section 40

Recycled Paper

LOOSE MINUTE

CS(RM)/4/6/37

4 January 1996

Sec(AS)2a

RELEASE OF "UFO" FILES

Reference:

A. D/Sec(AS)/64/1 dated 2 January 1996
B. CS(RM)/4/6/37 dated 29 September 1995
C. D/Sec(AS)/64/1 dated 28 September 1995

1. Reference A sought advice on "UFO" files released with effect from January 1996.

2. Reference B gives details of all "UFO" files reviewed to date that have been listed for the PRO. You will see that only one file was released in 1996 - AIR2/17527. For future years we anticipate a larger number of releases:

1997 - 2
1998 - 10
1999 - 14
2000 - 13
2001 - 1

3. When you write to your inquirer I would strongly recommend you make no mention of any future releases. In our experience it would only result in pressure to release files in advance of the 30 year point.

4. In addition to the file identified in paragraph 2 a number of sensitive extracts from files previously released are now being prepared for transfer to the PRO (Reference C), namely:

AIR 2/16918
AIR 2/17318
AIR 2/17526

At the present time it is not possible to say when these extracts will be associated with the main files, and thus available to the public, but it will certainly be during the early part of 1996. You may prefer not to publicize the release of these papers.

Section 40

Hd CS(RM)1
ST7127 Section 40

ENCL No 36 Section 40

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC (AS) 2
- 5 JAN 1996
FILE

ENCL No 35

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/1

4 Jan 96

DPO – Section 40
GF(Policy)1 –

MR POPE - ARTICLE IN "FOR HIM MAGAZINE"

You may wish to be aware of the attached article about Mr Pope, which appears in the February edition of "For Him Magazine".

Section 40

Sec(AS)2
MB8247 Section 40

Enc.

"FOR HIM MAGAZINE"

UFO INVESTIGATOR

Nick Pope, the real-life *X-Files* man, on aliens, abductions and John Major

You're a professional UFO-investigator, right?

From 1991 to 1994 my job was to investigate UFO sightings for the British government. I work at the Ministry of Defence, I'm the equivalent of an Army major. In 1991 I was asked to do the 'UFO job'. Officially it's called Secretariat Air Staff, Department 2A – but more commonly referred to as 'the UFO desk'. The brief was to look at the reports as they came in and decide whether they constituted a threat to the UK's defences. I think it's a fair assumption that the intruding technology is more advanced than the defences we have.

Aren't you known as the real-life Fox Mulder, the guy from *The X-Files*?

Yeah. After *The X-Files* was first aired on British TV, I acquired the nickname 'Spooky Pope'.

Have you always been into UFOs?

I had no real interest before I took the job. I reasoned that if I was being paid I should do it to the best of my ability, but I didn't join with any preconceived knowledge or enthusiasm. I went in a sceptic and came out a believer.

What changed your mind – did you see a UFO?

No. It was a gradual effect, case after case after case. The cumulative effect of credible eye witness reports, photographs, videos, military intelligence and classified information. I gradually came to realise that there was something going on that is above and beyond our understanding. An awful lot of RAF pilots told me that they'd seen things, but wouldn't dream of reporting it for fear of ridicule. There is a general climate of acknowledgement within the RAF that pilots do see things. These men are trained observers, they don't make mistakes.

What is the government's official line on UFOs?

They will look at every report to ascertain whether it constitutes a threat, but there is no corporate belief in aliens.

So presumably the MoD weren't too pleased with your switch in position?

Some of them thought, oh dear, he's 'gone native'. When it came out that I'd written a book *(Open Skies, Closed Minds)* some people were horrified and I suddenly became public enemy number one. That said, I still had the support of the vast majority of my colleagues.

Has anyone tried to put the frighteners on you about your book?

Hmm. One or two people would certainly be happier if the book never saw the light of day, and one or two people were 'difficult'. There's no classified information in the book, though. It is perhaps embarrassing to some people because it leaves some unanswered questions.

Like?

Like the fact that 'they' are here now. But some people won't even acknowledge it. Or don't have any idea about how to counter it.

You definitely think that aliens are here then – in this pub?

No, no. What I mean is visiting us, not living among us. There are craft operating in our atmosphere. Extraterrestrials are visiting this planet for purposes unknown. It's difficult to guess alien motives by applying simply human logic. But the evidence is utterly convincing – they are definitely here.

What do you think they're up to?

I think there is a hybridisation programme between aliens and humans being conducted. It may be that they are trying to construct a new race with a little bit from ourselves and a bit from them.

Do you think a UFO really did crash at Roswell, New Mexico in 1947, as is generally thought by UFO-ologists?

I'm convinced that the 'Roswell incident' did occur. The US army base there gave out a press release, saying that they'd recovered a flying saucer, then later the same day they changed their story and said it was a weather balloon. Hmm. It would have been the occasion when certain elements of the American government and military knew for sure that we were not alone in the universe. It would also have been the time when a deal was done between ourselves and the visitors.

What kind of a deal would that be?

Perhaps trading 'freedom to operate' against technology. Maybe it was put to the Americans, "Yes, we're here, we're visiting you, but mean you no harm. We'd like to do certain things..." Cattle mutilations and abductions, possibly; and perhaps they said, "In return we'll give you some technology." What general would refuse?

What's the most convincing recent case?

What happened over Belgium in 1990 is incredible: 2,700 people in one night reported a UFO. At the same time, military radar picked up an object on their screens. The rapid reaction force was scrambled and F-16 fighters were sent to intercept an object flying at mach 5 *(nearly 5,000 mph)*. The F-16's top speed is 1,200mph, so they couldn't catch it. The Belgians were very honest about what was going on in their airspace. They said, "Yes, there was something there. Yes, it could do zero to mach 5 in less than a second *(the pressure of which would kill a human being)*. But we don't know what it was."

Any in the UK?

Recently, hundreds upon hundreds of sightings have been reported in Bonnybridge in Scotland, many of them talking about a huge triangle that seems to be able to hover and then fly off at tremendous speed. It seems to be the same one that was sighted over Belgium in 1990.

But couldn't it just be a top secret new American fighter?

I've heard rumours of a prototype supersonic aircraft called Aurora, but from what I know of 'Black Projects' *(projects so secret that they don't officially exist)* they wouldn't test them where anyone could see them. But the sorts of things that are being reported clearly display technology that is way, way beyond even the cutting edge of our own technology.

What do aliens look like?

Consistently, people all over the world who have no contact with each other are reporting the same sort of entity. Well before the film *Close Encounters*, people were reporting the same sort of being. If aliens are around, they are probably small – between three and four feet high – grey, have large black wraparound insect eyes, nose and ears and a spindly, almost listless body. Physically they appear to be very weak although they're mentally our superiors.

Up until the bit about "mentally superior", it sounded like John Major.

Haha! Hmm. I don't think John Major's an alien.

Are you mad?

I like to think that I'm reasonably intelligent, but you've only got to use a sentence with the word 'aliens' in it and everyone thinks you're a fruitcake.

You must have had loads of weirdos calling you up at the MoD...

I had my fair share of crank callers, including someone who claimed to be an alien. I played it straight and he said he'd been sent here to observe the human race and had decided the time had come to make contact. I asked him to show me his credentials. He never actually gave me his alien name. I wouldn't say he was a nutter, but he may have had some delusions.

Do you get UFO groupies?

(Laughs) Unfortunately not. Being the 'real' Fox Mulder hasn't rubbed off on my sex life!

Best alien movie – *Close Encounters*, *Star Wars* or *Battlestar Galactica*?

Close Encounters is a great movie. It's a little-known fact that a guy called Dr Hynek, who was in charge of the Americans' top-secret study into UFOs, was Steven Spielberg's advisor on the film.

What should you do if you see a UFO?

Take as many details as you can and report it to the MoD.

What should you do if you're abducted?

Hope like hell that they're friendly.

Interview by Anthony Noguera. The book Open Skies Closed Minds (Simon & Schuster) is out in June.



Beam me up, Scotty! Nick Pope, the MoD's UFO expert: "Extraterrestrials are visiting this planet"

For Him Magazine February 96

ENCL NO 34

UFO INVESTIGATOR

Nick Pope, the real-life *X-Files* man, on aliens, abductions and John Major

You're a professional UFO-investigator, right?

From 1991 to 1994 my job was to investigate UFO sightings for the British government. I work at the Ministry of Defence, I'm the equivalent of an Army major. In 1991 I was asked to do the 'UFO job'. Officially it's called Secretariat Air Staff, Department 2A – but more commonly referred to as 'the UFO desk'. The brief was to look at the reports as they came in and decide whether they constituted a threat to the UK's defences. I think it's a fair assumption that the intruding technology is more advanced than the defences we have.

Aren't you known as the real-life Fox Mulder, the guy from *The X-Files*?

Yeah. After *The X-Files* was first aired on British TV, I acquired the nickname 'Spooky Pope'.

Have you always been into UFOs?

I had no real interest before I took the job. I reasoned that if I was being paid I should do it to the best of my ability, but I didn't join with any preconceived knowledge or enthusiasm. I went in a sceptic and came out a believer.

What changed your mind – did you see a UFO?

No. It was a gradual effect, case after case after case. The cumulative effect of credible eye witness reports, photographs, videos, military intelligence and classified information. I gradually came to realise that there was something going on that is above and beyond our understanding. An awful lot of RAF pilots told me that they'd seen things, but wouldn't dream of reporting it for fear of ridicule. There is a general climate of acknowledgement within the RAF that pilots do see things. These men are trained observers, they don't make mistakes.

What is the government's official line on UFOs?

They will look at every report to ascertain whether it constitutes a threat, but there is no corporate belief in aliens.

So presumably the MoD weren't too pleased with your switch in position?

Some of them thought, oh dear, he's 'gone native'. When it came out that I'd written a book *(Open Skies, Closed Minds)* some people were horrified and I suddenly became public enemy number one. That said, I still had the support of the vast majority of my colleagues.

Has anyone tried to put the frighteners on you about your book?

Hmm. One or two people would certainly be happier if the book never saw the light of day, and one or two people were 'difficult'. There's no classified information in the book, though. It is perhaps embarrassing to some people because it leaves some unanswered questions.

Like?

Like the fact that 'they' are here now. But some people won't even acknowledge it. Or don't have any idea about how to counter it.

You definitely think that aliens are here then – in this pub?

No, no. What I mean is visiting us, not living among us. There are craft operating in our atmosphere. Extraterrestrials are visiting this planet for purposes unknown. It's difficult to guess alien motives by applying simply human logic. But the evidence is utterly convincing – they are definitely here.

What do you think they're up to?

I think there is a hybridisation programme between aliens and humans being conducted. It may be that they are trying to construct a new race with a little bit from ourselves and a bit from them.

Do you think a UFO really did crash at Roswell, New Mexico in 1947, as is generally thought by UFO-ologists?

I'm convinced that the 'Roswell incident' did occur. The US army base there gave out a press release, saying that they'd recovered a flying saucer, then later the same day they changed their story and said it was a weather balloon. Hmm. It would have been the occasion when certain elements of the American government and military knew for sure that we were not alone in the universe. It would also have been the time when a deal was done between ourselves and the visitors.

What kind of a deal would that be?

Perhaps trading 'freedom to operate' against technology. Maybe it was put to the Americans, "Yes, we're here, we're visiting you, but mean you no harm. We'd like to do certain things..." Cattle mutilations and abductions, possibly; and perhaps they said, "In return we'll give you some technology." What general would refuse?

What's the most convincing recent case?

What happened over Belgium in 1990 is incredible: 2,700 people in one night reported a UFO. At the same time, military radar picked up an object on their screens. The rapid reaction force was scrambled and F-16 fighters were sent to intercept an object flying at mach 5 *(nearly 5,000 mph)*. The F-16's top speed is 1,200mph, so they couldn't catch it. The Belgians were very honest about what was going on in their airspace. They said, "Yes, there was something there. Yes, it could do zero to mach 5 in less than a second *(the pressure of which would kill a human being)*. But we don't know what it was."

Any in the UK?

Recently, hundreds upon hundreds of sightings have been reported in Bonnybridge in Scotland, many of them talking about a huge triangle that seems to be able to hover and then fly off at tremendous speed. It seems to be the same one that was sighted over Belgium in 1990.

But couldn't it just be a top secret new American fighter?

I've heard rumours of a prototype supersonic aircraft called Aurora, but from what I know of 'Black Projects' *(projects so secret that they don't officially exist)* they wouldn't test them where anyone could see them. But the sorts of things that are being reported clearly display technology that is way, way beyond even the cutting edge of our own technology.

What do aliens look like?

Consistently, people all over the world who have no contact with each other are reporting the same sort of entity. Well before the film *Close Encounters*, people were reporting the same sort of being. If aliens are around, they are probably small – between three and four feet high – grey, have large black wraparound insect eyes, nose and ears and a spindly, almost listless body. Physically they appear to be very weak although they're mentally our superiors.

Up until the bit about "mentally superior", it sounded like John Major.

Haha! Hmm. I don't think John Major's an alien.

Are you mad?

I like to think that I'm reasonably intelligent, but you've only got to use a sentence with the word 'aliens' in it and everyone thinks you're a fruitcake.

You must have had loads of weirdos calling you up at the MoD...

I had my fair share of crank callers, including someone who claimed to be an alien. I played it straight and he said he'd been sent here to observe the human race and had decided the time had come to make contact. I asked him to show me his credentials. He never actually gave me his alien name. I wouldn't say he was a nutter, but he may have had some delusions.

Do you get UFO groupies?

(Laughs) Unfortunately not. Being the 'real' Fox Mulder hasn't rubbed off on my sex life!

Best alien movie – *Close Encounters, Star Wars* or *Battlestar Galactica*?

Close Encounters is a great movie. It's a little-known fact that a guy called Dr Hynek, who was in charge of the Americans' top-secret study into UFOs, was Steven Spielberg's advisor on the film.

What should you do if you see a UFO?

Take as many details as you can and report it to the MoD.

What should you do if you're abducted?

Hope like hell that they're friendly.

Interview by Anthony Noguera. The book Open Skies, Closed Minds (Simon & Schuster) is out in June.



...n me up, Scotty!
...k Pope, the
...'s UFO expert:
Ex... restrials are
...sit... this planet"

ENCL No 33

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/1

2 January 1996

Head of CS(RM)1

RELEASE OF "UFO" FILES

1. As you are well aware, part of this office's responsibilities include MOD's policy for, and public correspondence on, the subject of unexplained aerial sightings.

2. Various UFO enthusiasts are interested in ascertaining when files become available for viewing at the Public Record Office. I have received one such request from a member of the public who wishes to know if any more "UFO" files will be made available for public viewing as from January 1996. I should be grateful for your advice.

Section 40

Sec(AS)2a
MB8245 MB

Section 40

ENCL No 3211

UFO sightings of 'brightly-lit craft'

UFO investigator Sheridan Lane is following up reports of sightings around the Colchester district during the past couple of weeks.

He has received 11 calls from people — some absolutely terrified — reporting seeing brightly-lit craft.

Another saw a diamond-shaped object above the top of Clingoe Hill, near Mersea Road, and near the Severalls Estate.

The caller, an ex RAF officer now working as a civil servant in Colchester, had been in his car with his wife when they spotted a diamond-shaped object above them.

They even opened the car's sun roof to get a better view of the object which he said, as a trained observer of many aircraft, was unlike anything he recognised, including aircraft or helicopters.

Other views also describing

himself as an amateur observer of aircraft reported seeing a diamond-shaped object hovering over the top of Clingoe Hill, near the University of Essex.

He too says it was unlike anything he had seen before.

An elderly woman living in Cowdray Avenue, Colchester, who lives on the first floor flat in Maple View, Old Heath, reported seeing a huge object, when she went out on to her roof at lunchtime. While she was waiting for Christmas cards that had been delivered she had ever seen before, as bright as the sun and much nearer. She only viewed for a couple of seconds.

A woman and her aunt who were in the conservatory of their home in Mersea Road were shocked to see a huge cigar-shaped object, surrounded by red, white and amber lights as the object went into the garden and disappeared in the direction of Clingoe Hill.

[redacted], who lives in Colchester Road, Tiptree, (which was also seen all over the country) is [redacted]

Dec 15- 1995

Local Colchester Newspaper.

BONNYBRIDGE

STRANGE SIGNS... the village has a worldwide reputation

By JAMES MOORE

A QUIET village has become the UFO capital of Britain.

In the past three years more than 2,000 sightings of unidentified flying objects have been reported over Bonnybridge, which lies halfway between Glasgow and Edinburgh.

Local UFO investigators believe at least 300 of these cannot be explained away by aircraft, weather balloons or other phenomenon.

Nick Pope, the former official UFO investigator for the Ministry of Defence, says that a number of sightings could be extra-terrestrial.

And interest in Bonnybridge, which has a population of just 9,000, has become so great the village is now the centre for conferences of UFO specialists from around the world.

Former American nuclear physicist and UFO expert, Stanton Friedman says: "There are several hotspots for UFO sightings like Bonnybridge around the world.

"Maybe they form a part of a group of places being intensively studied. To an alien lifeform one place may be as good as any other to take samples."

Billy Buchanan, Bonnybridge's local councillor, says: "There is something strange going on in this place. There are level-headed people I have known all my life telling me they have been abducted by aliens."

Billy, 47, began campaigning for an official investigation after he too saw strange lights.

He says: "Hardly a day goes by without someone contacting me about a sighting.

"These are not cranks but people whose opinion I respect. A lot of people are frustrated that they can't get anyone to listen to them. I urge them to go to the police, that's the only way we are going to get any investigation."

Gary Wood and Colin Wright believe they were abducted by aliens while driving from Bonnybridge to Edinburgh in August 1992.

They claim they lost several hours when power drained from their car after they passed through a curtain of light.

Experiment

After that they believe they were taken into a spaceship to be experimented on by skeleton-type beings.

Under separate hypnosis both recalled exactly the same details.

Malcolm Robinson, 38, from Strange Phenomena Investigations, who has been investigating cases in Bonnybridge since 1979, says: "There is more evidence in this one place that UFOs are visiting Britain than almost anywhere else. Some say it is just planes or weather ballons.

"But the sheer number of sightings makes it difficult to put down everyone's experiences to something like this.

"We are told by the Ministry of Defence that this activity in Bonnybridge does not constitute a threat to national security.

"But it would put a lot of people's minds at rest if they could at least investigate."

CHASED BY SPACECRAFT

ONE of the most chilling stories is told by the Sloggett family.

While walking near their home, Isa Sloggett and children Carol, 29, and Steven, 13, claim they saw a spacecraft that chased them.

Isa, 55, says: "We were all absolutely terrified — and convinced that we had seen a UFO.

"Steven thought he saw a flash of light and something fly over.

"Then we saw this circular craft about the size of a house with two blinding blue lights. It landed in moorland. I noticed two smaller craft above the first one. Then we heard the sound of what seemed to be a mechanical movement, as if some sort of door was opening.

"I think that's when we began to get really scared. We began to run back along the road. One of the craft in the sky followed us. Eventually it gave up, but we didn't stop running until we got home.

"Our neighbours were sceptical when we told them but now many of them have seen things too."



TERRIFIED... Isa Sloggett

The Independent
21 November 1995

Defence threat

From Ms Gill Samuel

Sir: The letter from John Alderson (20 November) misrepresents the speech made last week by the Defence Secretary to a tri-Service conference. He made no mention whatsoever of armed forces tackling "inner-city crime". Mr Portillo's speech was on the theme of how the world may change in future and the threats that might arise to our national security. One such threat, he said, might come from drug trafficking or international organised crime.

The armed forces already assist the customs authorities in intercepting drug traffickers. His point was simply that use of defence resources in that way might become more necessary in future to combat these international threats to national security.

Yours faithfully,
GILL SAMUEL
Press Secretary
Ministry of Defence
London, SW1
20 November

Evening Standard
20 November 1995
LONDONER'S DIARY

Courting unpopularity

THE MINISTRY of Defence is not pleased. It spent hundreds of thousands of pounds stalling the publication of Andy McNab's SAS memoir, *Immediate Action*. Now it could find itself in the courts again.

Andrew Kain, a former SAS counter-terrorist instructor, is shortly to bring out *The SAS Security Handbook*. Kain has, alarmingly, "applied SAS techniques to all the problems of personal security: the car, the home, the garden and on holiday." The MoD is incandescent. "We take every step to keep military expertise secret," says a spokesman.

This is a view endorsed by Lord Hill-Norton, former chief of the defence staff. "Profiting from this sort of book is unforgivable," he says. "I hope they put this chap in the jug and throw away the key."

The Independent
21 November 1995

Double strike

Fire crews on Merseyside have announced two new 24 hour strikes, two hours apart, starting on Friday and Saturday, over fire authority plans to axe 20 jobs and alter shift patterns to bridge a £700,000 budget shortfall. Army and RAF crews will be drafted in to provide cover.

The Guardian
21 November 1995

New fire strikes

FIRE crews on Merseyside have announced two new 24 hour strikes, only two hours apart, in their dispute over working practices. The first begins at 6pm on Friday and the second at 8pm on Saturday. Army and RAF crews will provide cover.

The Sun
21 November 1995

UFO CAPITAL OF BRITAIN



SAUCER CONCERN . . . local man Ian Macpherson snapped this UFO at a reservoir. We've superimposed it over Bonnybridge

'Flying cigar' swept over us

HOUSEWIFE Katie Swanston can never forget the day she believes she saw a UFO.

Katie, her seven-year-old son Andrew and mother May Higgins, 71, reported seeing a cigar-shaped UFO — a common form of sighting — as they sat in the garden at 9pm one evening last summer. Katie, 32, says: "I'm now prepared to accept there is intelligent life in space.

"There was no noise, no markings or windows and no visible energy source.

"The craft was just a couple of hundred feet up.

"We live on an airport flight path but this was unlike anything I've ever seen."



I'M A BELIEVER . . . Katie

High-rise pair see ship hover

WILLIAM and Mabel Bestall have seen a catherine-wheel shaped craft three times in a year from their seventh-floor flat.

The couple have witnessed the craft fly over the valley and hover over Bonnybridge before turning off its fluorescent white lights and disappearing. Neither local airports nor the police reported any aircraft which could match the Bestalls' descriptions.

William reported their sightings to the local newspaper and over the next few days he was flooded with calls from neighbours saying they had seen the same thing.

William, 73, says: "We're no cranks."



WITNESS . . . William

Operation Right to Know
END UFO SECRECY!

ORTK
BRITAIN [redacted]

International cooperation against the suppression and denial of UFO evidence

SEPTEMBER 11th 1995 - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

"OPEN SKIES CLOSED MINDS"

ANNOUNCEMENT OF A MAJOR UFO AWARENESS DEMONSTRATION

At 11.30AM on Tuesday October 10th 1995, members and supporters of the British branch of Operation Right To Know, will begin a public demonstration and lobby at the House of Commons, London (St.Steven's entrance). We support Nick Pope, a serving Ministry of Defence official (formerly Secretariat Air Staff 2a), and his forthcoming book, to be published 1996, titled "Open Skies, Closed Minds - Official reaction to the UFO phenomenon" and ask:

(1) That members of the public make themselves aware of the evidence for the reality of intelligently operated UFOs of non-human technology and/or science.

(2) That all Members of Parliament do likewise.

(3) That the elected Government implement proceedings to enable any and all files relevant to the subject of UFOs, held by the Ministry of Defence and the Civil Aviation Authority, to be made public. Disclosure needs to be full and without censorship, including all conclusions, assessments, and recommendations.

In consideration of the above:

An excess of 3500 pilot reports, both military and civilian, confirm the existence of structured UFOs purposely operated. For example:

"On the night 30th/31st March (1990) we had an observation on the radar and in addition a visual observation on the ground confirmed by the Police. What the pilots detected was well outside the normal flying envelope of an aeroplane. Sometimes they had what we call lock-ons (aircraft to UFO radar) which gave a parameters varying from 150 knots to 990 knots, an acceleration which occurred in a few seconds. The speeds would be impossible to tolerate for a human being, that's the first point. The second point is, the visual observations always describe a system, a machine, which hangs and hovers above the surface at quite a low altitude without making any noise. Now with the current technology that would be impossible."

Colonel W DeBrouwer, Chief of the Belgian Air Staff, July 11th 1990.

Common sense reasoning wholly suggests that the Ministry of Defence knows a lot more about UFOs than it is publicly prepared to admit, and continues a policy designed to suppress public and political discussion. On October 10th ORTK will hand deliver a letter about ORTK's world wide effort to bring about open political and public debate of the UFO issue, to the Prime Minister and the Defence Secretary.

CIRCULATION: PRESS, RADIO & TV
CONTACT:

[redacted] (UK coordinator)

ORTK USA mailing: [redacted] Gaithersburg, [redacted]
UK Email: [redacted]

WHILE THE CAT'S AWAY!



in Blackpool Oct.10 th. 1995

'something of far greater importance is occurring'



UFO!

PUBLIC AWARENESS DEMONSTRATION
HOUSE OF COMMONS ~~~~~~ BE THERE

'the politics of the 21st. century'

Operation Right to Know
END UFO SECRECY!

OPERATION RIGHT TO KNOW

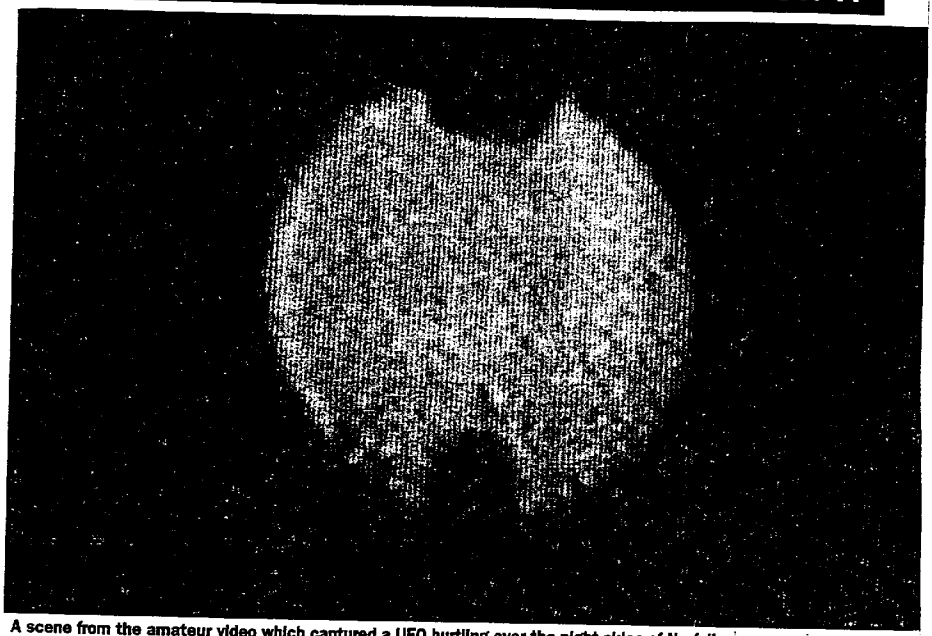
Today
11 November 1995

Page No: 17

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(16)

IT'S A DIGESTIVE JIM, BUT NOT AS WE KNOW IT



A scene from the amateur video which captured a UFO hurtling over the night skies of Norfolk

UFO? This one takes the biscuit..

by KEITH PERRY

EXPERTS were last night examining exciting film of a biscuit-shaped UFO as it put on an amazing display across the night skies.

The dazzling object silently soared, zig-zagged and even chased a motorist along a country lane.

Scores of people in Norfolk saw the UFO change from resembling a biscuit

with two bites taken out, to a spinning top and an axe-head. But painter and decorator Glenn Watson captured it on film from his bedroom window in Norwich.

He fell over his hi-fi as he rushed to grab his camcorder.

Glenn, 32, said: "I was stunned when I first saw it.



Glen and the camcorder which filmed the UFO

Zoomed

"When I zoomed in on the shape I could not believe it. It made no sound and I gasped when I saw it shoot towards the moon."

The film shows a black object, apparently in three segments, passing across the main UFO.

Glenn added: "After the axe head shape it appeared to turn into a spinning top structure before moving off very fast.

"I have always been a bit sceptical about this type of thing, but this was simply amazing. Who knows what shape a spaceship is supposed to be?"

He added: "I am hanging on to the video for dear life."

Glenn watched as the UFO shot off in the direction of Great Yarmouth — where computer engineer Nick Colman got the fright of his life.

He said: "I was driving along when a bright light appeared in my rear-view mirror. It moved around to the side of the car before shooting up into the sky in front of me. I thought it might have been a halogen lamp.

"But when it started moving to the side of the car where there was no road, I knew it wasn't. And it wasn't a helicopter because it was too low to the ground and I have never seen a helicopter which moves that fast."

The Ministry of Defence said yesterday that they were not investigating the incident last Friday because there was no "service interest".

But Mr Webster's film bears similarities to another famous UFO sighting in 1978 in New Zealand.

Then a bright light was filmed from a freight aeroplane by UFO investigators after reports of strange lights from Wellington air traffic control.

Diamond

And one of the most famous UFO sightings was also in Norfolk in 1993 when a man filmed a bright diamond shape.

Mr Ian Simmons, 35, of the Fortean Times, a journal of strange phenomena, has studied the video of the biscuit-shaped UFO.

He said: "The object does not behave like anything we know about it.

"It is unidentifiable and is a very interesting sighting.

It appears to be something which could well be extra-terrestrial."

A sort of ET and biscuits, perhaps.

Sightings that foxed experts

MORE than 30 reported UFO crashes have been recorded around the world.

The Roswell incident is one of the most intriguing.

Rumours that aliens were on board a spacecraft when it crashed at Roswell, New Mexico, were rekindled recently when film allegedly showing a post mortem on one extra-terrestial was unearthed.

The spaceship was said to have been made from a strange material, stronger than steel but thinner than aluminium, after fragments were found.

On January 23, 1974, villagers at Llandrillo, Clwyd, heard an explosion and saw strange lights in the sky. The RAF cordoned off the area because of high radiaton levels but put it down to a meteorite..n December 1980, a UFO crashed in Ipswich. An object the size of a car was found in the ground.

Express
November 1995 Page No: 3

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Is this a UFO, is it Batman, or is it just a half-eaten Farley's rusk?

SEVERAL people saw it. One even made a film of it. They swear the axe-head shape which moved from side to side in the sky before zooming off was an Unidentified Flying Object.

So what really was it that painter and decorator Glenn Webster, 32, filmed from his bedroom window in Norfolk?

Some said it looked like a Batman symbol, or a Farley's rusk with a bite out of each side.

Mr Webster was so shocked when he saw the huge bright light zig-zagging above his house that he tripped and fell over.

"I was stunned when I first saw it and reached for my camcorder.

"When I zoomed in on the shape I could not believe it and fell over my hi-fi.

"It made no sound and I gasped when I saw it shoot towards the moon."

The film shows a black object, apparently in three segments, passing across the axe-head shape.

"Then it appeared to turn into a spinning-top structure before moving off very fast," said Mr Webster, from Norwich.

"I have always been a bit sceptical about these type of things, but this

By BOB MCGOWAN

was simply amazing. Who knows what shape a spaceship is supposed to be. I am hanging on to the video for dear life."

Great Yarmouth police received several calls around 8.15pm that evening, November 3, from people claiming they had seen the UFO.

Computer engineer Nick Colman had a close encounter when a bright light followed his car.

"It appeared in my rearview mirror as I was driving," he said.

"It moved around to the side of the car before shooting up into the sky in front of me.

"At first I thought it might have been a halogen lamp but when it started moving to the side of the car where there was no road, I knew it wasn't. It was not a helicopter because it was too low and moving too fast."

Ian Simmons, 35, the British contributing editor for the Fortean Times, the journal of strange phenomena, has watched the video.

He said: "The object does not behave like anything we know about. It is unidentifiable and this is a very interesting sighting.

"But I am not going to say it is an alien object because you can only make informed suppositions about these things.

"Many UFO sightings can be put down to views of the planet Venus, but that can be ruled out in this case. This falls into the category of a very mysterious light, or shape." A spokesman for the Ministry of Defence said: "UFO reports are received from a variety of sources.

"The MoD does not normally investigate unless there is an armed forces interest. We are not aware of any evidence that this is a matter of defence concern."

The MoD was not able to place a "specific interpretation" on every seemingly unexplainable sighting, said the spokesman.

One of the most famous UFO sightings was also in Norfolk in 1993 when a man filmed a bright diamond shape in the sky.

Mr Webster's film also bears similarities to another UFO sighting in 1978 in New Zealand when a bright light was filmed from a freight plane after reports of strange lights.

UNIDENTIFIED: Did this bright object filmed in the night sky over Norwich come from another planet?



STUNNED: Glenn with camcorder

64/1

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Fri Nov 10, 1995 11:32 mailbox log Page 1

DATE	TO	SUBJECT	
10/11/95	DPO(RAF)SO2	PRESS STATEMENT - "UFO"	Ref: 366

Sent : 10/11/95 11:32
To : DPO(RAF)SO2
Cc :

Ref : 366
Subject: PRESS STATEMENT - "UFO" SIGHTING

Text :

Priority: Urgent View Acknowledge [*] Attachments [1]
Reply Request [ ] Delivery Acknowledge [*] page 1

Bcc :

Auth by :

Defer Date : Defer Time :

No Redirection [ ]

page 2

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/1

10 Nov 96

DPO - Sqn Ldr [redacted]

"UFO" REPORT - 3 NOVEMBER 1995

1. As discussed, [redacted] of Ketts Press Agency, has asked for a MOD statement relating to a "UFO" sighting witnessed in the Norwich Area on Friday 3 November at 2015 hours. I have spoken to the CRO at RAF Coltishall who has confirmed that they do not fly on Fridays; we have also run a log and trace in the low flying system which has also revealed nothing. However, there are no indications of a matter of defence concern and therefore we have no further interest in this sighting.

2. I have drawn up the attached statement. I should be grateful if it could be released through the DPO to the following:

Ketts Press Agency

Tel: [redacted]
Fax:

Attn:

[redacted]
Sec(AS)2a
MB8245 82140MB
CHOTS: SEC(AS)2A (2)

MOD STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO ENQUIRY FROM KETTS PRESS AGENCY, NORWICH

"'UFO' REPORT - 3 NOVEMBER 1995"

The MOD and HM Forces have responsibility for the effective defences of the United Kingdom. In order to discharge that responsibility we remain vigilant for any potential threat, from whatever source. And it is in this context alone that we look at reports of unexplained aerial sightings in order to establish whether what was seen might be of defence significance. If no threat is discerned, and in connection with unexplained aerial sightings this has been the case in all instances to date, we make no further attempt to investigate and establish exactly what may have been seen.

The MOD does not have any direct interest, expertise or role in respect of "UFO/flying saucer" matters, or those relating to the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms, about which we remain totally open-minded.

We have received no direct reports of unexplained aerial sightings in the Norwich or surrounding areas for Friday 3 November 1995 and are unaware of any evidence which might indicate a matter of defence concern associated with this sighting."

Daily Star
13 October 1995

UFO GIVEN AN AIRING

A TV show plans to screen sensational footage of a UFO flying over a British town.

ITV's Schofield's Quest — on Sunday — has uncovered film of the spacecraft "buzzing" Mansfield, Notts, just before midnight on August 23 last year. Daryl Keithspence and two friends spotted it. He recalls: "As we were filming we heard helicopters approaching the scene.

"But as they closed the object sped off at an astonishing rate — four times as fast as a plane — only to re-appear later."

The programme claims it has information leaked by a Ministry of Defence mole that backs the sighting.

The Financial Times
13 October 1995

■ **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY:** The UK arm of Unisys, the US-based computers and computing services company, has won a £25m contract to provide hardware, software and systems integration to the Ministry of Defence for its headquarters complex being developed at Abbey Wood near Bristol. Abbey Wood is expected to become the largest single-site office complex in northern Europe.

The Daily Telegraph
13 October 1995

Right to decide

SIR — Surely it should not be for judges to decide the qualities which are required for someone to serve in the Armed Services (report, Oct. 10).

Only those who have served in the Forces themselves can possibly make a proper decision. This matter involves far more than just an ability to carry out duties. A candidate has to be able to fit in with others as part of a team. If one man is out of line, all the others are affected.

The maintenance of morale, especially in peacetime, is difficult enough, without interference from outsiders who will never be able to understand that the Services are akin to a club, or a close-knit family.

If the Services are clamouring for homosexuals to be recruited *ad lib*, so be it. If not, leave things alone.

Group Captain A. S. AMSDEN
Watlington, Oxon

The Daily Telegraph
13 October 1995

Paralysed soldier to get payout

By Ray Clancy

A SOLDIER paralysed after allegedly being pushed by his instructor during training is to be awarded damages.

Pte Iain Roy, 23, of Forres, Grampian, was on an assault course with other recruits at Pirbright, Surrey, in January. The men were lined up at an obstacle to grab a rope and swing over a bank.

"The physical training instructor attempted to get Pte Roy to become the fifth person on the rope when there should have been only one. He pushed Mr Roy who fell into the water," said his solicitor, Byron Carron.

Pte Roy broke his neck and now needs constant care.

The Ministry of Defence has admitted liability although the instructor, who has not been named, denies pushing Pte Roy.

Mr Carron has applied for damages for Pte Roy who was in the Royal Logistic Corps. "The damages are likely to be very substantial indeed," he said.

The Scotsman
11 October 1995

Call to release 'secret' MoD files on aliens

LYNN COCHRANE

THEY protested on the steps of the House of Commons demanding to have details of advanced intelligent beings. The Government assured them they had come to the wrong place.

Yesterday 20 UFO watchers carrying placards claimed that files on aliens in Britain were being kept secret by the Ministry of Defence. The protesters, members of Operation Right To Know, are calling for the documents to be released.

The group's UK co-ordinator, John Holman, said the Government had gathered extensive military reports of unexplained phenomena during the past 50 years. "We want to know what the military assessments are and what recommendations were made to government.

"We are not in a Cold War situation now, so why should UFOs be deemed a threat?" he asked.

Mr Holman said reports of a UFO landing close to a United States base near Woodbridge, Suffolk, 15 years ago had been withheld by the Government, but had surfaced in the US under the Freedom of Information Act. He said: "I am as sceptical as the next person, but when I see video tapes and I don't know that they are – they are not balloons and they are not aircraft – I want to know."

An MoD spokesman denied there were hidden files: "There is no question of us attempting to cover up any incidents, nor in trying to obscure the truth about UFOs from the public."

Philip Lambro from Los Angeles, a member of a group which wants to create an embassy for extra terrestrials, was one of the protesters. "People have to understand there are advanced intelligent beings who are able to co-operate in a way which we on earth seem unable to do," he said.

An MoD official, Nick Pope, was appointed to investigate unexplained phenomena in 1991. He later stunned the department when he said he believed in UFOs. "I came into that job as an open-minded sceptic and I came out a believer."

But Mr Pope said he did not believe there was a Government cover-up. "I think perhaps the opposite is true, because of personal prejudice as soon as UFOs are mentioned, people dismiss the idea. That goes for everyone, officials included."

He added that files were not open to the public because, like most official documents, they cannot legally be released for 30 years.

Scots have had their fair share of close encounters. Three years ago, Gary Wood and his friend, Colin Wright, were driving on the deserted A70 near Edinburgh when they saw an alien craft hovering above them.

The pair said they blacked out for what appeared to be seconds but realised later that two hours had passed. Traumatised by his experience, Mr Wood underwent hypnosis during which he revealed that he had been abducted by strange creatures who carried out scientific experiments on him.

John Winchester, coastguard officer at Sullom Voe, said he saw what was thought was a UFO over Lerwick in 1992. The mystery object was travelling faster than a jet fighter and was glowing white and orange.

Section 40



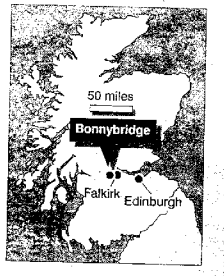
Yesterday's message from Earth, aimed at the Government, was clear enough

UFO hotspot draws crowds but aliens fail to turn up

By Gillian Bowditch and Joe Joseph

THE mystery of why a small Scottish town has become the UFO capital of the world remained puzzlingly elusive at a packed meeting on Monday night. If some extraterrestrial beings among the audience of 600 knew the answer, they were keeping quiet about it — as well as hiding in the down-to-earth attire of anoraks and woolly sweaters favoured by those lesser humans present.

Bonnybridge, in central Scotland, has laid claim to about 2,000 sightings of unexplained objects in the past three years and about one third of the population of the town claims to have experienced phenomena ranging from abductions by aliens to UFOs and strange lights.



The UFOs have put Bonnybridge on planet Earth's map, as well as whatever navigational aids aliens might call upon. Japanese film crews have turned up. American science fiction magazines are offering week-long holidays in the town and enthusiasts from Britain have visited to see for themselves.

Billy Buchanan, an independent Falkirk district councillor and a man much ridiculed for his insistence that the phenomenon be taken seriously, admitted that no definite answer had emerged from the meeting, which he arranged — and which led to a few walkouts by Scots angry at the poor value it gave for £2 a head. "Some people came with preconceived ideas and, to be honest, it was not a UFO evening, it was a cosmic agenda evening," Mr Buchanan said.

Phylis Schlemmer, a 66-year-old American who claims to have been abducted by aliens twice, told the meeting the area had a "very strong energy field". She said: "This is the first time I've ever been here, but there's definitely something special going on. I can understand why this is a UFO hotspot."

Miss Schlemmer's claim to be in contact with "the Council of Nine", a shadowy group of superbeings who watched over the Earth, stretched the credibility of some and her claim that Earth was merely the prototype planet on which other planets had been based also raised eyebrows. Gregory Campopiano, 22, from Falkirk, said: "It is nothing like what I expected. I thought they would be trying to explain the sightings in Bonnybridge."

Mr Buchanan has written to John Major to ask for a government inquiry into the situation. He is not optimistic. The Ministry of Defence told him there was nothing happening in Bonnybridge which affected national security.

In the heart of government, another band of devoted UFO watchers gathered yesterday to demand the release of secret files on visits to Britain by what they say are aliens and UFOs. John Holman, UK co-ordinator of Operation Right to Know, which organised the protest at Westminster, said: "They don't have to say 'We are being invaded by extraterrestrials', but if they know British airspace is being penetrated by objects they should tell us."

The ministry denied that Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, was hiding a fat catalogue of sightings and contacts with extraterrestrial beings. A spokesman said there was nothing to reveal.

Steve Clementson, from Hertfordshire, was picking up signals from alien craft outside Parliament with a home-made UFO detector he calls "Gizmo". It runs on six small radio batteries and crackled with white noise. "The sounds seem to be the symbolic representation of chaos," he said.

With the Compliments of

COMMUNITY RELATIONS OFFICER

I thought you might like to see this 6/4/1

ROYAL AIR FORCE
Finningley

Doncaster,
South Yorkshire,
DN9 3LQ

Telephone: 01302 770771 Ext. 7225

Section 40

CPO

ENCL. No. 23

Public Relations

RAF FINNINGLEY

Open X-Files plea

THE truth is out there. . . and UFO researcher Gordon Ormond is determined to find it.

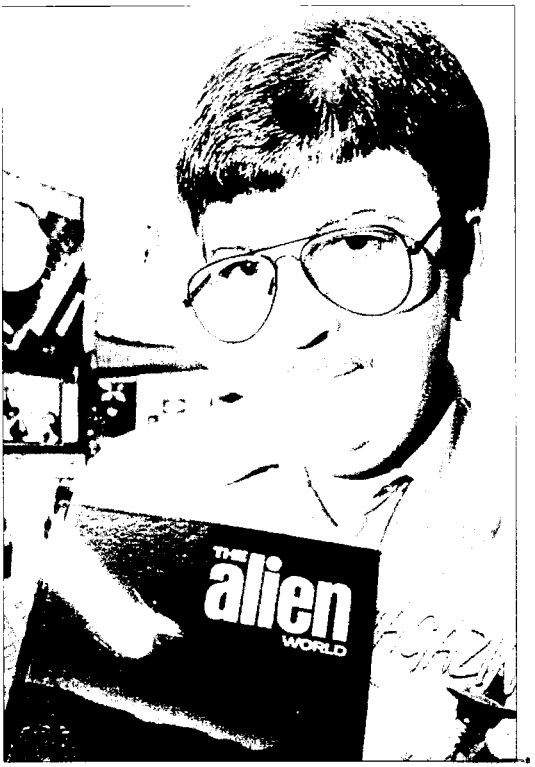
In a scene which could have come straight from TV's X-Files, Gordon and other space fanatics claim the Government is covering up evidence of extra-terrestrial life.

The Doncaster classical guitarist has just returned from a demonstration outside the House of Commons to press for ministers to release secret files on alien sightings.

And he has vowed to keep up the pressure - to solve one of the 20th century's most enduring mysteries.

Mr Ormond, aged 46, of Balby, said: "The Government doesn't think we're socially or psychologically ready for this but the public has a right to know.

"Ministers think releasing 30 years of papers will freak people out."



Gordon Ormond wants the Government to tell the truth

1

UFO protest: MoD asked for 'truth' on sightings

LOUISE JURY

It was all a question of common sense reasoning, they said. The Ministry of Defence knew a lot more about unidentified flying objects (UFOs) than it was publicly prepared to admit.

"The earth is in the midst of something non-human," said John Holman, UK co-ordinator of the campaign to end UFO secrecy. "It's becoming more and more documented.

"They're not hallucinations, they're not all mis-identifications. I am as sceptical as the next person, but when I see video tapes and I don't know what they are – they are not balloons and they are not aircraft – I want to know."

The point seemed perfectly reasonable. The Government has files. It has people in its Secretariat Air Staff assessing whether flying flashing lights are the Russians or little green men from outer space. Operation Right To Know believes the public should be told.

As Mr Holman, a 46 year-old industrial designer from Ripon, North Yorkshire, and 20 supporters demonstrated outside Parliament yesterday, passers-by received only slightly puzzled by the banners proclaiming: "UFOs Are Real. The Truth Is Out."

Closer questioning threw up matters more baffling, however. "Alien abductions have been going on for a long time," confided Busty Taylor, a driving instructor from Hampshire who also lectures worldwide on crop circles.

"The aliens have been carrying out experiments. There's lots of evidence to prove that point now. I've seen many UFOs."

Phillip Lambro, a 60-year-old Los Angeles composer, told a story of Christopher Columbus. When the great explorer was looking for money for a ship, he was told he would never get across the ocean and how the beasts and dragons would devour him, or if he survived, how he would fall off the end of the horizon. "We know now that is not the case," Mr Lambro said.

There have been 50 million reports worldwide of UFO sightings since 1954. Not all of them were fakes. Mr Lambro belongs to the Raelian Movement, which is preparing an embassy for extra-terrestrials for when they land.

There was nothing to be afraid of, said Andrea Corsick, 45, a Californian marketing manager. "I really don't think there's going to be things like in the movies."

Mr Holman endeavoured to bring the debate back down to earth. "What we are after are the military reports and pilot reports which have been collected over 50 years," he said.

"We want to know what the military assessments are and what recommendations were made to government. We are not in a Cold War situation now, so why should UFOs be deemed a threat?"

Next year, Nick Pope, a serving civil servant who spent four years with the Ministry of Defence's UFO watching secretariat, published a book, *Open Skies, Closed Minds – official reaction to the UFO phenomenon*. Mr Holman and Operation Right To Know are excited at the prospect. They believe he is now on their side.

Michael Owen, 47, a passing American businessman, took a leaflet from the group for a UFO-spotting friend back home. "As people of old looked for dragons, people of today look for what may or may not exist," he said.

The Independent
11-10-95

641

ENCL NO. 22

65/3

Section 40

Section 40

21/1

A great pity that a more permanent abduction by aliens cannot be arranged. I'm not surprised that they didn't want to keep him. ~~May we have a word?~~ I have now written as discussed.

Section 40

LOOSE MINUTE

D/NP/Pers

10 Oct 95

Head of GF - through Section 40

Copy to:
Hd Sec(AS)*
CM(IR&C)7*
PCB(Air) - Section 40

* By CHOTS

UFO BOOK - PUBLICATION

Reference: D/NP/Pers dated 1 May 95

1. I am writing to update you and copy addressees on the situation regarding the forthcoming publication of my book on UFOs.

2. As you are aware, the book - in various incarnations - has now been with Sec(AS) for the best part of eight months. Although I have repeatedly made it clear to them that I am happy to compromise on specific areas of the text that cause difficulty, no concrete response has been received, except for some very general objections, which included reference to the fact that some parts of the text draw upon my official experiences; as I pointed out, there are a whole host of books on the Gulf War which do precisely the same thing. Their other objections have long since been refuted (see Reference), and as has been pointed out before, large parts of the book cover areas where there is no Departmental involvement whatsoever.

3. I have now signed the contract with my publishers, and the book will be coming out next year. I should also mention that the book is likely to be serialised in a national newspaper at around the time of publication. However, there is still time for Sec(AS) to suggest changes and clear the book, because the proofreading will offer one final opportunity to incorporate minor amendments into the text. After that, no further alterations will be possible, as the book will go into production.

4. I am disappointed that things have progressed to this stage without formal clearance having been granted. This clearly helps nobody, and I have to say there is a danger, over which I have little control, that my publishers might market the story as "the book they tried to ban". I understand that the Department has now come to an agreement with Andy McNab on his latest book. It would send a very strange message indeed if the Department was seen to have now withdrawn its objections to this book on Special Forces tactics and operations, but refused to clear a book on UFOs! It might also appear a surprising decision in the light of Open Government policy. Granting clearance (or perhaps sending me a compromise "neither endorse nor object" statement) should defuse this issue.

5. I should make one additional point. You will recall that when I gave a lecture on UFOs recently, Sec(AS) suggested a list of amendments, having previously refused to offer anything more than a flat refusal to clear the text. I dutifully made all the suggested changes, but - contrary to my understanding of the arrangement - clearance was still not forthcoming. It would be unreasonable if this situation were to be repeated for the book.

6. I am sorry if any of this causes difficulty. This has not been my intention. I simply feel I have been forced into this situation by actions which are, in my view, unreasonable. It is my understanding that the only objections to the book come from Sec(AS), and not from any of the other copy addressees. It is still my hope that we will be able to come to a satisfactory compromise, and I stand ready to discuss a way forward with Sec(AS).

[Signed]

N G POPE
GF(Pol)1b
MB0262 [redacted]MB
E Mail: GF(POL)1B-1

Section 40

Section 40

[redacted]

21/2

A22 file

file 65/3

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)65/3(MF242/95)

11 October 1995

Head of GF

Copy to: CM(IR&C)7
PCB(Air)
GF(Pol)1b(Mr Pope)

UFO BOOK - PUBLICATION

Section 40

[redacted]

Section 40

[redacted]

Section 40

(Original signed)

M J D FULLER
Head of Sec(AS)
MB7257
CHOTS:PS/Hd of SEC(AS)

ENCL No. 2 of 2

D/Sec(AS)/64/1

10 Oct 95

F I L E N O T E

1. Section 40 (DPO) called this afternoon to let us know that at lunchtime whilst out walking he saw Section 40 with the Operation Right to Know people who were protesting to Parliament today about Government "UFO" Secrecy.

2. Section 40 said he saw Section 40 with a number of photographers around him. Section 40 has received numerous enquires from journalists about the ORTK campaign asking for statements, and even had someone on from Yorkshire Television wanting to get hold of Section 40 He told YTV that as the matter they wished to talk to Section 40 about was a private one they might like to try get him during his own time at home!

Section 40

D/Sec(AS)/64/1

4 Oct 95

FILENOTE

ENCL No 20

SIGHTING - 23 AUG 94 - 2345 HRS - MANSFIELD/SHIREBROOK AREA

Further to my note of yesterday, in response to the query from "Schofields Quest", I understand that the sighting was in fact in 1994 and not this year. I have therefore looked at our files for last year and also requested another interrogation of the night military low flying system.

We did receive a report of "two lights in the sky" from a witness in Crich, Matlock, at around 2330 hrs on 23 Aug 94. However, we are satisfied that the sighting did not represent a matter of defence concern.

No military aircraft were booked into Night Low Flying training sector 3A on the evening in question.

Section 40 [redacted]

3 Oct 95

→ 64/1

ENCL No 19

FILE NOTE

94

SIGHTING -23 AUG 95 - 2345 HRS - MANSFIELD/SHIREBROOK AREA

I can confirm that we did not receive any reports of unexplained aerial phenomena which fit in with the location/ timing above.

I asked the low flying complaints cell to run a log and trace to see whether there were any military low flying training activities that evening (helos, jets, props) and nothing at all was booked in the relevant Night Low Flying Sector 3A.

Advice given to DPO (Section 40) regarding request for info from Schofield's Quest.

Section 40

Resubmitted to Section 40 at £20.

Section 40 64/1

ENCL No 18

LOOSE MINUTE

CS(RM)/4/6/37

29 September 1995

Sec(AS)2a

Copy to:
DI55c

PUBLIC ACCESS TO UFO FILES

Reference: D/Sec(AS)/64/1 dated 28 September 1995

1. Following on from the Reference and a conversation we had earlier in the month you may recall that I mentioned that I was compiling at list of identifiable "UFO" files from the Public Record Office listings and their release date. This list is attached and as you will note anticipates releases through to 2001. It will be periodically updated.

Section 40

Section 40

Hd CS(RM)1
ST7127

Section 40

Section 40

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Sec (AS)2
- 2 OCT 1995

ufo3

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS - FILES PRESERVED IN THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE TOGETHER WITH SCHEDULED RELEASE DATE - AS AT 8 SEPTEMBER 1995

Already open	- 9
To be released:	
1996	- 1
1997	- 2
1998	- 10
1999	- 14
2000	- 13
2001	- 1
Total	**- 50**

AIR 2

16918 1961-63 UFO'S: SIGHTINGS; REPORTS BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AF/X59/64 Pt 5

[OPEN - NOTE FILE RELEASED IN A SANITISED FORM. EXTRACTS NOW DUE FOR RELEASE]

17318 1963 DITTO AF/X59/64 Pt 6

[OPEN - NOTE FILE RELEASED IN A SANITISED FORM. EXTRACTS NOW DUE FOR RELEASE]

17526 1964 UFO REPORTS AF/X59/64 Pt 7

[OPEN - NOTE FILE RELEASED IN A SANITISED FORM. EXTRACTS NOW DUE FOR RELEASE]

Gone to PRO

17527 1965 DITTO AF/X59/64 Pt 8

Section 40

[TO BE RELEASED 1996]

17982 1965-66 DITTO AF/X59/64 Pt 9

[TO BE RELEASED 1997]

17983 1966 DITTO AF/X59/64 Pt 10

[TO BE RELEASED 1997]

17984	1966-67	DITTO	AF/X59/64 Pt 11

[TO BE RELEASED 1998]

18115	1967	Unidentified flying objects: reports	AF/CX38/67 Pt 1

[TO BE RELEASED 1998]

18116	1967	DITTO	AF/CX38/67 Pt 2

[TO BE RELEASED 1998]

18117	1967-68	DITTO	AF/CX38/67 Pt 3
18183	1968-69	Unidentified flying objects	AF/7463/72 Pt 2

[TO BE RELEASED 2000]

AIR 16

1199	1952 Sept	Flying saucers: occurence reports srvice personnel at Topcliffe station, Thirsk and local public sector	IIH1/188/1/17

[OPEN]

AIR 20

7390	1950-54	Unidentified aircraft (flying objects): reports	II/127/3/48

[OPEN]

9320	1957	Parliamentary question on UFO's	MR 008614/193

[OPEN]

9321	1957	Ditto	MR 008614/213

[OPEN]

9322	1957	Ditto	MR 008614/220

[OPEN]

9994	1953-57	Reports on aerial phenomena	IIH/273/10/4

[OPEN]

11612 1967-68 Unidentified flying objects MR 073414

[TO BE RELEASED 1999]

11694 1968 Jan Ditto AF/S4f(Air)512

[TO BE RELEASED 1999]

11695 1968 Feb Ditto AF/S4f(Air)513

[TO BE RELEASED 1999]

11696 1968 Dec Ditto AF/S4f(Air)523

[TO BE RELEASED 1999]

11887 1967 Aug Ditto AF/S4f(Air)507

[TO BE RELEASED 1998] 1

11888 1967 Sept Ditto AF/S4f(Air)508

[TO BE RELEASED 1998]

11889 1967 Oct Ditto AF/S4f(Air)509

[TO BE RELEASED 1998]

11890 1967 Oct Ditto AF/S4f(Air)509

[TO BE RELEASED 1998]

11891 1967 Nov Ditto AF/S4f(Air)510

[TO BE RELEASED 1998]

11892 1967 Nov Ditto AF/S4f(Air)510

[TO BE RELEASED 1998]

11893 1967 Dec Ditto AF/S4f(Air)511

[TO BE RELEASED 1998]

11894 1968 Mar Ditto AF/S4f(Air)514

[TO BE RELEASED 1999]

11895 1968 Apr Ditto AF/S4f(Air)515

[TO BE RELEASED 1999]

11896 1968 May Ditto AF/S4f(Air)516

[TO BE RELEASED 1999]

11897 1968 Jun Ditto AF/S4f(Air)517

[TO BE RELEASED 1999]

11898 1968 Jul Ditto AF/S4f(Air)518

[TO BE RELEASED 1999]

11899 1968 Aug Ditto AF/S4f(Air)519

[TO BE RELEASED 1999]

11900 1968 Sept Ditto AF/S4f(Air)520

[TO BE RELEASED 1999]

11901 1968 Oct Ditto AF/S4f(Air)521

[TO BE RELEASED 1999]

11902 1968 Nov Ditto AF/S4f(Air)522

[TO BE RELEASED 1999]

12055 1969 Jan Ditto AF/S4f(Air)524

[TO BE RELEASED 2000]

12056 1969 Feb Ditto AF/S4f(Air)525

[TO BE RELEASED 2000]

12057 1969 Mar Ditto AF/S4f(Air)526

[TO BE RELEASED 2000]

12058 1969 April Ditto AF/S4f(Air)527

[TO BE RELEASED 2000]

12059 1969 May Ditto AF/S4f(Air)528

[TO BE RELEASED 2000]

12060 1969 Jun Ditto AF/S4f(Air)529

[TO BE RELEASED 2000]

12061 1969 Jul Ditto AF/S4f(Air)530

[TO BE RELEASED 2000]

12069	1969 Aug	Ditto	AF/S4f(Air)531
[TO BE RELEASED 2000]			
12063	1969 Sept	Ditto	AF/S4f(Air)532
[TO BE RELEASED 2000]			
12064	1969 Oct	Ditto	AF/S4f(Air)533
[TO BE RELEASED 2000]			
12065	1969 Nov	Ditto	AF/S4f(Air)534
[TO BE RELEASED 2000]			
12066	1969 Dec	Ditto	AF/S4f(Air)535
[TO BE RELEASED 2000]			
12067	1970 Jan	Ditto	AF/S4f(Air)536
[TO BE RELEASED 2001]			

ENCL No. 17/1

D/Sec(AS)/64/1

28 Sep 95

F I L E N O T E

Section 40

OTHER MOD BRANCHES INVOLVEMENT IN LOOKING AT UFO REPORTS

1. Wg Cdr Section 40 had reservations about the lines we sent him on 25 Aug. Section 40 and I took another look and came up with slight amendments. I have now cleared these with DI55c and have started to use them.

2. I have also now written to Hd CS(RM)1 formally agreeing to the request to permit the internal distribution to be revealed when the files reach the PRO.

3. The new lines are as follows:

- Our interest in reported "UFO" sightings is to establish whether what was seen might represent something which is of defence concern.

- As part of our assessment of reported sightings we copy such reports, as appropriate, to branches within the MOD which have an interest in air defence matters. DI55 is one such branch.

- The MOD does not undertake research into the "UFO" phenomena; we have not undertaken any such research and we only would if there were good reason for doing so - ie. evidence of potential defence interest.

Section 40

ENCL NO 17+1

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/1

28 Sep 95

Hd CS(RM)1

Copy to:

DI55c

PUBLIC ACCESS TO "UFO" FILES

Reference: D/CS(RM)/4/6/37 dated 4 Apr 95.

1. Your minute at Reference asked us to reconsider the requirement to withhold the internal distribution of "UFO" reports etc from the public domain. You subsequently discovered that due to an oversight somewhere along the line a number of files held at the Public Record Office carry the internal distribution in error.

2. Notwithstanding the above, we have formally considered the request, in consultation with DI55c, and have concluded that we can no longer justify the requirement. Therefore please take this minute as our formal consent that the internal distribution should no longer be deleted from the records when the "UFO" files are sent to the PRO for public viewing.

3. I am also returning file AIR2/17527 which you kindly arranged to be sent to us recently.

Section 40

Sec(AS)2a
MB8245 82140MB

Enc.

1. File AIR2/17527.

TO [redacted]

DIVISION/BRANCH Sec (AS)
REF NO 27/95

64/1

ENCL No 16

RECORD REQUISITIONED FROM THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

1 The enclosed records, as listed at para 3, have been requisitioned at your request from the Public Record Office. They are not to be mutilated, altered, annotated or added to any way and must on no account be passed to any other authority except via the undermentioned Record Organisation Branch. The records must be returned complete to this branch by 19/10/95

2 You will be held personally responsible for this material while it is on charge to you and accountable for any breach of the above instructions in regard to it

3 PRO Class/Piece Number.

a) ACT 2/17527 e) ..... j) .....

b) ..... f) ..... k) .....

c) ..... g) ..... l) .....

d) ..... h) ..... m) .....

4 Please complete, detach and return the form of receipt below immediately

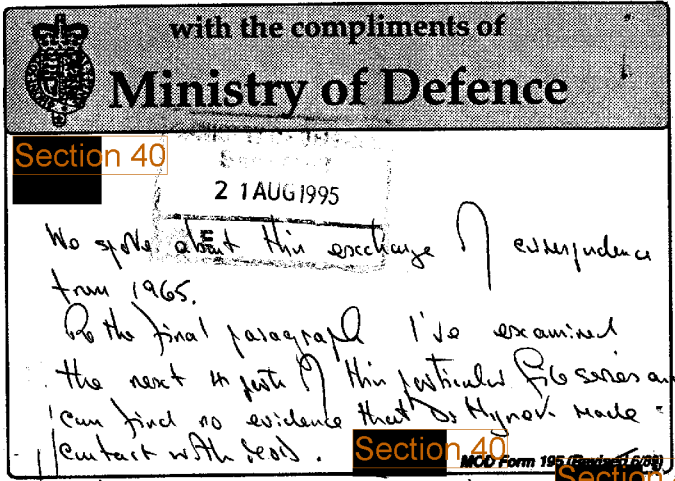
Name [redacted]

Signed [redacted]

Date 21/9/95

DETACH HERE .....

Ministry of Defence
CS (RM) 1, Room 7170
St Christopher House
Southwark Street
LONDON SE1 0TD
Tel: [redacted]


with the compliments of

Ministry of Defence

Section 40

2 1 AUG 1995

We spoke about this exchange of correspondence from 1965.

Re the final paragraph I've examined the next 4 parts of this particular file series and I can find no evidence that Dr Hynek made contact with Ford.

Section 40

MOD Form 195 (Revised 6/88)

17 Aug

NUCS(RN)1

Section 40

PS

An examination of the 10 or 30
UFO files open at Kew reveals a
number carrying the 'internal distribution'!

Section 40

EXTRACT FROM AIR2/17527 M-/X 59/64
FOR RELEASE JAN 1996

ENCL NO 15 P 214A

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building, Whitehall, LONDON S.W.1
Telephone: WHItehall 7022, ext.

Our reference:
Your reference:

24 June 1965

Mr Langton has shown us your letter of the 15th June about Project Blue Book.

In the United Kingdom, the Air Force Department of the Ministry of Defence has the primary responsibility for investigating reports of UFOs., and the reasons for this allocation of responsibility are exactly the same as in your case.

We investigate every case reported to us, and we use every assistance, civilian as well as military, available to us to identify a particular object. For example, we have frequently used the resources of Kodak Ltd., to examine photographs, films and equipment submitted to us. We do not, however maintain a special scientific staff for this purpose. It is normally handled as part of the routine work of our Air Force Technical Intelligence department. Unlike you, however, we do investigate single-observer sightings. Our results over the years are in line with yours viz. in some 90% of cases investigated, we are able to make a positive, rational identification, in 10% we are unable to do so because of insufficient data, and in no case have we unearthed any evidence of extra-terrestrial origin.

Our policy is to play down the subject of UFOs and to avoid attaching undue attention or publicity to it. As a result, we have never had any serious political pressure to mount a large-scale investigation such as Project Blue Book. Indeed, the matter has been raised only once in Parliament in the last 5 or 6 years, and then only in a perfunctory way.

The specific answers to your questions are as follows:-

a. No

b. No

c. Yes, a considerable number

d. We investigate about 70 case a year but there are others which are not reported to us, although sometimes reported in the newspapers.

We should be delighted to discuss the matter with Dr Hynek when he comes to London and no doubt you will let us know in due course when he will be here.

Lieutenant Colonel John P. Spaulding,
Civil Branch,
Community Relations Division,
Office of Information,
Department of the Air Force,
Washington DC
U.S.A.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

JUN 15 1965

Dear Mr. Langton:

In keeping with the Air Force role for the air defense of our country, we are responsible for the investigation of unidentified flying objects (UFOs) reported in the skies over the United States. The name of this program which is governed by Air Force Regulation 200-2 is Project Blue Book. A copy of the current report on this project and a copy of the regulation governing the program are attached for your information.

We are interested in obtaining the following information on British UFO activity:

a. Do you have a Government program comparable to our Project Blue Book?

b. If so, do you have a scientific consultant?

c. Are there civilian organizations in your country which are dedicated to the study of UFOs?

d. How much UFO activity do you have in your country?

The Air Force scientific consultant to Project Blue Book, Doctor J. Allen Hynek, is planning a trip to London in September. While he is there, he would like to discuss this subject with you.

Thank you for your time and cooperation on this matter.

Sincerely,

JOHN P. SPAULDING
Lt Colonel, USAF
Chief, Civil Branch
Community Relations Division
Office of Information

2 Atch
1. Blue Book Report
2. AFR 200-2

Mr. R. A. Langton
SHF(Air) Room 8241
Main Building
Ministry of Defense
Whitehall
London SW 1, England

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PROJECT BLUE BOOK

The United States Air Force has the responsibility under the Department of Defense for the investigation of unidentified flying objects (UFOs). The name of this program, which has been in operation since 1948, is Project Blue Book. It has been identified in the past as Project Sign and Project Grudge.

Air Force interest in unidentified flying objects is related directly to the Air Force responsibility for the air defense of the United States. Procedures for conducting this program are established by Air Force Regulation 200-2.

The objectives of Project Blue Book are two-fold: first, to determine whether UFOs pose a threat to the security of the United States; and, second, to determine whether UFOs exhibit any unique scientific information or advanced technology which could contribute to scientific or technical research. In the course of accomplishing these objectives, Project Blue Book strives to identify and explain all UFO sightings reported to the Air Force.

HOW THE PROGRAM IS CONDUCTED

The program is conducted in three phases. The first phase includes receipt of UFO reports and initial investigation of the reports. The Air Force base nearest the location of a reported sighting is charged with the responsibility of investigating the sighting and forwarding the information to the Project Blue Book Office at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

If the initial investigation does not reveal a positive identification or explanation, a second phase of more intensive analysis is conducted by the Project Blue Book Office. Each case is objectively and scientifically analyzed, and, if necessary, all of the scientific facilities available to the Air Force can be used to assist in arriving at an identification or explanation. All personnel associated with the investigation, analysis, and evaluation efforts of the project view each report with a scientific approach and an open mind.

The third phase of the program is dissemination of information concerning UFO sightings, evaluations, and statistics. This is accomplished by the Office of Information of the Office of the Secretary of the Air Force.

The Air Force defines an unidentified flying object as any aerial object which the observer is unable to identify.

Reports of unfamiliar objects in the sky are submitted to the Air Force from many sources. These sources include military and civilian pilots, weather observers, amateur astronomers, business and professional men and women, and housewives, etc.

Frequently such objects as missiles, balloons, birds, kites, searchlights, aircraft navigation and anticollision beacons, jet engine exhaust, condensation trails, astronomical bodies and meteorological phenomena are mistakenly reported as unidentified flying objects.

The Air Force groups its evaluations of UFO reports under three general headings: (1) identified, (2) insufficient data, and (3) unidentified.

Identified reports are those for which sufficient specific information has been accumulated and evaluated to permit a positive identification or explanation of the object.

Reports categorized as Insufficient Data are those for which one or more elements of information essential for evaluation are missing. Some examples are the ommission of the duration of the sighting, date, time, location, position in the sky, weather conditions, and the manner of appearance or disappearance. If an element is missing and there is an indication that the sighting may be of a security, scientific, technical, or public interest value, the Project Blue Book Office conducts an additional investigation and every attempt is made to obtain the information necessary for identification. However, in some instances, essential information cannot be obtained, and no further action can be taken.

The third and by far the smallest group of evaluations is categorized as Unidentified. A sighting is considered unidentified when a report apparently contains all pertinent data necessary to suggest a valid hypothesis concerning the cause or explanation of the report but the description of the object or its motion cannot be correlated with any known object or phenomena.

TYPES OF UFO IDENTIFICATIONS AND EVALUATIONS

There are various types of UFO sightings. Most common are reports of astronomical sightings, which include bright stars, planets, comets, fireballs, meteors, auroral streamers, and other celestial bodies. When observed through haze, light fog, moving clouds, or other obscurations or unusual conditions, the planets, including Venus, Jupiter, and Mars have been reported as unidentified flying objects. Stellar mirages are also a source of reports.

Satellites are another major source of UFO reports. An increase in satellites reported as UFOs has come about because of two factors. The first is the increase of interest on the part of the public; the second is the increasing number of satellites in the skies. Positive knowledge of the location of all satellites at all times enables rapid identification of satellite sightings. Keeping track of man-made objects in orbit about the earth is the responsibility of the North American Air Defense Command Space Detection and Tracking System. This sophisticated electronic system gathers complex space traffic data instantly from tracking stations all over the world.

Other space surveillance activities include the use of ballistic tracking and large telescopic cameras. ECHO schedules are prepared by the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center at Greenbelt, Maryland, and schedules of the South/North equator crossings are prepared by the Smithsonian Institution at Cambridge, Massachusetts. From the data produced by these agencies, satellites mistakenly reported as UFOs can be quickly identified. The attached report gives the box score of satellites now in orbit. Some of these are visible to the naked eye.

Aircraft account for another major source of UFO reports, particularly during adverse weather conditions. When observed at high altitudes and at some distance, aircraft can have appearances ranging from disc to rocket shapes due to the reflection of the sun on their bright surfaces. Vapor or condensation trails from jet aircraft will sometimes appear to glow fiery red or orange when reflecting sunlight. Afterburners from jet aircraft are often reported as UFOs since they can be seen from great distances when the aircraft cannot be seen.

The Project Blue Book Office has direct contact with all elements of the Air Force and the Federal Aviation Agency civil air control centers. All aerial refueling operations and special training flights can be checked immediately. Air traffic of commercial airlines and flights of military aircraft are checked with the nearest control center, enabling an immediate evaluation of aircraft mistakenly reported as UFOs. However, since many local flights are not carried, these flights are probable causes of some reports.

Balloons continue to be reported as UFOs. Several thousand balloons are released each day from military and civilian airports, weather stations, and research activities. There are several types of balloons - weather balloons, rawinsondes, radiosondes, and the large research balloons which have diameters up to 300 feet. At night, balloons carry running lights which cause an unusual appearance when observed. Reflection of the sun on balloons at dawn and sunset sometimes produce strange effects. This usually occurs when the balloon, because of its altitudes, is exposed to the sun. Large balloons can move at speeds of over 100 miles per hour when moving in high altitude jet windstreams. These balloons sometimes appear to be flattened on top. At other times, they appear to be saucer-shaped and to have lights mounted inside the bag itself due to the sun's rays reflecting through the material of the balloon. The Balloon Control Center at Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico, maintains a plot on all Military Upper Air Research Balloons.

Another category of UFO evaluations labeled Other includes missiles, reflections, mirages, searchlights, birds, kites, spurious radar indications, hoaxes, fireworks, and flares.

CONCLUSIONS

To date, the firm conclusions of Project Blue Book are: (1) no unidentified flying object reported, investigated, and evaluated by the Air Force has ever given any indication of threat to our national security; (2) there has been no evidence submitted to or discovered by the Air Force that sightings categorized as unidentified represent technological developments or principles beyond the range of present day scientific knowledge; and (3) there has been no evidence indicating that sightings categorized as unidentified are extraterrestrial vehicles.

The Air Force will continue to investigate all reports of unusual aerial phenomena over the United States. The services of qualified scientists and technicians will continue to be used to investigate and analyze these reports, and periodic reports on the subject will be made.

The former Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, Mr. Carl Vinson, recently commented on the conduct of the UFO program by the Air Force and stated that Congressional hearings on this subject are unnecessary.

The Air Force does not deny the possibility that some form of life may exist on other planets in the universe. However, to date, the Air Force has neither received nor discovered any evidence which proves the existence and intra-space mobility of extraterrestrial life. The Air Force continues to extend an open invitation to anyone who feels that he possesses any evidence of extraterrestrial vehicles operating within the earth's near space envelope to submit his evidence for analysis. Initial contact for this purpose is through the following address:

PROJECT BLUE BOOK INFORMATION OFFICE
SAFOI
WASHINGTON, D C 20330

Anyone observing what he considers to be an unidentified flying object should report it to the nearest Air Force Base. Persons submitting a UFO report to the Air Force are free to discuss any aspect of the report with anyone. The Air Force does not seek to limit discussion on such reports and does not withhold or censor any information pertaining to this unclassified program.

AVAILABILITY OF MATERIALS

FTD Form 164, the form used for reporting a UFO observation to the Air Force for analysis and evaluation, is available in the SAF-OI Blue Book Office upon request.

The following items are for internal use only and are not available for distribution to the public. These concern internal management and procedures for forwarding UFO reports to the appropriate agency:

1. Air Force Regulation 200-2
2. JANAP 146
3. UFO Project Record Card

The Air Force has no films, photographs, maps, charts, or graphs of unidentified flying objects. Photographs that have been submitted for evaluation in conjunction with UFO reports have been determined to be a misinterpretation of natural or conventional objects. These objects have a positive identification.

The Air Force no longer possesses, and thus does not have for distribution, outdated reports on Project Sign, Project Grudge, Blue Book Special Report No. 14, and outdated Project Blue Book press releases. Non-military UFO publications should be requested from the publisher, not the Air Force.

Books listed below deal with facts and theories about our solar universe, the sun planets, comets, meteorites, the universe, stars, constellations and galaxies; telescopes, the computation of time as it relates to astronomy, star maps and charts, and the history of astronom

THE SUN AND ITS FAMILY, by ALDER, IRVING. The history of astronomy as it relates to the sun and our solar system.

WEATHER ELEMENTS, by BLAIR, published Prentice Hall. Has an excellent chapter on often misidentified weather phenomena.

PLANETS, STARS, AND SPACE, by CHAMBERLAIN, JOSEPH M & NICHOLSON, THOMAS D. An illustrated, non-technical explanation of the earth, planets, stars, and the universe. Prepared in cooperation with the American Museum of Natural History.

JUNIOR SCIENCE BOOK OF STARS, by CROSBY, PHOEBE. An easy-to-read, exciting story of what scientists know about the stars, planets, the moon, and the Milky Way.

EXPLORING THE PLANETS, by GALLANT, ROY A. An illustrated description of the planets of our solar system.

CHALLENGE OF THE UNIVERSE, by HYNEK, J ALLEN & ANDERSON, NORMAN. Discusses the nature of th universe; astronomy and cosmology, published by Scholastic Press.

THE STORY OF THE STARS, by MALONEY, TERRY. An introduction to the universe; our solar syste our galaxy, and other galaxies. Many interesting illustrated analogies help build concepts of size and distance. Includes references to the Van Allen radiation belts and zodiacal light observation of 1960.

THE WORLD OF FLYING SAUCERS, by MENZEL & BOYD. A scientific examination of the classic UFO reports.

THE NATURE OF LIGHT AND COLOUR IN THE OPEN AIR, by MINNAERT, Dover Publications. This is a excellent paperback written in understandable lay language.

FIELD BOOK OF THE SKIES, by OLCOTT, W T & R. A completely revised edition of the book whic has been the standard work of its kind since its first appearance.

METEORS, by OLIVIER. Standard text by foremost authority on meteors.

PHOTOGRAPHIC HISTORY OF MARS, 1905-1961, by SLIPHER, E C, published by Lowell Observatory.

BEGINNERS BOOK OF ASTRONOMY, by STERNIG, J. A first book explaining in simple terms our solar system, the universe and galaxies, and how they are related to space travel.

FIRST MAN TO THE MOON, by VON BRAUN, WERNHER.

NEIGHBORS IN SPACE, by WHITE, W B. A guide to the heavens with excellent star maps.

SHOOTING STARS, by ZIM, HERBERT S. Known facts and theories about meteors are explained.

The following periodicals are also recommended:

1. SKY & TELESCOPE
2. SCIENCE NEWSLETTER

STATISTICS FOR 1964

(Compiled 8 Jan 65)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL
Astronomical	6	9	5	7	17	5	15	22	13	5	10	4	118
Aircraft	2	3	1	5	13	9	13	11	4	2	2	0	65
Balloon	0	0	0	2	3	0	8	2	1	0	2	0	18
Insufficient Data	4	4	5	7	13	8	12	12	9	5	6	0	85
Other	3	5	4	10	12	8	14	4	6	7	2	2	77
Satellite	2	4	3	9	20	4	42	30	4	4	17	3	142
Unidentified	0	0	1	2	2	1	4	5	1	0	0	0	16
Pending	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	5	3	11
TOTAL	17	25	19	42	81	35	109	86	39	23	44	12	532
ASTRO CASES													
Meteors	5	5	1	4	5	3	9	9	6	2	9	1	59
Stars & Planets	1	4	4	3	12	2	5	12	6	2	1	3	55
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	1a	1b	1b	1c	0	0	4
TOTAL	6	9	5	7	17	5	15	22	13	5	10	4	118
OTHER CASES													
Hoaxes, Hallucinations, Unreliable Reports and Psychological Causes	1	2	2	4	5	2	4	2	3	3	1	1	30
Missiles & Rockets	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	7
Reflections	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
Flares & Fireworks	0	0	1	0	2	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	7
Mirages & Inversions	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
Search & Groundlights	0	0	0	2	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	6
Clouds & Contrails	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chaff	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Birds	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	4
Physical Specimens	0	0	0	0	1	3	2	0	0	1	1	0	8
Radar Analysis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Photo Analysis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	2
Satellite Decay	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Other	0	1	0	1	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	6
TOTAL	3	5	4	10	12	8	14	4	6	7	2	2	77

a) Moon b) Sun Dog c) Moon Dog

STATISTICAL DATA FOR YEARS 1954 - 1963

(Compiled 1 Nov 64)

TOTAL CASES BY CATEGORY

	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	TOTAL
Astronomical	137	135	222	341	231	144	235	203	135	85	1868
Aircraft	80	124	148	217	105	63	66	75	67	73	1018
Balloon	63	102	93	113	57	30	22	37	19	28	564
Insufficient Data	103	94	130	190	111	65	105	115	92	57	1062
Other	58	63	61	120	90	72	93	74	64	56	751
Satellite	0	0	0	8	18	0	21	69	77	81	274
Unidentified	46	25	15	16	11	13	14	12	15	13	180
Total	487	543	669	1005	623	387	556	585	469	393	5717

ASTRONOMICAL SIGHTINGS

Meteors	92	79	88	179	168	100	187	119	94	57	1163
Stars & Planets	44	52	131	144	56	40	45	78	36	23	649
Other	1	4	3	18	7	4	3	6	5	5	56
Total	137	135	222	341	231	144	235	203	135	85	1868

OTHER CASES

Hoaxes, Hallucinations, Unreliable Reports and Psychological Causes	6	17	17	37	28	13	12	17	11	15	173
Missiles and Rockets	1	1	3	2	6	14	12	12	9	13	73
Reflections	6	4	3	2	7	10	9	3	3	0	47
Flares & Fireworks	4	8	6	8	3	5	7	4	3	3	51
Mirages & Inversions	2	4	1	5	2	4	5	6	3	0	32
Search & Groundlights	6	14	9	12	8	5	6	1	3	2	66
Clouds & Contrails	3	2	1	9	5	2	4	5	4	5	40
Chaff	2	0	1	2	6	1	4	3	5	2	26
Birds	7	2	6	1	1	0	3	2	2	2	26
Radar Analysis	7	0	7	27	2	8	6	8	0	1	66
Photo Analysis	1	2	4	1	6	4	6	3	2	3	32
Physical Specimens	6	5	3	5	10	3	7	4	15	3	61
Satellite Decay	0	0	0	0	1	0	9	3	3	3	19
Other	7	4	0	9	5	3	3	3	1	4	39
Total	58	63	61	120	90	72	93	74	64	56	751

TOTAL UFO SIGHTINGS (Compiled 8 Jan 65)

YEAR	TOTAL SIGHTINGS	UNIDENTIFIEDS
1947	79	22
1948	143	15
1949	186	22
1950	169	39
1951	156	22
1952	1501	303
1953	425	44
1954	487	46
1955	543	25
1956	669	15
1957	1005	16
1958	623	11
1959	387	13
1960	556	14
1961	585	12
1962	469	15
1963	393	13
1964	532	16
TOTAL	8908	663

SATELLITE BOX SCORE INFORMATION AS OF 3 JANUARY 1965

EARTH SATELLITES: 492
DEEP SPACE PROBES: 19

	USA	UK	CAN	USSR	ITALY
PAYLOADS IN ORBIT	111	2	1	14	1
SPACE PROBES	7	0	0	6	0
EARTH ORBITING DEBRIS	341	1	2	19	0
SPACE PROBES DEBRIS	6	0	0	0	0
OBJECTS DECAYED	221	0	0	235	0
TOTAL OBJECTS IN SPACE	465	3	3	39	1

PROJECT RECORD CARD

1. DATE - TIME GROUP	2. LOCATION
3. SOURCE	10. CONCLUSION
4. NUMBER OF OBJECTS	
5. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION	11. BRIEF SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS
6. TYPE OF OBSERVATION	
7. COURSE	
8. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☐ No	
9. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE ☐ Yes ☐ No	

FORM FTD SEP 63 0-329 (TDE) Previous editions of this form may be used.

AIR FORCE REGULATION
NO. 200-2A

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
Washington, *30 March 1964*

Intelligence Activities

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS (UFO)

AFR 200-2, 20 July 1962, is changed as follows:

3d. *Findings.* AFSC (FTD) will prepare a final report on each sighting after collection and analysis of data. When final report contains information of significant intelligence value, AFSC (FTD) will forward a copy of the report to HQ USAF (AFNINDE), Wash DC 20330.

3e. Change references to paragraphs "7 and 8" to "6 and 7."

4b. Change "or" to "of."

10. *Contacts.* Private individuals or organizations desiring Air Force interviews, briefings, lectures, or private discussions on UFOs will be instructed to direct their requests to the Office of Information, Office of the Secretary of the Air Force. Air Force personnel, other than designated investigators (see paragraph 3b) and those of the Office of Information, will not contact private individuals on UFO cases, nor will they discuss their operations and functions with unauthorized persons, unless so directed, and then only on a need-to-know basis.

11a. Change references to paragraphs "2 and 5" to "1 and 4."

11c. Change references to paragraphs "7, 8, 9, and b(2)" to "6, 7, 8, and b(2)(b)."

12b. Submit reports of sightings over 3 days old by letter; however, keep the use of letter reports to a minimum in reporting initial sightings. The delays often involved in processing and transmitting correspondence through normal channels may make followup investigations difficult, producing only limited usable information. This factor is a necessary consideration. Reporting by electrical means will eliminate delays. Submit a followup and/or complete report on all sightings initially reported electrically, if so requested by AFSC(FTD).

13a(4). Change "AFCIN" to "AFNIN."

13b. *Written Reports.* Submit all letter reports (basic letters and followup or complete reports) direct to AFSC (FTD), Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, 45433. AFSC (FTD) will distribute the reports to interested intelligence activities in the United States and to the Office of Information, if necessary.

13b(1). Delete.

13b(2). Delete.

16. Change reference to paragraph "5" to "4."

18. Change "TD-E" to "TDEW."

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE

CURTIS E. LeMAY
Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL

R. J. PUGH
Colonel, USAF
Director of Administrative Services

DISTRIBUTION: S

☆ U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1964

AIR FORCE REGULATION
NO. 200–2

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
Washington, *20 July 1962*

Intelligence Activities

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS (UFO)

This regulation establishes the UFO Program to investigate and analyze UFO's over the United States. Such investigation and analysis are directly related to Air Force responsibility for the defense of the United States. The UFO Program provides for the prompt reporting and rapid identification needed for successful "identification," which is the second of the four phases of air defense—detection, identification, interception, and destruction. All commanders will comply strictly with this regulation.

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SECTION A—GENERAL

1. Explanation of Terms. To insure proper and uniform usage in UFO screenings, investigations, and reportings, an explanation of the objects follows:

a. *Familiar or known objects:*

(1) Aircraft, balloons, kites, birds, searchlights, astronomical bodies (meteors, planets, stars, comets), pilotless aircraft, missiles, satellites in orbit, and others identified by the observer as normal appearing objects.

(2) Flying objects determined to be aircraft. These generally appear as a result of ADIZ violations and often prompt the UFO reports submitted by the general public. They are readily identifiable as, or known to be, aircraft, but their type, purpose, origin, and destination are unknown. Air Defense Command is responsible for reports of "unknown" aircraft, which should not be reported as UFO's under this regulation.

(3) Aircraft flares, jet exhausts, condensation trails, blinking or steady lights observed at night, lights circling or near airports and airways, and other phenomena or objects known to be emanating from, or to be indications of, aircraft. These should not be reported under this regulation, as they do not fall within the definition of a UFO.

b. *Unidentified Flying Objects.* Any aerial phenomena, airborne object or objects which are unknown or appear out of the ordinary to the observer because of performance, aerodynamic characteristics, or unusual features.

2. Objectives. Air Force interest in UFO's is three-fold. First, as a possible threat to the security of the United States and its forces; sec-

This regulation supersedes AFR 200–2, 14 September 1959, as amended.

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ond, to determine the technical or scientific characteristics of any such UFO's; third, to explain or identify all UFO sightings as described in paragraph 1b.

a. *Air Defense.* The great majority of flying objects reported have been conventional, familiar things of no great threat to the security of the United States and its possessions. However, since the possibility exists that UFO's reported may be hostile or new foreign air vehicles of unconventional design, it is imperative to report sightings rapidly, factually, and as completely as possible.

b. *Technical and Scientific.* The Air Force will continue to collect and analyze reports of UFO's until all are scientifically or technically explained or until the full potential of the sightings has been exploited. In performing this task the following factors are of great importance:

(1) To measure scientific advances, the Air Force must have the latest experimental and developmental information on new or unique air vehicles or weapons.

(2) The possibility exists that foreign countries may develop air vehicles of revolutionary configuration or propulsion.

(3) There is need for further scientific knowledge in such fields as geophysics, astronomy, and physics of the upper atmosphere which the study and analysis of UFO's and similar aerial phenomena may provide.

(4) The reporting of all pertinent factors will have a direct bearing on scientific analyses and conclusions of UFO sightings.

c. *Reduction of Percentage of UFO "Unidentifieds."* Air Force activities must reduce the percentage of unidentifieds to the minimum. Analysis thus far has explained all but a few of the sightings reported. These unexplained sightings are carried statistically as unidentifieds. If more immediate, detailed, objective data on the unknowns had been available, probably these, too, could have been explained. However, because of the human factors involved, and the fact that analyses of UFO sightings depend primarily on the personal impressions and interpretations of the observers rather than on accurate scientific data or facts obtained under controlled conditions, the elimination of all unidentifieds is improbable.

3. Responsibilities:

a. *Reporting.* Base commanders will report all information and evidence of UFO sightings, including information and evidence received from other services, Government agencies, and civilian sources. Investigators are authorized to make telephone calls from the investigation area direct to the Foreign Technology Division (FTD), of the Air Force Systems Command, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio (CLearwater 3-7111, ext. 69216/66378). The purpose of the calls is to report high priority findings. (See section C.)

b. *Investigation.* The commander of the Air Force base nearest the location of the reported UFO sighting will conduct all investigative action necessary to submit a complete initial report of a UFO sighting. The initial investigation will include every effort to resolve the sighting. An Air Force base other than that closest to the scene of a reported UFO sighting will refer the sighting immediately to the commander of the nearest Air Force base for appropriate action. (See paragraph 5.)

c. *Analysis.* The Air Force Systems Command Foreign Technology Division will analyze and evaluate:

(1) Information and evidence reported within the United States after the investigators of the responsible Air Force base nearest the sighting have exhausted their efforts to identify the UFO.

(2) Information and evidence collected in oversea areas.

EXCEPTION: The AFSC (FTD), independently or in participation with pertinent Air Force activities, may conduct any additional investigations necessary to further or conclude its analyses or findings.

d. *Findings.* AFSC (FTD) will prepare a final report on each sighting after collection and analysis of data, and will forward a copy of the report to HQ USAF (AFCIN).

e. *Public Relations and Information Services.* The Office of Information, Office of the Secretary of the Air Force, will be responsible for releasing information on sightings, and, in coordination with AFSC (FTD), answering correspondence from the public regarding UFO's. (See paragraphs 7 and 8.)

f. *Congressional Inquiries.* The Office of Legislative Liaison will:

(1) In coordination with the AFSC (FTD) and/or the Office of Information, when necessary, answer all congressional mail regarding UFO's addressed to the Secretary of the Air Force and Headquarters USAF.

(2) Forward those inquiries which are scientific and technical to the FTD for information on which to base a reply. The FTD will re-

turn this information to the Office of Legislative Liaison for reply to the inquiry.

(3) Process requests from congressional sources in accordance with AFR 11–7.

g. *Cooperation.* All Air Force activities will cooperate with Air Force UFO investigators to insure the economical and prompt success of investigations and analyses. When feasible, this cooperation will include furnishing air or ground transportation and other assistance.

4. Guidance. The thoroughness and quality of a report or investigation of UFO's are limited only by the skill and resourcefulness of the person who receives the initial information and/or prepares the report. The usefulness and value of any report or investigation depend on the accuracy and timeliness of its contents. Following are aids for screening, evaluating, and reporting sightings:

a. Careful study of the logic, consistency, and coherence of the observer's report. An interview with the observer by personnel preparing the report is especially valuable in determining the source's reliability and the validity of the information given. Factors deserving particular attention are the observer's age, occupation, and education, and whether his occupation involves observation reporting or technical knowledge. A report stating that a witness is completely familiar with certain aspects of a sighting should indicate his or her specific qualifications.

b. Theodolite measurements of changes or azimuth, and elevation and angular size.

c. Interception, identification, or air search, if appropriate and within the scope of air defense regulations.

d. When feasible, contact with local aircraft control and warning (ACW) units, and with pilots and crews of aircraft aloft at the time and place of sighting. Also, contact with any other persons or organizations that may have factual data on the UFO or can offer corroborating evidence—visual, electronic, or other.

e. Consultation with military or civilian weather forecasters for data on tracks of weather balloons released in the area and any unusual meteorological activity which may have a bearing on the UFO.

f. Consultation with navigators and astronomers in the area to determine whether any astronomical body or phenomenon would account for the sighting.

g. Contact with military and civilian tower operators, air operations units, and airlines to determine whether the sighting could have been an aircraft. Local units of the Federal Aviation Agency (FAA) are often of assistance in this regard.

h. Contact with persons who may know of experimental aircraft of unusual configuration, rocket and guided missile firings, or aerial tests in the area.

i. Contact with photographic units or laboratories. Usually, these installations have several cameras available for specialized intelligence or investigative work. Photography is an invaluable tool for use, where possible, in investigating and analyzing UFO sightings. (See paragraph 18).

j. Whenever possible, selecting as a UFO sighting investigator an individual with a scientific or technical background as well as experience as an investigator.

k. Submission of reports on all sightings even though identification may be assumed by the preparing officer under paragraph 16 of this regulation.

5. Reporting UFO Information. Both the Assistant Chief of Staff, Intelligence, Headquarters USAF, and the Air Defense Command have a direct and immediate interest in the facts pertaining to UFO's reported within the United States. All Air Force activities will conduct UFO investigations to the extent necessary for their required reporting action (see paragraphs 14, 15, and 16). No activity should carry an investigation beyond this point, unless the preparing officer believes the magnitude (intelligence significance or public relations aspects) of the case warrant full scale investigation. The officer may contact the FTD of AFSC (CLearwater 3-7111, ext 69216/66378) at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, to obtain verbal authority for continued investigation.

SECTION B—PUBLIC RELATIONS, INFORMATION, CONTACTS, AND RELEASES

6. Maintaining Public Relations. The Office of Information is responsible for:

a. In coordination with the AFSC (FTD) when necessary, maintaining contact with the public and the press on all aspects of the UFO program and its related activities.

b. Releasing information on UFO sightings and results of investigations.

c. Periodically releasing information on this subject to the general public.

d. Processing, answering, and taking action on correspondence received from the general public, pertaining to the public relations, interest, and informational aspects of the subject. (See paragraph 8.) This office will forward correspondence and queries which are purely technical and scientific to AFSC (FTD) for information on which to base a reply.

7. Releasing Information. The Office of Information, Office of the Secretary of the Air Force, will release to the public or unofficial persons or organizations all information or releases concerning UFO's, regardless of origin or nature. This includes replies to correspondence (except congressional inquiries) submitted direct to the AFSC (FTD) and other Air Force activities by private individuals requesting comments or results of analyses and investigations of sightings.

8. Exceptions. In response to local inquiries regarding any UFO reported in the vicinity of an Air Force base, the commander of the base concerned may release information to the press or the general public only after positive identification of the sighting as a familiar or known object. The commander must exercise care not to reveal any classified aspects of the sighting or names of persons making reports. (See paragraph 17.) If the sighting is unexplainable or difficult to identify, because of insufficient information or inconsistencies, the only statement to be released is the fact that the sighting is under investigation and information regarding it will be available at a later date. After completion of investigative action, the commander may release the fact that the AFSC (FTD) will review and analyze the results of the investigation. He will then refer any further inquiries to the local Office of Information.

9. Release by Non-Air Force Sources. If newsmen, writers, publishers, or private individuals desire to release unofficial information concerning a UFO sighting, Air Force activities will make every effort to assure that the statements, theories, opinions, and allegations of these individuals or groups are not associated with or represented as official information.

10. Contacts. Private individuals or organizations desiring Air Force interviews, briefings, lectures, or private discussions on UFO's will direct their requests to the Office of Information, Office of the Secretary of the Air Force. Air Force personnel, other than those of the Office of Information, will not contact private individuals on UFO cases, nor will they discuss their operations and functions with unauthorized persons unless so directed, and then only on a "need-to-know" basis.

SECTION C—PREPARING AND SUBMITTING REPORTS

11. General Information:

a. Paragraphs 2 and 5 will serve as aids and guidance to screenings, investigations, and reportings. Paragraph 14 contains an outline of the reporting format. Activities initially receiving reports of aerial objects and phenomena will screen the information to determine whether the report concerns a valid UFO within the definition of paragraph 1b. Reports not within that definition do not require further action under the provisions of this regulation.

b. To assist activities and personnel responsible for handling, screening, and processing initial, incoming UFO information, a summary follows of the general sources and types of reports:

(1) Generally, initial UFO reports originate from two sources:

(a) Civilian (airline, private, and professional pilots, tower operators, technical personnel, casual observers, and the public in general), by correspondence, telephone or personal interview;

(b) Military units and personnel (pilots, observers, radar operators, aircraft control and warning units, etc.), by telephone, electrical message, or personal interview;

(2) Generally, UFO reports received from civilian sources are of two types:

(a) Those referring strictly to an observed UFO, containing either detailed or meager information;

(b) Those referring only in part to an observed UFO, but primarily requesting information on some aspect of the UFO program.

c. Reports considered to fall primarily in a public relations or information service category (see paragraphs 7, 8, 9, and b(2) above) are of primary interest to the Office of Information. UFO data sufficient for investigation and/or analysis may be extracted before referral to that office.

12. Methods for Transmitting Reports:

a. Together with any necessary screenings and investigations preparatory to reporting, report all information on UFO's promptly. Electrical transmission with a "Priority" precedence is authorized for reports under 3 days from date of sighting. Electrically transmitted reports over 3 days old should carry a "Routine" precedence.

b. Submit written reports of sightings over 3 days old on AF Form 112, "Intelligence Report,"

and AF Form 112A, "Supplement to AF Form 2" (see paragraphs 14 and 15); however, keep the use of these forms to a minimum in reporting initial sightings. The delays often involved in processing and transmitting AF Form 112 through channels may make followup investigations difficult, producing only limited usable information. This factor is a necessary consideration. Reporting by electrical means will eliminate delays. If requested by the AFSC (FTD), AF Form 112 will provide a followup and/or complete report of all sightings initially reported electrically.

13. Where To Submit Reports:

a. *Electrical Reports.* Submit multiple addressed electrical reports to:

(1) Air Defense Command, Ent AFB, Colorado

(2) Nearest Air Division (Defense) (For United States only)

(3) Air Force Systems Command, Foreign Technology Division, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio

(4) Headquarters, USAF (AFCIN), Wash 25 DC

(5) Secretary of the Air Force (SAFOI), Wash 25 DC

b. *Written Reports* (Basic letters and AF Form 112):

(1) *Basic Letters.* Submit all letter reports direct to the AFSC (FTD). The AFSC (FTD) will distribute the reports to interested Intelligence activities in the United States and to the Office of Information, if necessary.

(2) *AF Form 112.* Submit original report, as prescribed in "Intelligence Collection Instruction (ICI)," June 1954, direct to HQ USAF (AFCIN) Wash 25 DC, and a copy to AFSC (FTD).

c. *Reports from Civilians.* Where possible, advise civilian sources contemplating reporting UFO's to submit the report, for processing and transmission, to the nearest Air Force base.

14. Basic Reporting Data and Format. Show the abbreviation "UFO" at the beginning of the text of all electrical reports and in the subject of written reports. Include the required data in all reports, in the order shown below:

a. *Description of the Object(s):*

(1) Shape.

(2) Size compared to a known object (use one of the following terms: Head of a pin, pea, dime, nickel, quarter, half dollar, silver dollar, baseball, grapefruit, or basketball) held in the hand at about arm's length.

(3) Color.

(4) Number.

(5) Formation, if more than one.

(6) Any discernible features or details.

(7) Tail, trail, or exhaust, including size of same compared to size of object(s).

(8) Sound; if heard, describe sound.

(9) Other pertinent or unusual features.

b. *Description of Course of Object(s):*

(1) What first called the attention of observer(s) to the object(s)?

(2) Angle or elevation and azimuth of object(s) when first observed.

(3) Angle or elevation and azimuth of object(s) upon disappearance.

(4) Description of flight path and maneuvers of object(s).

(5) How did the object(s) disappear? (Instantaneously to the North, etc.)

(6) How long (were) the object(s) visible? (Be specific, 5 minutes, 1 hour, etc.)

c. *Manner of Observation:*

(1) Use one or any combination of the following items: Ground-visual, air-visual, ground-electronic, air-electronic. (If electronic, specify type of radar.)

(2) Statement as to optical aids (telescopes, binoculars, etc.) used and description thereof.

(3) If the sighting occurred while air-borne, give type of aircraft, identification number, altitude, heading, speed, and home station.

d. *Time and Date of Sighting:*

(1) Zulu time-date group of sighting.

(2) Light conditions. (Use one of the following terms: Night, day, dawn, dusk.)

e. *Location of Observer(s).* Give exact latitude and longitude of each observer, and/or geographical position. In electrical reports, give a position with reference to a known landmark also, such as "2mi N of Deeville"; "3mi SW of Blue Lake." Typographical errors or "garbling" often occur in electrically transmitted messages, making location plots difficult or impossible.

Example: 89 45N, 192 71W for 39 45N, 102 21W.

f. *Identifying Information on Observer(s):*

(1) Civilian—Name, age, mailing address, occupation, and estimate of reliability.

(2) Military—Name, grade, organization, duty, and estimate of reliability.

g. *Weather and Winds—Aloft Conditions at Time and Place of Sightings:*

(1) Observer(s) account of weather conditions.

(2) Report from nearest AWS or U. S. Weather Bureau Office of wind direction and velocity in degrees and knots at surface, 6,000′, 10,000′, 16,000′, 20,000′, 30,000′, 50,000′, and 80,000′, if available.

(3) Ceiling.

(4) Visibility.

(5) Amount of cloud cover.

(6) Thunderstorms in area and quadrant in which located.

(7) Vertical temperature gradient.

h. *Any other unusual activity or condition,* meteorological, astronomical, or otherwise, which might account for the sighting.

i. *Interception or identification action taken* (such action is authorized whenever feasible, and in compliance with existing air defense directives).

j. *Location, approximate altitude, and general direction* of flight of any air traffic or balloon releases in the area which might possibly account for the sighting.

k. *Position title and comments of the preparing officer,* including his preliminary analysis of the possible cause of the sighting(s). (See paragraph 16.)

l. *Existence of physical evidence,* such as materials and photographs.

15. Negative or Inapplicable Data. Even though the source does not provide, or an interviewer has not asked for specific information, do not use the words "negative" or "unidentified" before exhausting all logical leads to obtain the information outlined under paragraph 14. For example, information on weather conditions in the area, as requested in paragraph 14g, is obtainable from the local military or civilian weather facility. Use the phrase "not applicable (N/A)" only when the question does not apply to the particular sighting under investigation.

16. Comments of Preparing Officer. The preparing officer will make a preliminary analysis and a comment on the possible cause or identity of the object he is reporting, together with a statement supporting his comment and analysis. He will make every effort to obtain pertinent items of information and to test all possible leads, clues, and hypotheses concerning the identity or explanation of the sighting. (See paragraph 5.) The preparing officer who receives the report initially is in a much better position to conduct an "on-the-spot" survey or followup than subsequent investigative personnel and analysts, who may be far removed from the area, and who may arrive too late to obtain vital data or the missing information necessary for firm conclusions.

17. Classification. Do not classify reports unless data requested in paragraph 14 require classification. Classify reports primarily to protect:

a. Names of sources reporting UFO's and other principals involved, *if so requested by these persons or considered necessary;*

b. Intelligence, investigative, intercept, or analytical methods or procedures;

c. Location of radar and other classified sites, units, and equipment;

d. Information on certain types, characteristics, and capabilities of classified aircraft, missiles, or devices that may be involved in the sighting.

18. Reporting Physical Evidence. Report promptly the existence of physical evidence (photographic or material). Mark all physical evidence forwarded to the AFSC (FTD) for the attention of TD–E, Aerial Phenomena Branch.

a. *Photographic:*

(1) *Still Photographs.* Forward the negative and two prints. Title the prints and the negatives, or indicate the place, time, and date of the incident.

(2) *Motion Pictures.* Obtain the original film. Examine the film strip for apparent cuts, alterations, obliterations, or defects. In the report comment on any irregularities, particularly those received from other than official sources.

(3) *Supplemental Photographic Information.* Negatives and prints often are insufficient to provide certain valid data or to permit firm conclusions. (See AFM 200–9—a classified document receiving limited distribution.) Information that will aid in plotting or in estimating distances, apparent size and nature of object, probable velocity, and movements includes:

(a) Type and make of camera,
(b) Type, focal length, and make of lens,
(c) Brand and type of film,
(d) Shutter speed used,
(e) Lens opening used; that is, "f" stop,
(f) Filters used,
(g) Was tripod or solid stand used,
(h) Was "panning" used,
(i) Exact direction camera was pointing with relation to true north, and its angle with respect to the ground.

(4) *Other Camera Data.* If supplemental information is unobtainable, the minimum camera data required are the type of camera, and the smallest and largest "f" stop and shutter-speed readings of the camera.

(5) *Radar.* Forward two copies of each still-camera photographic print. Title radarscope photographic prints in accordance with AFR 95–7. Classify radarscope photographs in accordance with Section XII, AFR 205–1, 10 June 1960.

NOTE: If possible, develop photographic film before forwarding. Mark any undeveloped film conspicuously to indicate this fact, to avoid destruction by exposure during examinations en route through mail channels to final addressees.

b. *Material.* Each Air Force echelon receiving suspected or actual UFO material will safeguard it in a manner to prevent any defacing or alterations which might reduce its value for intelligence examination and analysis.

c. *Photographs, Motion Pictures, and Negatives Submitted by Individuals.* Individuals often submit photographic and motion picture material as part of their UFO reports. All original material submitted will be returned to the individual after completion of necessary studies, analyses, and duplication by the Air Force.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE:

CURTIS E. LeMAY
Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:

R. J. PUGH
Colonel, USAF
Director of Administrative Services

☆ U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1962

ENCL No 14

D/Sec(AS)/64/1

27 Sep 95

F I L E N O T E

1. Wg Cdr [redacted] DI55c telephoned to confirm that he was content with our lines as advised in D/Sec(AS)/64/1 of 27 Sep 95 about the role of DI55c in looking at "UFO" reports.

2. He told me that his AD has agreed to them undertaking the review of data held by DI55 as first outlined in their minute to us of Oct 93. This will initially involve someone placing the information contained in the reports onto a database to see whether there are any trends which are worth looking into.

3. He said he would let us know whether they found anything of interest and if they planned to undertake a more thorough review as a result of their initial findings. I told him that we would wish to take a view at that point. I stressed that as long as all DI55 would be doing was reviewing the data to look for any matters of defence interest, and that their records did not reflect "research into extraterrestrial activity", we would be content as that would be consistent with current Ministerial lines.

[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

ENCL NO 13

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/1

27 Sep 95

DI55c - Wg Cdr Section 40

PUBLIC ACCESS TO UFO FILES - DI55 ASSOCIATION

1. Thank you for your recent response D/DI55/108/15 to my minute of 25 Aug.

2. We accept your comments at para 3b and have recast our lines as follows:

- Our interest in reported "UFO" sightings is to establish whether what was seen might represent something which is of defence concern.

- As part of our assessment of reported sightings we copy such reports, as appropriate, to branches within the MOD which have an interest in air defence matters. DI55 is one such branch.

- The MOD does not undertake research into the "UFO" phenomena; we have not undertaken any such research and we only would if there were good reason for doing so - ie. evidence of potential defence interest.

3. You will note that we only go as far as to confirm the existence of DI55 and that DI55 has an interest in air defence matters, both of which I hope you are content with. Other than this we believe your comments about research are adequately covered in bullet 3.

4. I should be grateful if you could let me know if you are now content with our proposed lines. I shall then formally notify Hd CS(RM)1 that we are content for the internal distribution of "UFO reports" to be revealed when the files are sent to the Public Records Office at the 30 year point.

Section 40

Wg Cdr Section 40 Good. Yes these new lines are fine.

Section 40

Section 40

Sec(AS)2a
MB8245 82140MB

UNCLASSIFIED

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Caveat:

Covering:

F Sigs 927
(Rev 8/93)

Facsimile Transmission Cover Sheet

Transmission Details		Document Details	
Serial Number: –	Date and Time of Transmission: 27.9.95	Reference: 64/1	
From: SDC(AS) 2A	Fax Number: Section 40	Subject: PUBLIC ACCESS TO UFO FILES	
To: DI55c	Fax Number: Section 40		
		Total number of pages including this cover sheet	2

Authorizing Officer	Transmit Operators
Rank, Name and Appointment: EO Section 40	Rank/Grade, Name and Telephone No.: AO Section 40
Signature:	Signature:

Message/Remarks:

Dear Wing Commander Section 40

I should be grateful for a quick telephone call if you are content with the attached lines as amended.

Thanks

Section 40

82140 MB

Covering:

Caveat:

Classification:

** TX CONFIRMATION REPORT ** AS OF 27 SEP '95 12:17 PAGE.01

SEC (AS)

	DATE	TIME	TO/FROM	MODE	MIN/SEC	PGS	STATUS
01	9/27	12:16	DG.ST.I	UF--S	00"41	02	OK

UNCLASSIFIED
RESTRICTED

INCL No 2 o/r
Section 40
DIS
Section 40
Wg Cdr to my response to my minute (attached)
Section 40

22 Sep

D/DI55/108/15

5 Jul 95

[redacted]

PUBLIC ACCESS TO UFO FILES - DI 55 ASSOCIATION

Reference:

A. D/Sec(AS)/12/1 dated 25 Aug 95.

1. Thank you for the Reference.

2. I agree that we need to have a consistent and essentially truthful line on DI 55s role. However, we need to ensure that DI 55 primary role is not compromised. The proposed study has still not been authorised and as you correctly stated in the Reference it would have been only a data-basing of reports to see if any conclusions could be drawn.

3. As far as the line to undertake is concerned:

   a. I agree the first bullet.

   b. I believe the second bullet requires refining. To state that the reports are "looked at by experts within the Department" is perhaps offering an hostage to fortune. I offer the words below as a basis for discussion.

      "Since UFO reports invariably report on unidentified aerial phenomena, reports are distributed within the MOD to branches that have an interest in aspects of air defence aspects. DI 55 is such a branch. Since no physical evidence has ever been produced, no detailed photography has ever been supplied and no artifacts exist UFO reports are read quickly and then filed. MOD branches do not have the time or funds to research the topic."

   c. I agree the last bullet.

4. This letter has been seen and agreed by my Director.

[redacted]

Wing Commander
DI55c
OWOB 336 MB

Section 40

UNCLASSIFIED
RESTRICTED

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Sec (AS)2
25 SEP 1995
RE 64/1

RESTRICTED
UNCLASSIFIED

64/1

ENCL No 11

Fri Aug 25, 1995 16:47 mailbox log Page 1

DATE	TO	SUBJECT	
25/08/95	DI55c	PUBLIC ACCESS OF "UFO" FILES	Ref: 266

Sent : 25/08/95 16:40
To : DI55c
Cc :

Ref : 266
Subject: PUBLIC ACCESS OF "UFO" FILES

Text :

Priority: Normal View Acknowledge [*] Attachments [1]
Reply Request [ ] Delivery Acknowledge [*] page 1

Bcc :

Auth by :

Defer Date : Defer Time :

No Redirection [ ]

page 2

RESTRICTED
UNCLASSIFIED

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LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/12/1

25 Aug 95

DI55c

PUBLIC ACCESS OF "UFO" FILES

References:

A. DI55/108/15 dated 5 Jul 95
B. D/Sec(AS)/12/1 dated 25 May 95.
C. DI55/108/15 dated 18 Oct 93.

1. Thank you for your response (Ref A) to my letter at Ref B, concerning the validity of the continuing requirement to withhold the internal distribution from "UFO" files when they are released to the public domain at the 30 year point.

2. You may be interested to know that Hd CS(RM)1 has discovered that some files have already been released to the Public Records Office without the internal distribution having been sanitized (presumably an oversight). As such it is rather fortunate that we both concur that it would seem pointless to continue to seek to disguise your limited role in this subject.

3. If we are to be open about the role of DI55, we need carefully to construct the description of that role. The "UFO lobby" will doubtless see in all this much to get excited about: cover ups; DI research and sinister implications thereof; a change in the Department's line, and speculation about what might have bought this about etc.

4. To cover any question on research we need to be clear what is already in the public domain on this. To Sec(AS)'s knowledge no 'research' into the phenomena has been undertaken by MOD - by DI55 or anyone else. Does this accord with your knowledge? As I understand it the proposed 'study' outlined in Ref C was in fact a review of existing data to determine whether any research is justified. This does not in my view compromise our existing and much quoted line on the matter which might be extended (in bold) as follows:

- Our only interest in reported "UFO" sightings is to establish whether what was seen might represent ~~a threat to the security of the UK.~~ Something of defence significance.

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- Reports are looked at by experts within the Department to establish whether what was seen may have had any defence significance. **DI55,** *[could you provide us with a broad description of DI55's general role within the Department??],* **is one such branch.**

- **The MOD does not undertake research into the "UFO" phenomena; we have not undertaken any such research and we only would if there were good reason for doing so - ie. evidence ~~of a potential threat~~. ~~It remains that case that to date no threat has been discerned which has been attributed to a reported sighting of~~ a "UFO".**

5. I should be grateful for your thoughts on our proposed approach, and any suggested amendments to the lines we might deploy as a result of public interest.

↓ potential defence interest.

Section 40

Sec(AS)2a
MB8245 82140MB

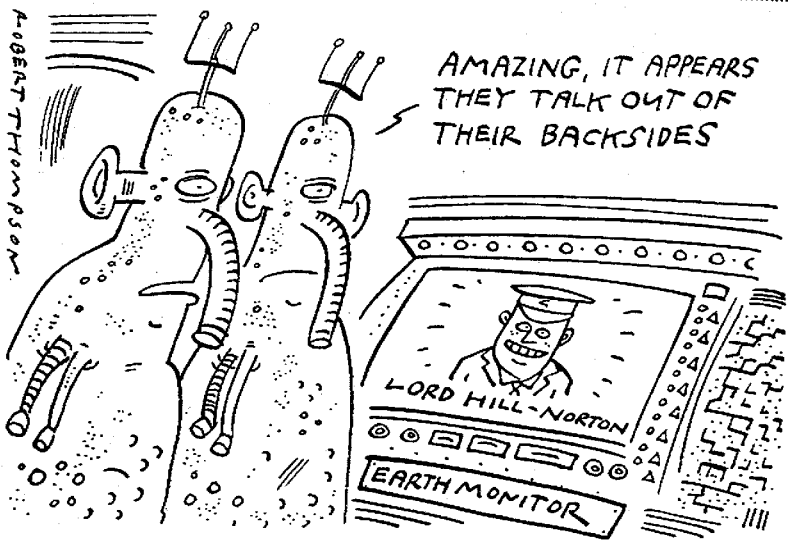
UNCLASSIFIED

The Guardian
6 September 1995

(1)

NCL No 10

Wheen's World



Seadog who's all spaced-out

2-5

MEMBERS of the House of Commons are answerable, after a fashion, to their electors. Members of the House of Lords, however, have no constituencies — which is why this column has long undertaken the wearisome but necessary duty of holding our more distinguished peers (such as milords Rees-Mogg and Wyatt) to account, tweaking their tails and boxing their ears from time to time.

One denizen of the Upper House who will need no introduction to regular readers is Admiral of the Fleet Lord Hill-Norton. I have been striving for several years to alert the nation to the opinions of this ancient legislator, who believes that little green men and women from outer space have landed in America and are working clandestinely for the Pentagon. And, at long last, other newspapers have begun to take notice. Last week's Sunday Telegraph reported that the admiral "is considering contributing a foreword" to a new book called A Dead Concealment, which alleges that the Ministry of Defence has "held back information" on the sighting of a UFO over the English Channel in 1990.

Although the Telegraph was so startled that it printed the story on its front page, the news will have come as no surprise to veteran Hill-Norton watchers. More than four years ago he wrote an admiring foreword to Timothy Good's book Alien Liaison, arguing that the defence establishment had organised a massive cover-up of the truth about flying saucers. As I pointed out to his lordship at the time, if there had been any such cover-up he would surely have been a party to it, since he was chief of the defence staff from 1971 to 1974 and then chairman of Nato's military committee from 1974 to 1977. "You'd think I would have known," he agreed. "But I hadn't the faintest bloody idea."

When I rang Lord Hill-Norton this week, he was his usual charming self. "Oh get on with it," he snapped when I asked him about the 1990 sighting. "There isn't any question about the facts. It was tracked by radar." Mightn't there be a humdrum human explanation for the UFO? "I don't think so." So he is convinced that the object was an alien spaceship? "No," he said, rather surprisingly, "I'm not at all convinced." But if the "fast-moving triangular craft" spotted by radar was not of this world, surely the logical inference is that it came from another planet?

Logic, as I have discovered before, is not Lord Hill-Norton's strong suit. "Look here," he harrumphed. "I was born two years before your grandfather. I'm not having words put into my mouth by journalists." Whereupon he cut me off.

Lord Hill-Norton needn't worry: no words that I could put into his mouth would be half as embarrassing as the drivel he spews forth himself. Still, he can't be blamed. After a few years in the House of Lords, even I might begin to believe that the Martians have landed.

The Sunday Telegraph
10 September 1995

ENCL No 9

Chasing flying objects

TO CORRECT any false impressions that may have been given by your otherwise excellent front page story last week ("Brussels investigates admiral's UFO claim"):

The sighting was not over the Channel. Radar detections by five Nato radar stations and the on-board radar of a pursuing F-10 aircraft confirmed its final position as being over Wavre, Belgium, six minutes from British air space.

The reference to this detection as a "spaceship" is incorrect. The Belgian Air Force did not know what it was, describing it as a powerful electro-magnetic force. Its radar detection would confirm that it was an object of opacity and substance.

The object was intercepted many times: one aircraft recorded radar lock-on on 12 occasions. The details of these interceptions indicated extreme intelligence, and performance figures that would not be possible by any flying vehicle known today.

In my forthcoming book *A Deadly Concealment*, to be published by Cassell, the charge is made *not*, as you state, that the Ministry of Defence has held back intelligence information, but that the statements made by the Minister of Defence, the Ministry of Defence and General-Major Wilfrid de Brouwer of the Belgian Air Force are all contradictory, and would indicate a concealment that is highly suspect. Supporting comments have been made by Admiral of the Fleet Lord Hill-Norton, but *not* by Nato, which has declined to comment.

Derek Sheffield
Rolvenden, Kent.

(7)

ENCL No 8

The People
10 September 1995

'I believe in aliens' says UFO buster 10

BRITAIN'S top UFO investigator has boldly gone where no other has gone before – over to the other side.

And now the men from the ministry are wishing that someone, somewhere would beam him up.

Civil servant Nick Page, 29, has been at the heart of secret investigations into Unidentified Flying Objects for four years.

He has been entrusted with some of the most sensitive information on the subject, deemed too hush-hush for public consumption.

Now the 29-year-old Ministry of Defence man has declared: "I believe in aliens."

And he has written a book, Open Skies, Closed Minds, to be published next June (Simon and Schuster).

Defence chiefs are furious, but Nick is unrepentant. He says he was convinced by a number of British sightings which defy explanation.

64/1

DATE	TO	SUBJECT	
20/09/95	GF(POL)1B-1	PRIVATE TELEPHONE CALL	Ref: 277

Sent : 20/09/95 12:46
To : GF(POL)1B-1
Cc :

Ref : 277
Subject: PRIVATE TELEPHONE CALL

Text : A Section 40 from a Japanese Film Company, telephoned to speak to you. He said it was not an official matter so I told him that I would pass his details to you (his tele no is Section 40 and that it would be up to you whether you wish to make contact with him in your own time.

Priority: Non-urgent View Acknowledge [*] Attachments [ ]
Reply Request [ ] Delivery Acknowledge [ ] page 1

Bcc :

Auth by :

Defer Date : Defer Time :

No Redirection [ ]

Section 40

Section 40

ENCL. 6

64/1

LOOSE MINUTE

D/AHB(RAF)/4/2

08 Sep 95

FS(Pers)GM(A)3c - Section 40
Copy to:
Sec(AS)2a - Section 40

LETTER FROM Section 40
Reference:
A. D/Sec(AS)/12/1 dated 25 Aug 95

1. Sec(AS) sent me a copy of the Reference with the suggestion that I may wish to comment on it. I do not think that we have seen the correspondence to which it refers so I am unable to comment on specifics. I can only make the general observation that the distinction implied in the Reference between **official** and **unofficial** histories does not strike any chords connected with the business of the Air Historical Branch. I do not know in what capacity Section 40 and Section 40 are working but there is no sense in which AHB(RAF) could be lending its auspices to independent authors. If however, either of these people had official connections then anything they wished to publish would have to be first cleared through the Publications Clearance Branch. Section 40

2. I hope that this might be of some relevance but without having seen previous correspondence I am at a disadvantage. Should you need further elucidation please ring me.

Spoke to Section 40
She didn't understand what Section 40 meant either and thinks he may have got the wrong end of the stick.

(Signed)

Section 40
Gp Capt (Ret'd)
Head of AHB(RAF)&PCB(Air)
GSY311 Section 40 MB

Advised Section 40 of our thoughts as expressed in 12/1 of 25 Aug and said she should refer Section 40 to MOD Manual II Chapter 4 which gives guidance on clearing published material.

Section 40
20/9

64/1

ENCL No 5

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR DEFENCE

LOOSE MINUTE

D/USofS/FH/28/1/4

18 September 1995

Sec(AS)2a

SUNDAY TELEGRAPH ARTICLE OG 3 SEP 95 - "BRUSSELS INVESTIGATES ADMIRAL'S UFO CLAIM"

Reference D/Sec(AS)/64/1 dated 15 Sept 1995

Lord Howe was grateful for your minute at reference.

Section 40

APS/USofS
MB6215 MB
USofS/APS(1)

Section 40

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Sec.(AS)2
19 SEP 1995

Recycled Paper

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/1

15 Sep 95

APS/USofS - Section 40

SUNDAY TELEGRAPH ARTICLE OF 3 SEP 95 - "BRUSSELS INVESTIGATES ADMIRAL'S UFO CLAIM"

Reference: D/USofS/FH/28/1/4 (BB) dated 6 Sep 95.

1. At Reference you asked for background information relating to an article which appeared in the Sunday Telegraph earlier this month, and confirmation of any approaches for advice which the MOD has received from Lord Hill-Norton in this respect.

Belgium "UFO" Sightings - MOD Position

2. The issue of the "Belgium 'UFO' Sightings", is a subject well-known to this office in large measure due to the correspondence of Section 40 (mentioned in the article) and Lord Hill-Norton. A wave of "UFO" sightings were reported over Belgium on 30/31 March 1990. As well as visual sightings, some Belgian military radar returns were noted, and as a result the Belgian authorities launched two of their aircraft to investigate. Although these aircraft did attain some radar lock-ons, as with the returns recorded by ground based radar, this does not necessarily mean that any structured craft was present. We understand, informally, that the view of the Belgian Air Force is that a craft of some sort was involved and that they maintain an open mind on the sightings, which remained unexplained.

3. As you know the MOD's only role as far as "UFOs" are concerned is to ascertain whether sightings reported to us might represent evidence of a threat to the UK. With respect to the 30/31 March 1990 'incident', the Belgian authorities have confirmed to us in writing that reports were not made to adjacent countries as the events took place in the central part of Belgium and they saw no evidence of activities of a hostile or aggressive nature at that time. As such, and given that these sightings occurred outside the UK Air Defence Region, the MOD was not aware of the 'incident' at the time. Although subsequently made aware of the sightings, the issue lies outside our area of responsibility.

4. In the light of the interest in this 'incident', including 3 PEs on the subject, the available evidence (such as it was) was looked at by the Department's air defence experts in 1993 who confirmed that they discerned nothing of concern, and

judged that there was indeed no reason for the Belgians to have notified UK authorities.

Contacts with [redacted]

5. [redacted]'s first letter in this connection was sent to us in January 1993 when he asked what we knew of the Belgium "UFO" sightings. Officials explained our limited involvement with the subject of "UFOs" in general, and it was pointed out that the Belgium sightings were a matter for the Belgians and not for us. To be helpful, it was suggested that [redacted] contact the Belgian Embassy, together with a number of "UFO" societies who were actively researching these "UFO" sightings.

6. Over the next few months [redacted] wrote a steady stream of letters asking about our policy and views on the "UFO" phenomenon, and again, officials provided him with full and helpful answers to his questions. [redacted] continued to focus on the Belgian sightings, and asked a number of questions about radar systems in an attempt to prove that because some of the "UFO" sightings coincided with some radar returns there must have been some sort of solid object present. It was explained to him that there were a number of circumstances, such as unusual meteorological conditions or interference between different radar systems, where this is not necessarily so. [redacted] expressed concern that these sightings were sufficiently close to the UK to pose some sort of threat, but was assured that this was not the case, and was reminded of the effective way in which the RAF detected and intercepted Soviet aircraft probing our defences during the Cold War. [redacted] asked whether the Belgians informed us about these "UFO" sightings and if not, why not. The fact is that the Belgians did not regard these "UFO" sightings as posing any sort of threat, and for this reason did not notify any other countries.

7. By the time [redacted] wrote his tenth letter it was clear that no new points were being raised, and he was duly informed by the then Min(AF), via his MP, that there was nothing that could usefully be added to the very comprehensive answers that he had already received. [redacted] clearly refuses to accept what he has been told and continues to feel that there is information which the Department is withholding from him.

Lord Hill Norton's Involvement

8. Lord Hill-Norton has a long-standing interest in "UFOs", was a member of the (now defunct) House of Lords All-Party "UFO" Study Group, and has written forewords for two books on the subject.

9. In March 1994 [redacted] approached Lord Hill-Norton enlisting his assistance with obtaining a 'satisfactory'

response to the questions he had raised with the Department which he felt had not been adequately answered. The following May, Lord Hill-Norton wrote to the then SofS supporting the claims made by Section 40 and adding his view that, unless the procedure had changed since he was Chairman of the NATO Military Committee, it was inconceivable that the UK would not have been informed of a possible hostile, certainly unidentified, detection by NADGE radars. He also made it clear that he wished to alert SofS to the fact that Section 40 may attempt to create a public fuss and urged him to take a personal interest in re-examining the whole matter.

10. Notwithstanding Lord Hill-Norton's assertions, it is not the case that the UK would necessarily be informed of unidentified returns picked up on NADGE radars in Belgium. Only if radar operators believed there was evidence that a craft was moving *towards the UK* would such action be taken.

11. SofS responded in Jun 94 that he was content that the correct procedures had been followed in response to Section 40 Section 40 approaches to the Department and that all relevant information had been passed to Section 40. He commented that no purpose would be served by continuing the correspondence with him. I attach a copy of this exchange for ease of reference.

12. I am not aware of any further correspondence from Lord Hill-Norton on this or any other "UFO"-related matter since this time.

13. I hope the above explanation adequately covers the points of concern to Lord Howe.

Section 40

Sec(AS)2a
MB8245 82140MB

Copy to:
APS/Minister(AF)
APS/US of S
DDGE/AEW
Sec(AS)2

Section 40
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB
Telephone Section 40

SECRETARY OF STATE

MO 9/18M

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Sec (AS) 1
14 JUN 1994
FILE

7 June 1994

Dear Lord Hill-Norton,

Thank you for your letter dated 17 May concerning the UFO sightings that occurred over Belgium in March 1990.

I am grateful to you for alerting me to this problem, and I am aware that Section 40 may attempt to create a public fuss. However I am satisfied that correct procedures have been followed, that all relevant information has been passed to Section 40 and that no purpose would be served by continuing the correspondence with him.

You will know that our sole reason for examining reports of UFO sightings is to establish whether or not there is evidence of any threat to the United Kingdom. The Belgium authorities have indicated that they did not notify us of these sightings at the time because there was no evidence of any threat, and because they occurred over the central part of Belgium. I should add that notification of NADGE radar detections is at the discretion of the operators, and does not occur automatically.

Section 40

Recycled Paper

We subsequently became aware of these sightings through the UFO literature and through approaches from members of the public such as Section 40 Section 40 On the basis of the information now available our own Air Defence experts have confirmed that they would not have been concerned with these UFO reports, and that they saw no reason why the Belgians should have notified any UK authorities. I am sure it goes without saying, however, that any unauthorised penetration of the UK Air Defence Region would be detected by our Air Defenders, and dealt with as appropriate.

It is clear to me from the papers I have seen that the position has been explained in great detail to Section 40. I am aware of one television programme on the subject, a Central TV production to be shown on 18 October. The MOD desk officer responsible for UFOs was interviewed for this programme and was able to set out the MOD's policy on UFOs.

I hope this has explained the situation satisfactorily.

Yours sincerely,

Malcolm Rifkind

Malcolm Rifkind

Admiral of the Fleet The Lord Hill-Norton G.C.B.

Section 40

Section 40

PERSONAL

The Rt Hon Malcolm Rifkind MP
Secretary of State
Ministry of Defence
Whitehall
London SW14 2HB

17 May 1994

Dear Secretary of State,

I have been approached by a Section 40 of Section 40 who has asked me to help him to obtain a satisfactory response from your Ministry to an enquiry he initiated a year or more ago. I enclose a copy of his letter to me dated 16 March 1994, which sets out his request and his complaint. This is a small part of a quite lengthy correspondence.

He had earlier approached his Member, Sir Keith Speed, and I have seen several letters which have been exchanged between Sir Keith and Mr Hanley and also your officials. These letters do not answer Section 40 enquiries, and he finds them unsatisfactory. I am bound to say that I share that view, in the light of all the circumstances.

There is no need for me to rehearse all that has already been written in these exchanges. In short, detections were made by three NADGE radars in Germany and Belgium in March 1990, air defence aircraft of the Belgian Air Force were scrambled to intercept but although the objects were detected and held on the radar of these aircraft as well, no identification, or visual contact was made. There is no dispute about these facts, which have been confirmed by the Belgian Minister of Defence in public statements, repeated in writing to Section 40 I have advised Section 40 that, unless the procedure has been changed since I was chairman of the NATO Military Committee, it is inconceivable that the UK would not be informed (probably automatically) of a possibly hostile, certain unidentified, detection by NADGE radars.

Section 40 has been brushed off with the standard MOD response to all reports (of which I have seen a great many) of UFO activity, which briefly put amount to *"..... no threat was perceived to the UK so no notice was taken or record made of the incident ....."*. In this instance this has, in separate letters, been complicated by written statements by your Ministry that no report of the Belgian detections was ever received in the UK.

Section 40 asks, reasonably enough, *"If, as Ministers assert, they had no knowledge of the Belgian events how could their Air Defence experts possibly conclude that the phenomenon did not constitute a threat, as they had no knowledge of it?"*

I fear that [redacted] may well make a damaging public uproar about all this. He has already had a petition to the European Parliament upheld, and his dossier has been formally remitted to the relevant Euro Committee. A public demarche, so he tells me, is planned for the MOD, the House of Commons, and simultaneously at the Pentagon on 23 May. At least two television programmes in this country will carry his story within the next few months, and this may well not be the end of it.

I strongly recommend that you should take a personal interest in having the whole matter re-examined, so that a more satisfactory and convincing reply may be given to [redacted]'s question, before the matter gets out of hand.

Yours sincerely,

06 SEP 1995 865.

Section 40 64/1

I will be delighted to see....

COVERING ~~SECRET/CONFIDENTIAL/RESTRICTED/MANAGEMENT~~/

REFERENCE D/US of S/FH/28/1/4. (BB).

Sec(AS)2a

UFO Sightings

I am attaching a ~~letter/minute~~ newspaper cutting from The Sunday Telegraph

to ..... dated 3/9/95

Lord Howe has asked for what the facts of this story are and whether Lord Hill-Norton has ever approached us for advice.

Will you please consult other Departments, divisions and branches as necessary and submit advice, together with a draft reply, in order to reach US of S not later than 20/9/95

I am sending copies of this to:

.....	.....
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.....	.....
.....	.....

The Open Government Code of Practice came into force on 4 April 1994 and you should ensure that replies to members of the public are provided in accordance with its procedures.

Section 40

APS/US of S
MB6215 MB

Date: 6/9/95.

Spoke to Section 40 Lord H just needs facts of Belgian UFO sightings issue our line and background, Mrs Dept's contact with L-Hill Norton. Apparently LHN is causing other ripples about all sorts of other things at present

Section 40 Section 40 Section 40

The Sunday Telegraph
3 September 1995

Brussels investigates admiral's UFO claim

by Jasper Gerard

A SIGHTING of a UFO over the English Channel is to be investigated by the European Parliament after a British Admiral endorsed claims that a fast moving triangular vessel was seen flying within five miles of the Kent coast.

A detailed report, which has been prepared for the Energy, Research and Technology Committee by a senior official. It also recommends that the EU should fund a permanent UFO-tracking centre.

Admiral of the Fleet Lord Hill-Norton said yesterday: "There is no shadow of doubt that something happened. The Belgian Ministry of Defence is on to this. The object was tracked by ground and air radar. It is a very convincing story."

On 31 March 1990 military personnel apparently saw a space ship flying over Belgium at more than 1,000 miles an hour. Two F-16 fighters were scrambled to intercept the target, but it was too fast for its pursuers and was lost five miles from Dover. A petition by a British historian calling for an inquiry has become document No 990/993 in the labyrinth of Euro-files, and will be discussed at the committee's next meeting.

Next year a reputable London publisher will publish a book, *A Deadly Concealment*, by Derek Sheffield in which he will contend that the Ministry of Defence has held back intelligence information on the sightings.

Lord Hill-Norton, a former chairman of Nato's military committee, is considering contributing a forward. "What has happened since the sighting is extraordinary," said Mr Sheffield from his cottage in Rolvenden, Kent. "I have been obstructed by officialdom from start to finish." He heard about the story while holidaying in France.

The book will contain quotes from a tape recording of the conversation between the two startled pilots, and supportive interviews from senior Nato experts.

The European Parliament's draft report — entitled *The Creation of a European Observation Station for the sightings of Unidentified Flying Objects* — has been prepared by a Spanish official, Gabriel Sanchez. "People are keen that this should be studied scientifically," he said. "There is a mixture of opinion for and against."

While UFOs have their believers — Jimmy Carter, Muhammad Ali and David Bowie among them — news of the European Parliament's preoccupation with the subject was greeted with incredulity yesterday.

Sir Teddy Taylor MP, the veteran Euro-basher, put the proposed tracking station down to France wanting another EU-funded body in its own borders.

"If by any chance there was a proven need to search for flying saucers," he ventured, "the European Parliament would be the worst possible outfit to find them.

"We would probably be left with a UFO mountain."

(a)

– disproving 90 per
Continued on Page 2

Aylesford, Kent.
Full report — Page 5

by the knowledge that figures at the end of the month

The Home Office has already received 1,250 re-

strategy of targeting persis-
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Section 40

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Eurocrats' encounter of the expensive kind

By STEVE DOUGHTY
Whitehall Correspondent

IT is the achievement of a dream for determined UFO-watchers.

But more sceptical earthlings are bug-eyed over a bizarre scheme from Brussels for spending even more money.

A report for the European Parliament will recommend that the EU establish an office to track UFO sightings. In short, Brussels wants to set up its own X-Files investigation into flying saucers and little green men.

The scheme, which horrified Euro-sceptics yesterday, has sprung from the persistence of a British UFO researcher.

Retired printing consultant Derek Sheffield, 67, has harassed officialdom for three years over an incident in which a triangular object is said to have been chased by F-16 fighters over Belgium. It is alleged to have been heading towards Dover at over 1,000 mph when it was lost.

Mr Sheffield claims that the



Lord Hill-Norton: 'Cover-up'

Government is covering up the facts — and he has brought up a heavy gun to back his argument.

Retired Admiral of the Fleet Lord Hill-Norton, a former Chief of Defence Staff and the senior military officer in Nato in the mid-Seventies, agrees that evidence for the incident is strong and joins in accusations of a British cover-up of UFO incidents.

Lord Hill-Norton, 80, who has said he is prepared to write a foreword for a book by Mr Sheffield about the affair, commented yesterday: 'The

tracked by two Gern
tions and one in Belg
would have been alerte

'The evidence makes
that something is being c
up. It is absurd to pretend th
nothing going on when it is
fectly plain that there is.'

The Defence Ministry has show
no interest in the claims. Not so,
however, the European Parlia-
ment. Its former president, Egon
Klepsch, invited Mr Sheffield to
petition for an inquiry.

Now its energy, research and
technology committee is under-
stood to have advised setting up
the UFO centre so the issue can
be studied scientifically. The
report, The Creation of a Euro-
pean Observation Station for the
Sightings of Unidentified Flying
Objects, goes to MEPs shortly.

Mr Sheffield, from Rolvenden,
Kent, said: 'This has been going
on for a couple of years. You'd
have thought something would
have happened by now.'

The Defence Ministry has in the
past limited its discussion of the
case to assurances that British
security was not threatened. Yes-
terday it declined to comment.

UFOs OFFICIAL REPORT

WAS THIS LONE WALKER A VICTIM OF ALIEN RADIATION?

FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

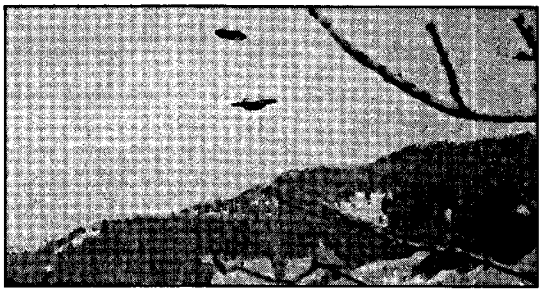
explanations. Was there military activity in the area, perhaps involving low-flying aircraft? Was there an astronomical explanation for a sighting? A phone call to the Royal Observatory at Greenwich could confirm this. And then there was RAF Fylingdales, which provides early warnings of attack from ballistic missiles. Their equipment is sensitive enough to locate an object one foot square, hundreds of miles away in space. Radar returns from any RAF base might also provide an explanation.

Satellites or satellite debris re-entering the earth's atmosphere also generate UFO reports and there is a well-rehearsed catalogue of other natural phenomena regularly reported as UFOs. The planet Venus, viewed from a moving vehicle, especially through a screen of trees appears to hover and exhibit the blue-white light so often associated with UFO experiences. Aircraft seen during the day give rise to all sorts of reports. Flocks of birds, especially when seen in an odd light, can have a strange appearance but the oddest illusions can be caused by lenticular clouds. These rare formations are disc-shaped and because of their vapour, appear metallic grey in colour. The most controversial natural phenomenon sometimes used to explain UFO sightings is ball lightning — a short-lived luminous mass usually associated with electric storms — but ball lightning itself is not a proven phenomenon.

DURING my tenure I received about 800 reports of sightings, ranging from the easily explicable to the genuinely perturbing but I only had one like the 'Capital' sighting.

There is usually a time-lag — hours, days, sometimes weeks — between a sighting and the point when a witness decides to contact someone 'official'. In this case, things were rather more immediate. The call came from Capital Radio's headquarters in Euston, London, and the voice on the other end of the line was very excited. The caller was staring out of his window, giving me a running commentary on a UFO about to land in Regent's Park. He was gabbling, his words jumbled, hysteria in his voice; a man on the edge.

'It's almost down . . . it looks a bit like — like a big kite, but it can't be. It's down! It's down! My God, people are gathering round it . . .' There was a pause. The voice seemed less strained, less panicked. 'It can't be a kite, can it? Oh. The people are putting it back in a box. It is a kite. Sorry for having wasted your time.' He hung up. God knows what agonies he had gone through in those few mad minutes. God knows how much he'll cringe at the memory of it.



Daylight sighting: Mystery discs in Switzerland, in March ,1976

Usually, my task was more demanding than that. When, late in the afternoon of December 9, 1991, several dozen people walking on Offa's Dyke in Hereford and Worcester, saw a fiery glow a few thousand feet up in the sky. I pursued my inquiries in several directions until I discovered the explanation: an American F-111 jet from RAF Upper Heyford in Oxfordshire, had been on a routine flight over the area when it was recalled to base because of deteriorating weather conditions. As a precaution, the pilot had jettisoned some of the jet fuel which was ignited by the plane's afterburners, leaving a spectacular fiery trail and the momentary glow they saw.

Everyone I contacted was grateful to know it: alarmed witnesses had their minds put at rest and the ever-seeking UFO groups were able to stamp this one 'Case solved' and concentrate their efforts elsewhere.

On the other hand, in the early hours of October 29, 1993, something took place at St Austell in Cornwall, which I was utterly at a loss to explain. The witness was a young naval cadet from the prestigious Britannia Royal Naval College, at Dartmouth, 40 miles away. He had 20-20 vision and was trained in careful observation.

He saw a bright object, glowing eerily in the sky over nearby houses, as it hovered silently over a sports field behind his home. In this position its shape was clearly that of a disc and it appeared solid, with a battery of different-coloured lights and three protrusions on its underside. The top seemed to turn anti-clockwise.

ECHOING the story of the appearance of angels to Zacharias, or Mary and Joseph in the New Testament, the witness claimed that he received telepathic messages of greeting, telling him not to be afraid. The craft's lights had by this time gone out and it hovered in front of a set of goalposts 80 yards from him. A large bird, presumably a rook or crow, flew close to the object, then plummeted to the ground. A bright light glowed on the underside of the craft and it shot vertically upwards at great speed.

The cadet ran to wake his family. They saw the bird on the ground but no sign of the craft. Even the bird had gone by seven the next morning. The cadet was confused by what he had seen. He reported the incident to the local police at Launceston, the next day. They, in turn, contacted me and put the cadet in touch with local Ufologist, Doug Cooper, who phoned me to discuss the case.

The cadet had also told his superiors at the naval college about his experience. They allegedly told him to keep quiet. Doug Cooper obviously believed that this, in itself, implied some cover-up. I suspected that the advice was well meant, designed to shield the cadet from the ridicule of colleagues. In any event, no one from the college spoke to me. The sighting was clear enough and the large bird, at least, was witnessed by several people. I was not able to come up with any explanation — and neither was anyone else.

Disturbing as that was for the young man, it was by no means the most painful experience I had reported to me. In 1992 I received a letter from a woman whose husband had been walking in the Quantock Hills in Somerset, four years earlier, intent on photographing the scenery.

The sky was clear, the air still. This is one of those cases where the time lapse could be unfortunate, yet, even so, the woman's memory was vivid and so was that of her husband. He had heard a deep rumbling sound, ahead of him and above, and saw a huge black craft moving towards him, its body saucer-shaped but with two bat-like wings, one on each side.

It hovered for about five minutes, close enough for the witness to see that the main fuselage had two decks and a dome on top. He could even make out a small figure, wearing some kind of helmet, through the windows on one of the decks. The craft flew directly overhead, no more than 50 ft above the land. Instinctively, he threw himself to the ground and as the shadow passed over him, he felt a burning sensation. When he got home, he discovered that his clothes had been singed.

OVER THE next two years, the witness's health deteriorated. Like Antonio Micas Boas, the first known abductee (in 1957 he claimed to have had sex with a female alien) the Quantocks man found it difficult to eat and experienced waves of extreme nausea, from time to time. He also had severe pain in his head and back. Perhaps unfortunately, the witness told his GP the story of the black craft and the doctor immediately suspected psychosomatic symptoms and mental illness.

The witness's wife was terrified that he was suffering from radiation sickness and would die, unless somebody could help. Radiation sickness is highly unpleasant. Ionising radiation, such as gamma, X-rays and ultraviolet, can cause nausea, vomiting, hair loss, diarrhoea, headaches, lowered resistance to infection, and skin burns.

The problem for doctors is that many of these symptoms have other causes too. Only a GP of some vision and sympathy would make the necessary connection in this case.

It was clear from the lady's letter that she and her husband wanted no publicity. They simply needed help and treatment and were desperate. Her husband had lost his job and she feared he would lose his life.

My bosses were not keen on proactive investigations but I could not ignore this cry for help. If I was unable to intervene directly — this man's health had no implications for the defence of the realm (though I would dispute that) — at least I now had the contacts who could.

I shared my concerns with BUFORA (the British UFO Research Association), who agreed that the main priority was to save the witness's life and that the couple were not overstating the case. One of their top researchers intervened with the witness's doctor, having contacted Dr Rima Laibow of New York, from the organisation TREAT (Treatment and Research into Experienced Anomalous Trauma). The man's medical records are, quite rightly, confidential. That said, I am aware that he was treated, and recovered.

No explanation was ever found for that black craft over the Quantocks. Perhaps the man who had seen it would rather it stayed that way.

IT IS incidents like these, for which — try as I might — I could find no scientific explanation, that changed my view of the world. By the time I ceased to be UFO desk officer at Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a, I had formed the view that unidentified flying objects were potentially the most important issue currently facing the human race and that the military would be in the front line.

■ *ABRIDGED extract from Open Skies, Closed Minds by Nick Pope and M.J. Trow, published by Simon & Schuster on June 3, £14.99. © Nick Pope and M.J. Trow 1996.*

MONDAY: What are the UFOs doing and who controls them?

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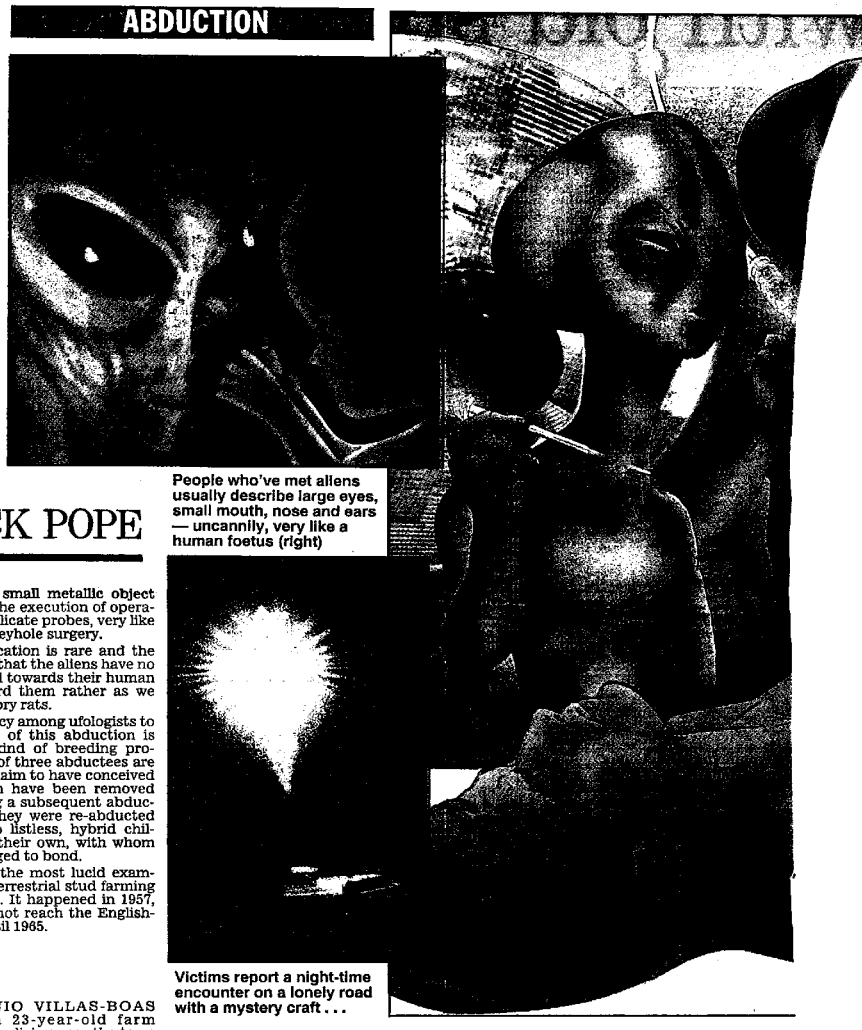
UFOs OFFICIAL REPORT

DAY TWO: AS THE GRISLY EVIDENCE MOUNTS, BRITA

What do UFO

FOR THREE years Nick Pope was Britain's man in charge of investigating UFOs. In that time he logged hundreds of sightings of UFOs and aliens and found enough evidence to turn him from a sceptic into a believer. Now in an astonishing new book Nick Pope suggests that visits by extra-terrestrials are linked to the abduction and examination of humans and mutilation of animals and may be part of an alien attempt to create a hybrid creature. The implications for the world order are terrifying. If they are out there, where are they? It could mean that some humans are not as they seem . . .

ABDUCTION



People who've met aliens usually describe large eyes, small mouth, nose and ears — uncannily, very like a human foetus (right)

Victims report a night-time encounter on a lonely road with a mystery craft . . .

by NICK POPE

WE ARE not alone. The message was clear. The weird geological formation, the luring of people into the desert and the bright white light all lent a magical glow to a Steven Spielberg film.

Its title introduced to a large public what had until then been a technical term used only by serious students of unidentified flying objects: a close encounter of the Third Kind, one that involves the appearance of aliens.

In my three years as UFO desk officer at Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a, part of the Ministry of Defence, I became very familiar with the reports of such phenomena as well as close encounters of the First Kind — something unidentified at close range; the Second Kind — one in which the UFO interacts with the environment, leaving tangible evidence, such as a depression in the ground; and the Fourth Kind — one which involves human abduction by aliens.

I began my tour of duty in 1991 as a sceptic about the possibility of the existence of UFOs. By the time I left, my studies of the history of the subject, as well as the evidence I had received in reports of sightings and experiences from British citizens, had convinced me of the existence of UFOs and of aliens.

But I did not share Spielberg's optimism. My conclusions are far from reassuring. I believe there is a war going on, a one-sided war so secret that we aren't even aware that it is happening.

We have seen examples of aircraft being brought down or disappearing in mysterious circumstances, of people being taken against their will under some form of hypnosis and subjected to terrifying pseudo-medical examinations for unknown purposes. We have seen cattle butchered and mutilated in our fields and people becoming seriously ill with all the symptoms of radiation poisoning.

If any of these occurrences could be proven to be the result of human action, and their perpetrators were caught and convicted, they would face long prison sentences. In some parts of the world they would face death. If any of these incidents can be attributed to an alien presence, then that presence is carrying out what can only be described as crimes against humanity.

OVER the past 35 years, there have been thousands of reports of abduction by aliens and there is a strong vein of similarity running through them.

The typical alien, known as the Grey, stands about 3½ft high, with a hugely distorted head and cadaverous arms and legs. The nose and mouth are vestigial, but the eyes burn deep into the collective memories of abductees. They are large and black, with no discernible pupils, rather like those of an insect. Many describe the hypnotic qualities or calming effect of those eyes.

The abductees feel themselves immobilised by a blinding white or blue/white light and a sense of floating from a bed or car into a round, white room resembling an operating theatre. There they are subjected to physical examination which can be painful and often includes the removal of ova and sperm.

There are numerous reports of the implantation of a small metallic object into a nostril and the execution of operations using thin, delicate probes, very like what we now call keyhole surgery.

Actual communication is rare and the general memory is that the aliens have no feelings of any kind towards their human captives and regard them rather as we regard our laboratory rats.

There is a tendency among ufologists to accept that much of this abduction is related to some kind of breeding programme. Two out of three abductees are female and some claim to have conceived alien babies which have been removed before birth during a subsequent abduction. Others say they were re-abducted and introduced to listless, hybrid children, presumably their own, with whom they were encouraged to bond.

However, one of the most lucid examples of this extra-terrestrial stud farming comes from a man. It happened in 1957, but the story did not reach the English-speaking world until 1965.

ANTONIO VILLAS-BOAS was a 23-year-old farm labourer living near the town of Sao Francisco de Sales in Brazil. He and his brother had witnessed bright lights in the sky twice before, but on this occasion Villas-Boas was alone ploughing his field when he was grabbed by aliens and carried, struggling, into their pear-shaped craft.

According to Villas-Boas, the only sounds the aliens made were 'low barks and yelps, neither very clear nor very hoarse, some longer, some shorter, at times containing several different sounds at once and at other times ending in a quaver. I can't reproduce them. My voice isn't made for that.'

He was smeared with a thick liquid, some of his blood was taken and he was urged to have sex with a female humanoid about 4½ft tall. She was not a Grey. Her eyes were blue and elongated, her hair almost white. Her mouth was a slit and her ears small. She had a very slim body with heavy thighs and bright red hair in her armpits and groin. She grunted and bit him gently on the chin once or twice. When the others called her away, she pointed to her belly and then to the sky.

When Villas-Boas was examined by Dr Fontes of Rio de Janeiro in February 1958, there were still scars on his face and other parts of his body. The symptoms seemed similar to those of radiation poisoning. Villas-Boas was interrogated quite roughly by the Brazilian military authorities. Yet he has never wavered from the details of his story.

Another famous encounter was that reported by Betty and Barney Hill in September 1961 when they were on holiday in New Hampshire in America. Betty spoke of seeing figures inside a pancake-shaped hovering object. Later, neither of the Hills could account for several hours of 'missing time'. But Betty's dreams seemed to continue where her conscious memories of the night left off.

She and Barney were stopped on the road by 11 men, the crew of the craft whose lights they had seen. They were taken on board the ship and each was subjected to a physical examination. In Betty's case samples were taken of her hair, her earwax, scrapings from her skin. A long needle was inserted into her navel as a sort of pregnancy test and she found herself discussing the universe (of which she knew very little) and the human concept of time with the crew leader.

Artists' impressions made to the Hills' specifications show bald-headed beings with mere indentations for ears, large, lidless eyes and vestigial noses.

What is the likely truth behind so many stories of alien abduction? It is inconceivable that everyone is lying. The obvious attractions of fame and fortune may well have induced a few, but the majority of abductees are not seeking to sell their stories; neither do they crave publicity. In fact, a high proportion of them insist that there can be no publicity.

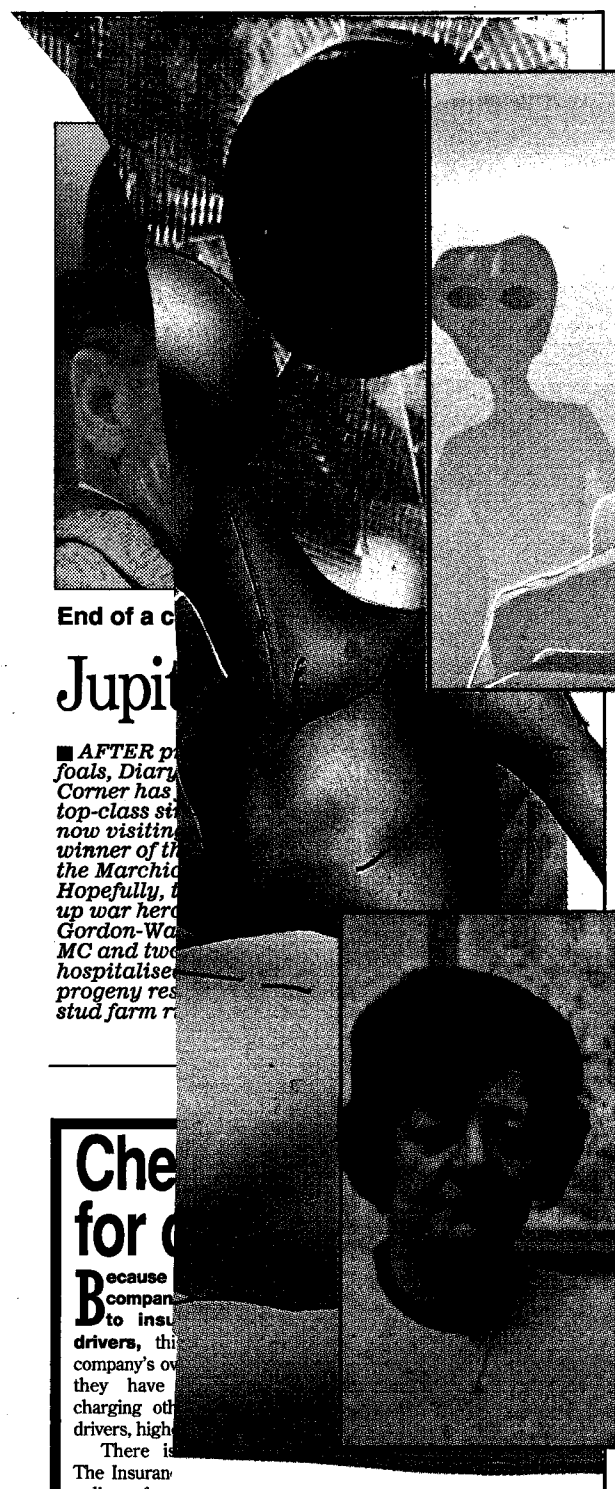
Of course, some of those who claim close encounters may be mentally ill. Temporal lobe disorders can result in delusions that might explain some abduction stories. A common explanation offered these days is that many of the abductees — the females especially — are reliving an incident of childhood sexual abuse.

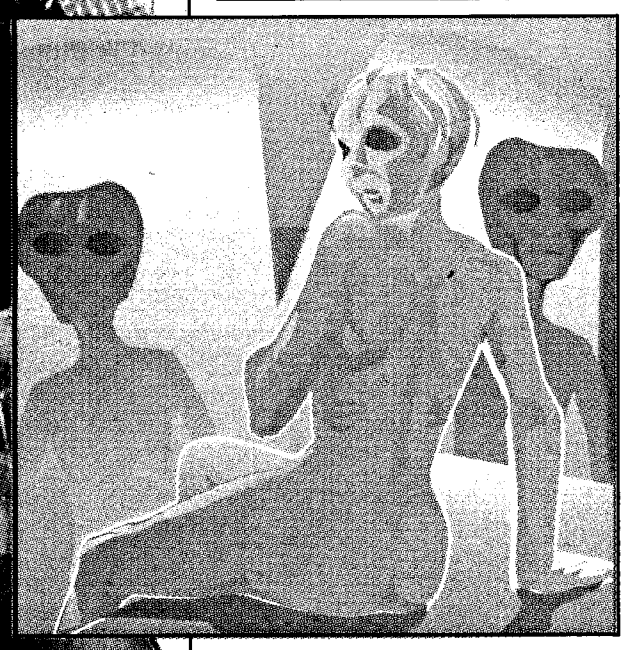
Perhaps. But one can, of course, stand this argument on its head. John Mack, professor of psychiatry at Harvard Medical School, whose theories have created a storm among ufologists and therapists alike, did just that.

At first highly sceptical and dismissive of abductees and their supporters, Mack is unusual among the scientific establishment in that he gave them the chance, as it were, to prove their case. Not only does he now believe that some abductions are genuine, he has postulated the theory that some cases of apparent sexual abuse are actually examples of alien abduction.

OFFICIAL UFO WATCHER POSES A DISTURBING QUESTION ABOUT ALIEN VISITORS

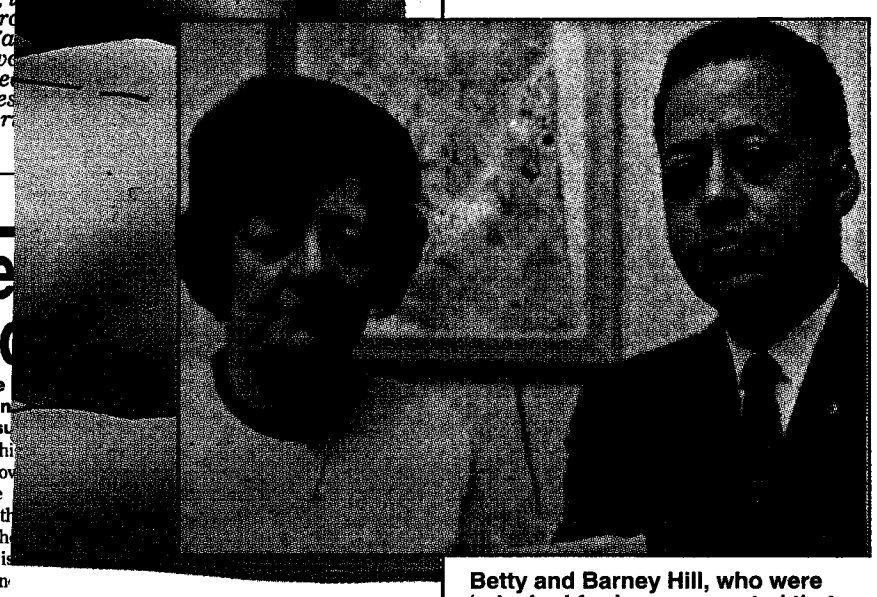
want from us?





EXPERIMENTS

Are humans used for alien stud-farming? A Brazilian farmworker described how he was snatched and taken aboard a space-craft, examined (main picture) and forced to have sex with a strange humanoid form (above)



Betty and Barney Hill, who were 'missing' for hours, reported that aliens experimented on them

ION: DAVID ACE

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he animal's flesh had been ripped from neck backwards along the body, yet re was no blood on the ground. There re no signs of a struggle and no tracks licating who or what might be respon- le. Burn marks were found nearby, ich shared traces of radioactivity.

n autopsy revealed that the cuts on horse's body had been caused by nething that generated huge amounts heat, which could only have been a er. Some of the mare's internal organs been removed.

JUST as UFO sightings before 1967 are sporadic and the records have not always survived, so we have no idea ther animal mutilations of this type urred earlier. Perhaps they weren't orted. Certainly, unlike the death of y, the Colorado mare, they didn't e the headlines.

t just as Kenneth Arnold's 'saucer' ting in 1947 led to the public aware- s of the UFO phenomenon, so Lady's ghter created an awareness that nething was going on, in Colorado at least. Reports multiplied, reaching a peak during the Seventies, not just in the U.S. but all over the world.

Horses, sheep and cattle were the most common targets. Most of the examples have certain common denominators — despite horrific mutilations, there was no blood on the ground; internal organs had been removed; and, perhaps most significant of all, so had the genitalia, irrespective of the animal's sex.

In 1993, the animal mutilation problem reached Britain. At various places across the South of England there was an outbreak of attacks on horses. Families were shocked and distressed to find their pets lying in paddocks with their genitals slashed. The police assumed that the culprit must be a pervert, someone not unlike the strange anti-hero of Peter Schaffer's play Equus, but no culprit has ever been found.

The scale of the problem remains unknown. Unlike the UFO phenomenon, which has its extremist cranks and is thus newsworthy, and crop circles, which have a natural beauty and charm, irrespective of how they are made, the mutilation of animals is abhorrent. Most of the coverage lies in local newspaper libraries and UFO literature. There is no central register. As with UFO sightings, it may well be that what has been reported is merely the tip of the iceberg. Where reports are made, the first port of call is usually the police. Animals are valuable to farmers and cherished by families as pets, particularly among the British, who pride themselves on being a nation of animal-lovers. In the U.S., of course, the likelihood of animals being attacked by natural predators is greater than it is in Britain.

Putting aside for the moment the possible existence of Surrey pumas and their ilk, our natural predators are the fox, birds of prey and, in remote parts of Scotland, the wildcat. A strong horse or cow need have no fear of any of these, although sheep, and especially lambs, have been taken by all of them as well as by dogs.

The U.S., by contrast, has the coyote, cougar, wolverine, bear and a larger range of birds of prey than we do, all of which pose more of a threat to livestock.

FARMERS have lost their stock to predators for centuries, but the peculiar characteristics of these slaughters had never been seen before. Most predators go for the throat, sometimes the hindquarters, while chasing a prey. They do not kill for sport but to eat, and in most cases little except the head and the odd bone is left afterwards.

But many of the carcasses of the mutilated animals were found intact and the usual scavengers seem to have left them alone. Normally a crow, for instance, will peck out the eyes of a dead lamb before starting to tear flesh from the body, but no such damage was evident in these corpses.

Even maggots were absent. The blowflies that feed on rotting carcasses and lay the eggs which develop into maggots — hundreds of thousands of them per carcass, which continue to feed on the flesh while they develop — were avoiding the mutilated animals.

All this flies in the face of nature and suggests that some other, unknown factor is at work. So, to a much greater degree, does the precision with which the animals were mutilated and the absence of blood. A predator rips with its jaws or claws, leaving blood and entrails around the kill.

If predators were not responsible, the police surmised, what about satanic cults? The old religion which pre-dates Christianity involved appeasing the Lord of Darkness. The notion of animal and even human sacrifice is common to many primitive cultures and despite the growth and spread of Christianity, it has never quite disappeared.

Discoveries of slaughtered animals were regarded as just another grim piece of evidence of some nauseating sect. And America, of course, has more of those per square inch than any other country.

Rewards were offered, investigations launched. They yielded nothing. Not even satanists, for all the diabolical help they may have received at their sabbats, were able to stab or cut up animals without drawing blood, and no goat-horned cult leader seemed to have access to a laser. Here police inspiration came to an end.

In their book Alien Animals, British researchers Janet and Colin Bord cite a number of instances in which there seems to be a link between animals and UFOs. Reports of UFO sightings in the U.S. and South Africa also mention a black dog, for centuries a sign of death or impending doom.

In a spate of animal mutilations in Puerto Rico between February and July 1975, owners heard loud screechings and what sounded like the flapping of gigantic wings in the dark. In an astonishing case in the Rocky Mountains, again in 1975, just about every conceivable alien phenomenon occurred in a single incident. Cattle mutilations were accompanied by an untraceable humming sound, in the sky and on the ground; 'entities' inside and outside ranch houses; disembodied voices; even a Bigfoot-type animal snuffling through woods nearby.

The Bords raise the legitimate question of whether blood is the real link, and whether it might be tied in with the human abduction experiences which now abound. Isn't it likely that aliens will be as fascinated by cattle, sheep and horses as they are by us?

What are we to make of the sexual mutilation of animals? Many abductees refer to medical and sexual examinations, of the navel, rectum and vagina, for instance. This has led to speculation about some alien attempt to mate with humans in order to create a hybrid creature.

But one might also draw the conclusion that if abduction stories are simply the rationalisation of some deep sexual psychosis (notice how like an unborn baby a typical description of a Grey sounds), inevitably there is going to be a lot of discussion about genitals. On the other hand, if a genetic experiment is under way, why should it be confined to humans?

We have no evidence at the moment of human mutilations, although many who undergo the most dramatic abduction experiences tell of physical pain followed by vomiting as well as psychological trauma.

Is this lack of mutilation simply a matter of differentiation — that as a higher species we are not subjected to it, perhaps because, whether we realise it or not, we can communicate with aliens? Or is it, as some allege, that the world's governments have done a deal with extraterrestrials and are tacitly allowing animal mutilations to take place as part of whatever technological exchange has been worked out, a deal whereby animals may be mutilated and killed as long as humans are abducted only temporarily and returned alive?

BECAUSE the link between ufology and mutilations is obscure and little discussed outside the U.S., I received no reports of mutilation from the public during my three years as UFO officer, and nor would I have expected to. However, ufologists who were aware of the link did get in touch with me.

My official line had to be that mutilations were a matter for the police or perhaps the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF).

Actually, one of the letters I received on a UFO sighting came from someone who happened to work for MAFF. We met and pushed things a little further. My contact made a number of discreet inquiries of MAFF's network of veterinary experts, who are not directly employed by the ministry but carry out various tasks for them around the country. Some of them admitted to having unsolved mutilation cases on their books.

It was clear to me that urgent study of the mutilation problem was needed, first to assess its true extent, then to try to provide a solution to the mystery. The only organisation centrally involved was MAFF, and it had no database of cases. Instead, like too many UFO sightings, reports were probably filed away in the memory banks of some computer.

I found this disturbing and, what is more, I was becoming deeply concerned that if aliens could sneak onto our land and single out and mutilate animals in the most horrific way, the Ministry of Defence did indeed have a problem on its hands.

■ *ABRIDGED extract from Open Skies, Closed Minds by Nick Pope and M. J. Trow, published by Simon & Schuster on June 3 at £14.99. © Nick Pope and M. J. Trow 1996.*

TOMORROW: THE ALIEN AUTOPSY THAT WAS KEPT SECRET FOR YEARS

I still smoke, but my cigarette has broken the habit

IT COULD change the atmosphere around smokers for good.

A tobacco company has produced a cigarette that produces virtually no smoke or ash.

Called Eclipse, it is said to reduce passive smoke by nearly 90 per cent, leaving only a trace of tobacco odour. Soon to be on sale in Britain, it works by burning a carbon tip to heat air which passes through a tube containing tobacco and glycerine.

By HARRIET SWAIN

When smokers inhale, the hot air vaporises the glycerine, releasing nicotine and tar from the tobacco without igniting it. The result is that the cigarette does not burn down, produces no ash and leaves fingers, teeth and walls stain free.

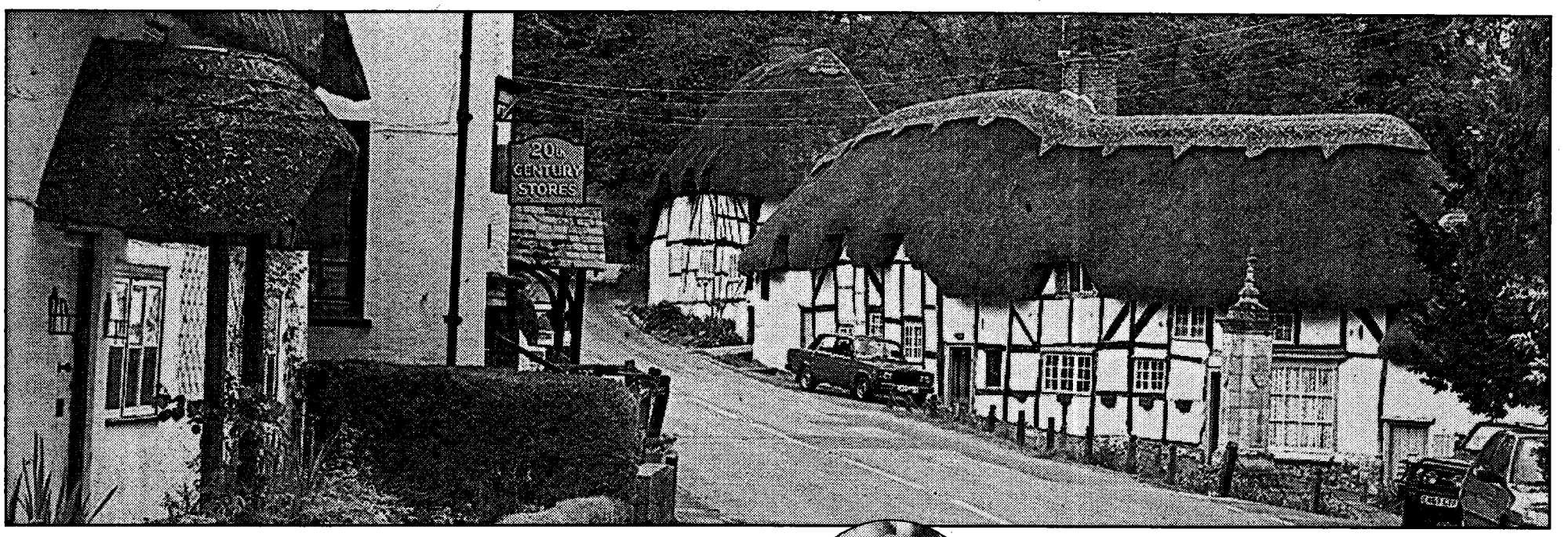
It is said to last about as long as a normal cigarette and cost much the same. Smokers simply exhale a puff of vapour which disappears almost instantly.

Manufacturer R J Reynolds — which has carried out trials in America, Germany and Sweden — says it also contains less nicotine and tar. The company believes the new cigarette will help rescue smokers from 'victimisation' by the anti-smoking lobby.

It is the firm's second attempt to produce a smokeless cigarette. In the Eighties it developed Premier at a cost of £210million, but smokers said it lacked flavour. The British anti-smoking organisation ASH was sceptical about any health benefits. But Marjorie Nicholson, director of the smoking rights group FOREST, welcomed the move.

'It would mean that anti-smokers would have to be honest about whether they just don't like smoke or want to stop people smoking altogether,' she said.

MINISTER'S BROTHER IN LORRY ROW AS NOISE ANNOYS HIS NEIGHBOURS



You're a road Hogg say angry villagers



Top: Wherwell's thatched cottages
Above: James Hogg, photographed in 1972
Right: An elderly resident pulls her dog out of the path of a lorry leaving Mr Hogg's estate
Below: The priory, Mr Hogg's home

By LUKE HARDING



WHILE Agriculture Minister Douglas Hogg battles with the mad cow issue, his younger brother has given his angry neighbours something to beef about.

James Hogg is being accused of destroying the tranquillity of the beautiful village where he has made his home by running a business which generates traffic.

One resident claimed that when they protested about his activities, the Old Etonian and former Grenadier Guards officer treated them as if they were 'wearing smocks and had ploughs'. He says their complaints are 'bunkum'.

At the heart of the row is a marine spares distribution firm 44-year-old Mr Hogg has set up in the grounds of his home, an ancient priory at Wherwell, near Andover, Hampshire, which he bought five years ago.

Villagers say it has led to heavy goods vehicles thundering through the narrow lanes and past the clusters of thatched cottages in the conservation area.

When some complained to the local council, it emerged Mr Hogg did not have planning permission for the business. He has now put in an application, which will be heard this month. But the villagers are determined to thwart his plans.

So far, 55 have objected and the parish council has expressed its concern. Locals are even more determined to fight since Mr Hogg's appearance at a noisy protest meeting when 100 angry villagers demanded an inquiry into his firm.

Critics claim he treated them like children. Chartered surveyor Tom O'Connor said: 'There are four doctors, a judge and many other professional and well-educated people who are objecting.

'And yet James Hogg treated the population as if they were wearing smocks and had ploughs. Wherwell is an extremely ancient piece of undisturbed England and we are objecting to the changes being made.

'The priory has survived so much over the centuries and has ended up being turned into an industry. I think this constitutes the first historical threat to the village in centuries.'

Mr Hogg set up his firm, Simplex Turbulo, from offices and a store on his 90-acre estate, which has its own deer park and trout-filled stretch of the Test.

Illustrator and mother of four Janet Marsh, 44, protested to Test Valley borough council. 'We hardly have a moment's peace as lorries rumble past five days a week,' she said yesterday.

'It has become unbearable. When you buy a house in a conservation area you expect that area to be conserved.'

Another villager said: 'I decided to add my name to the list of protesters after I saw an old lady being squeezed against the side of the bridge by a huge lorry. She was nearly knocked into the river.'

Yesterday, Mr Hogg dismissed claims of increased traffic as 'bunkum' and said only 11 lorries had made deliveries in the first three months of this year.

He claimed the Marshes had conducted a vendetta against him and that at the parish meeting a hard core of 15 people refused to hear him speak.

'There is a general grievance in the village, much of which has nothing to do with me,' he said. 'There is not one letter of complaint to the council which has a single fact attached.'

Mr Hogg upset villagers soon after he bought the priory, parts of which date back to Saxon times. As owner, he holds the title of deputy rector to the village. But he immediately cancelled the annual church fete, held on the priory lawns for generations.

Yesterday, Mr Hogg said the fete was inconvenient at the time because he and his wife Clare, and their children Thomas-Neil, five, and Domini, seven, had not yet moved in. He added that it was 'a rather old-fashioned, feudal thing'.