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MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

MOD Form 329D
(Revised 8/00)
PPQ = 100

Date opened / (date of first enclosure)

22 March 01

Registered file reference

64/3/11

Part No. B

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

DAS (SEC) 9A
Room 8245
MAN BLDG

[FULL ADDRESS & TELEPHONE NUMBER]

SUBJECT UFOs - Persistent Correspondence -
Dr D Clarke

[BLOCK CAPITALS]

RECORD OF KEYWORDS:

Referred to	Date	Min/Encl	Referred to	Date	Min/Encl	Referred to	Date	Min/Encl	Referred to	Date	Min/Encl
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CONTENTS
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to

Registered File Disposal Form

MOD Form 262F

(Revised 9/01)

FILE TITLE: (Main Heading - Secondary Heading - Tertiary Heading etc)

UFOS - PERSISTENT
CORRESPONDENCE.
DR D CLARKE.

Reference:

(Prefix and Number):

D/OAS (see) / 64/3/11

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B.

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ORDER NO 5. UFO REPORTS

10. When a report is received on an Unidentified Flying Object details are to be noted on the proforma in the SDO's Box. The report is to be handed to Sqn Ldr Ops the next working day.

Telefax

To:	[REDACTED]	(attn ARGE1)
From:	XO (CAP NEATISHHEAD)	
Date:	08/08/01	Pages: 3

Postmark 7889

4-5

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PAGE.01

MOD Form 953
(Revised 4/99)Unit Ref: **MILITARY AIRCRAFT ACTIVITY
PUBLIC COMPLAINT FORM**

■ To be completed in CAPITALS
■ Forward the completed form to
the authorities listed at Section 1
within 5 days.

SECTION 1: ACTION AUTHORITIES

Action	Info	Action	Info	Action	Info
☐	☐ Unit	☐	☐ Comd Sec HQ Land	☐	☐ RAF HQ PTC
☐	☐ MOD Sec(AS)2b	☐	☐ D/C+L (F+S) Claims 3	☐	☐ Other
☐	☐ N9 (Sec2)S02	☐	☐ RAF HQ STC	Specify	

FOR MOD USE ONLY.

OS Grid Ref:	Serial No:	File Ref:
LFA:	Previous Complaint	No. of Complaints to date:
NS:	Serial No:	File Ref:

SECTION 2: DETAILS OF COMPLAINANT

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Dr/Other:
Surname:
Forename(s):
Address:
Town/City:
County:
Postcode:
Telephone No.

SECTION 3: LOCATION OF INCIDENT

☐ Address at Section 2,
or:
Address:
Town/City:
County:
Postcode:

SECTION 4: DETAILS OF INCIDENT

Date:
Time:
How many aircraft involved:
Type of aircraft
☐ Jet ☐ Prop ☐ Helo ☐ Light a/c
Other (Specify)
Markings
☐ Grey ☐ Camouflaged ☐ Red/White ☐ Black/Yellow
Other (Specify)
Height
☐ Low ☐ Medium ☐ High
Estimation in Feet:
Direction:
Inside MATZ?
☐ Yes ☐ No
If Yes which MATZ?

NOW TURN OVER

SECTION 5: PARTICULARS OF COMPLAINT (Continue on a separate sheet if necessary).

[illegible]

**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	1996 - 609
1975 - 208	1997 - 425
1976 - 200	1998 - 193
1977 - 435	1999 - 228
1978 - 750	2000 - 210
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".

REPORT OF AN UNEXPLAINED AERIAL SIGHTING

1.	Date and time of sighting. (Duration of sighting.)	
2.	Description of object. (No of objects, size, shape, colour, brightness, noise.)	
3.	Exact position of observer. Geographical location. (Indoors/outdoors, stationary/moving.)	
4.	How object was observed. (Naked eye, binoculars, other optical device, camera or camcorder.)	
5.	Direction in which object was first seen. (A landmark may be more helpful than a roughly estimated bearing.)	
6.	Approximate distance.	
7.	Movements and speed. (side to side, up or down, constant, moving fast, slow)	
8.	Weather conditions during observation. (cloudy, haze, mist, clear)	

9.	To whom reported. (Police, military, press etc)	
10.	Name, address and telephone no of informant.	
11.	Other witnesses.	
12.	Remarks.	
13.	Date and time of receipt.	

Dr David Clarke



14 June 2001

Dear 

Further to my letter of 5 June and my question concerning the radar tracking and interception of unidentified flying objects by RAF Neatishead/Lakenheath (USAF) in 1956.

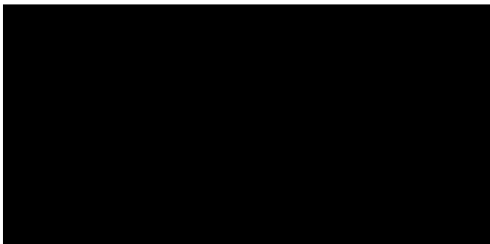
Subsequent to sending the letter my attention has been drawn to an article (enclosed) by F.H.C Wimbledon RAF (retired) that appeared in a 1999 issue of the *Newsletter of the RAF Air Warfare Museum*. Mr Wimbledon, you will recall, was the Chief Controller on duty at RAF Neatishead G.C.I. on the night in question and personally supervised the interception by Venom NF-3s scrambled from the Battle Flight at RAF Waterbeach.

Your attention is drawn to paragraph 3 of Wimbledon's article that refers to a debriefing by "a very senior RAF officer" and a report prepared for HQ Fighter Command, RAF Bentley Priory.

The one inaccuracy in the account is Wimbledon's statement that the interceptors came from 253 Squadron. The QRA squadron on that evening was No. 23 Squadron and as I have previously noted, I have copies of flying logbook entries completed by six aircrew who took part in the interception attempts.

Given that a senior RAF officer has now discussed his role in these events in public I wish to ask for the MOD's position on this matter and whether an account of, or an explanation for the events of the night of 13/14 August 1956 can be found in official records.

Yours Sincerely,



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THE 1990 TORNADO UFO SIGHTING

Re-entry by satellite booster cited as likely explanation



DR. DAVID CLARKE & ANDY ROBERTS

We were interested to read Richard Foxhall's article on the sighting made by the crews of three RAF Tornado aircraft above the North Sea on 5 November 1990. Richard should be congratulated for perseverance and determination in his dealings with the Ministry of Defence that led to the release of the signal sent to Whitehall.

In his article Richard poses a number of questions concerning the possible identity of the UFO reported by the aircrew, and asks why the MoD apparently have no record of an investigation into this incident. Richard's speculation concerning secret Stealth aircraft are interesting and probably correct with reference to other incidents, but we believe they are in this case a red herring, and we will explain why.

Richard does not appear to be aware that many other UFO reports were filed on the same night, at the same time, by the crews of civilian airliners in different parts of Europe.

These shed new light on the report by the Tornado crews, and may explain why the MoD decided no further investigation was required.

Firstly, readers should be aware that the Tornado sighting was *not* first published in Nick Pope's *Open Skies, Closed Minds* (1996). It was in fact reported in *Flying Saucer Review* Vol 26, No 2 (May-June 1991), in an article by FSR consultant Paul Whitehead, just seven months after the event. He obtained an account of what was seen from one of the Tornado pilots who had spoken to a British Airways' captain. Reports also appeared in a number of British newspapers at the time, including the *Sunday Telegraph* and the *Daily Herald* (Glasgow).

Captain Mike D'Alton was at the controls of a Boeing 737 en route from Rome to London when, above the Alps at 06.03pm on 5

November 1990, he and the cabin crew saw "a set of bright lights.. ahead and to the right and higher than we were.."

D'Alton's timing was within three minutes of that reported by the Tornado pilot in his signal to the MoD, so we can safely assume that they saw the same UFO, which would therefore have been many tens of miles away.

D'Alton was quoted as saying: "What we saw was one large, fairly bright light. Ahead of it was a formation of three fainter lights in a triangle. Another faint light was behind the large light and was slightly slower.. we watched the lights for two minutes then it took a lightning-fast right-angle turn and zoomed out of sight."

Note how similar the captain's description is to that of the Tornado pilot, "...five to six white steady lights, one blue steady light... UFO appeared in our [right hand] side same level... it went into our 12 o'clock and accelerated away."

One of the Tornado aircrew told D'Alton: "...all the pilots are adamant that what they had seen was definitely not satellite debris" and the captain himself was quoted as saying: "This thing was not of this world. In all my 23 years of flying I've never seen a craft anything like that."

Before we discover what this 'UFO' may have been, readers should also be aware that this formation of lights was seen by the crews of at least three other civilian aircrew at that same moment.

These included the captain of a Lufthansa airlines flight and an Air France pilot who was flying at 33,000 feet above the Pyrenees. In none of these cases was the UFO tracked by radar, which adds weight to the conclusion that it was much further away than the witnesses believed.

At the same time in Belgium, dozens of people on the ground reported a "triangular object with three lights, flying slowly and soundlessly to the southwest."

The Air Forces of France, Belgium and Germany collected dozens of these reports and concluded the 'object seen was actually tens of miles high.' Recording equipment also detected two sonic booms which suggested something had entered the earth's atmosphere.

When all the observations are gathered together and times are corrected for neighbouring zones, it becomes clear that the same, relatively slow moving object was sighted right across Europe that night. The date and time of the sightings correlate with the re-entry of the Gorizont/Proton rocket body (satellite booster), which burned up in the atmosphere across northern France and Germany around 6 to 6.30pm [GMT] on the evening of 5 November 1990.

This explanation was confirmed afterwards by the French Service for the Investigation of Re-entry Phenomena (reported in the *Glasgow Herald*, 7 November 1990).

We can speculate that both the British MoD and Dutch authorities would have been informed about the satellite re-entry when they scrutinised the report made by the Tornado crews. If the date and time of the report tied in with the re-entry, as it did, established procedure would require no further investigation.

This is the answer to Richard Foxhall's question. The conclusion that the UFO reported was part of a satellite burning up in the earth's atmosphere may not be accepted by everyone. We agree that it does fit all aspects of the description provided by the aircrews, but we don't have a clear statement from them nor do we know if they are aware of the facts concerning the re-entry which occurred that night.

We would point out that aircrews are human beings, and no matter how highly trained they may be for combat, this would not be the first time that pilots have seen and reported a spectacular and unexpected re-entry of space junk as a UFO.

This does not imply that all UFO reports by pilots can be so easily explained away, and indeed we will be presenting one case we feel remains inexplicable in a future issue of *UFO Magazine*. But we believe that in this instance, taking all the evidence into account, the facts point more directly towards a man-made rocket body re-entering earth's atmosphere rather than a Stealth aircraft, or indeed an 'unknown'.

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TESTIMONY TO FACT**

Crop Circles & THE MoD



Prince Philip, the Royal Equerry & Flying Saucers

Dr David Clarke and Andy Roberts

BACKGROUND Writing in the *Sunday Express* on 17 July 1953, society columnist, Ephraim Hardcastle, noted, 'I had not realised that the Duke of Edinburgh's interest in mechanical contraptions extended as far as flying saucers. But now I hear that the Duke has asked that all saucer information received by the Air Ministry should be duplicated to him.'

Hardcastle did not reveal the source of this tantalising snippet of information, but the casual aside sparked years of speculation about the role played by His Royal Highness Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, in the subject of UFOs.

These rumours were little more than wild speculation until the publication, in 1997, of Sir Peter Horsley's autobiography, *Sounds From Another Room*.

Horsley had been the Royal Equerry to Prince Philip between 1949 and 1955 and his book revealed the Duke had more than a passing interest in flying saucers. The truth, strange though it may seem, is that His Royal Highness, along with several of his aides were

fascinated by flying saucers and wanted to know as much as possible about the mysterious phenomenon. As a consequence of the Duke's unique position within society it was impossible for him to openly investigate and research such a contentious subject as flying saucers so, his equerry, RAF Squadron Leader Peter Horsley, began to probe the subject and to pass his findings directly to Prince Philip.

As part of our intensive investigation into the historical history of UFOs in the United Kingdom, we conducted a remarkable interview with Sir Peter Horsley in November 2000, concentrating on his and Prince Philip's interest in flying saucers. As far as we are aware, this was the only in-depth interview given by Sir Peter on the subject, and took place not long before his death.

Earl Mountbatten

Between 1950 and 1954 hardly a day passed without a newspaper or magazine article reporting on the latest sightings.

Many highly influential public figures came to believe in the reality of extraterrestrial visitors, and prepared for what they assumed would be open contact with the visitors within a very short time.

One of the most influential personalities was Earl Louis Mountbatten, of Burma, who would later become the Chief of Defence Staff. It was perhaps as a result of Mountbatten's influence that Prince Philip, his nephew, began to make his own inquiries into the subject.

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As part of our intensive investigation into the historical history of UFOs in the United Kingdom, we conducted a remarkable interview with Sir Peter Horsley in November 2000, concentrating on his and Prince Philip's interest in flying saucers. As far as we are aware, this was the only in-depth interview given by Sir Peter on the subject, and took place not long before his death.

INTERVIEW

RC: How did the subject of flying saucers first come to your attention?
PH: There was an incredible amount of newspaper reports in-between 1950 and 1952. Every time you opened the papers there was another report, and that's when my interest was aroused. It was not from anything I had heard whilst serving in the RAF, it was entirely because of what I was in the newspapers.

Every day there were reports, and you could not fail to be interested really.

Prince Philip was concerned about publicity of any sort. He didn't want any publicity drawn to him at all, particularly about flying saucers at the time because they were a bit of a giggle really. I asked him if I could do a study of it, which I did.

A MATTER OF CLARIFICATION

The exact role played by Prince Philip in Horsley's study is open to dispute. Horsley tried to play down the Duke's overt interest, suggesting that he was the instigator and His Royal Highness merely an interested observer. This was a natural stance for an ex-Royal Equerry to take, but our research has established to our satisfaction that it was indeed Prince Philip who was the prime mover behind Horsley's study.

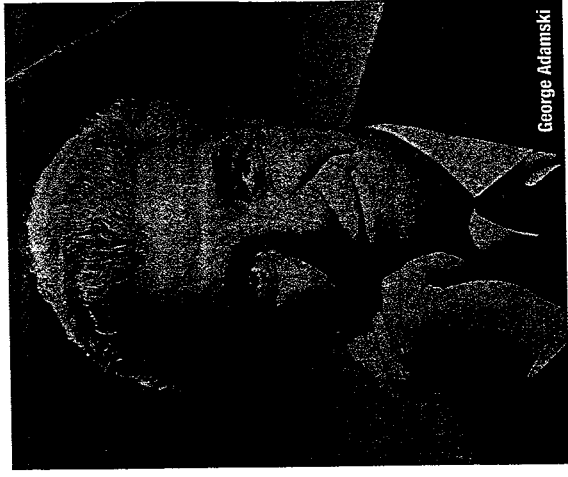
Derek Dempster, journalist, RAF pilot and one of the founding editors of the highly influential magazine, *Flying Saucer Review*, confirmed this fact in a recent interview.

He told us: 'The interesting thing was that when Peter Horsley was there [Buckingham Palace] we established a link with the Palace whereby I was handing over some information to them and they were letting me have some files. Prince Philip's files, some extraordinary things.'

'I couldn't understand half of them. I used to get these through Peter Horsley. I used to go up to the Palace and get these.'

We asked Mr. Dempster what was in these files, and he said: 'Funny things about UFOs coming out of Russia, or out of Siberia, around there. But they were very odd and I didn't understand them at all.'

'Because they seemed to be very esoteric. I cannot tell you any more about them because they were very



George Adamski

strange and it was a hell of a long time ago, 50 years now.'

When set alongside Ephraim Hardcastle's *Sunday Express* newspaper story in 1953, Dempster's recollections prove that Prince Philip was more than just an interested observer of a post-war space-age craze.

Others thought so too, and during the 1950s the Duke of Edinburgh received copies of several private UFO studies compiled by a number of individuals, including serving RAF officers. One prominent example was Squadron Leader Peter Caddy.

At first glance the name may not mean much, but Caddy is world famous as the founder of the international New Age centre at Fildrom in Scotland. During the 1950s, whilst still serving in the RAF, Caddy and a group of British psychics were claiming similar experiences to those of American flying saucer 'contactees', George Adamski.

Caddy's group said they were in telepathic communication with the Space Brothers who, like Adamski's 'contactees', were concerned about the growing nuclear threat and other environmental issues facing Earth in the aftermath of World War Two.

Caddy produced a paper (in our possession) titled 'An Introduction to the Nature and Purpose of Unidentified Flying Objects'.

Caddy's group had been given telepathic guidance by the Space Brothers who stipulated that twenty six copies of the report were to be disseminated among a list of named high ranking officials and dignitaries. One of these was the Duke of Edinburgh. Caddy arranged a meet-

ing with Peter Horsley at Buckingham Palace and discovered that Prince Philip's interest in flying saucers was already very strong.

As luck would have it Caddy's official duties soon took him on board the Royal Yacht and it was there he handed a copy of his report to Commander Mike Parker who, after reading the study, commented: 'Oh good! Anything to have a crack at the dome-headed boys' (meaning the scientists).

Bearing all this in mind we wondered if the royal interest in flying saucers extended beyond their 'nuts and bolts' aspect into more esoteric subjects, such as contact with space visitors, as alleged by American 'contactees' such as Adamski.

The key link between the contactees and Buckingham Palace was the Controller of the Royal Household, General Sir Frederick 'Boy' Browning. The General was a distinguished soldier who had led British forces during Operation Market Garden in 1944. He was also a friend of Desmond Leslie, Adamski's co-author, and it was through Browning that Prince Philip became acquainted with the book *Flying Saucers Have Landed*.

RC: Did you read George Adamski's book?

PH: Yes I did. General 'Boy' Browning met him of course. My view is that he was a charlatan. That was so strange to go up in one of these things. I still would doubt it.

Adamski at the time was a joke, he really was. He was making money out of it, I think. I never took him seriously. Desmond Leslie (co-author of Adamski's first book) was an Adamski fan of course and he

Prince Philip, the Royal Equerry & Flying Saucers

was in the same category in my opinion. He was publicly orientated.

There are certain people who want to be noticed all the time and he was one of those. He came to the Palace and met General Browning of course, and General Browning thought quite a lot about him.

RC: What happened to the reports you made for Prince Philip?
PH: They were handed over to Buckingham Palace. I don't know if they still exist. The man who kept charge of it all was a Mr. Trudy, who was the Chief Clerk, who had a file on this I think.

[Besides the mysterious Russian reports] Peter Horsley supplied Prince Philip with sighting reports, news and first-hand interviews with many of the classic cases of the early 1950s.

RC: Who gave you authorisation to do this study and to talk to pilots?
PH: No one. I just got in touch with them. You see as Royal Equerry at the time you had an awful lot of power. I wasn't responsible to anyone in the Ministry. I was the equerry to the Duke of Edinburgh. I could get in touch with anyone!

I talked to one or two pilots in the RAF. This was the famous case at West Malling. Now, they reported seeing something and they couldn't

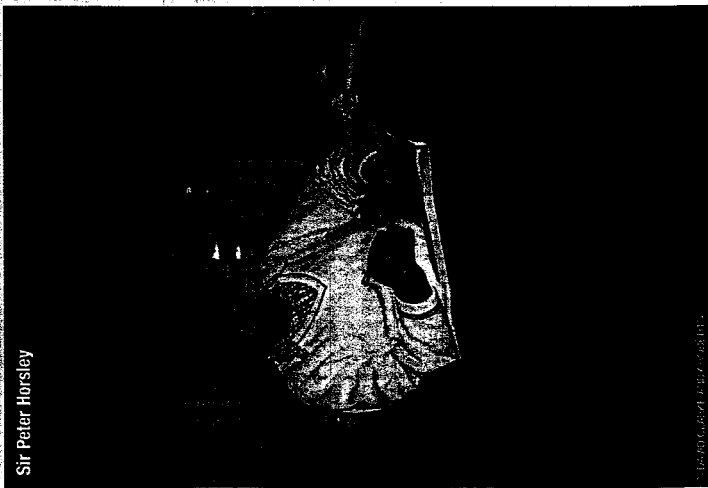
both be hallucinating, and they came in for a lot of ribbing. They wouldn't have reported it I think if they had known.

They had a medical and all sorts of things and it was very difficult to disprove.

[The case Peter Horsley is referring to here is the classic sighting by RAF aircrew from 25 Squadron that took place on the afternoon of 3 November 1953. News of the incident was broken by Derek Dempster, who had left the RAF and was working as a correspondent for the London Daily Express.

Pilot Terry Johnson and navigator Geoffrey Smythe knew little about flying saucers when they took off from RAF West Malling, Kent, in a Vampire night-fighter. They were flying at 20,000 ft towards the Thames Estuary when Johnson saw a bright object 10,000 feet higher and dead ahead.

The UFO was stationary and slumped like a doughnut with a 'bright light around the periphery'. After around 30 seconds it suddenly accelerated, disappearing at high speed towards the southeast. On landing the men decided to make a formal report which was passed up the chain of command and eventually reached HQ Fighter Command, who telephoned Peter Horsley.



Sir Peter Horsley

Although Horsley's position opened up exclusive establishment doors there were occasions where subterfuge was felt necessary to obtain an interview. The West Malling UFO was one such case.]

RC: Why was it necessary to visit West Malling using a 'cover' to talk to the two aircrew from 25 Squadron?
PH: Well it was rather odd for a Royal Equerry to go to the base. I thought it was one of the better contacts I had. I put it in the unexplained category.

[In his autobiography Horsley explains that he contacted the Station Commander and it was arranged that he would visit the airfield 'disguised' as a night fighter Squadron Commander keen to keep in touch with current developments. In this way he was able to meet Smythe and Johnson and to discuss their remarkable sighting.

Smythe told us: 'We were informed by our squadron Commanding Officer that he [Horsley] was coming to see us to get a report on the incident for the Duke of Edinburgh who was very interested in flying saucers at that time.'

'We were ushered into the CO's office and we sat with Peter Horsley for about an hour, and he asked us questions about what had happened.'

'He was very quiet and seemed not to be terribly interested. He was doing a job if you like, for the Duke. He had come to us at the bequest of the Duke, and he was obeying the Duke's orders to come down to West Malling and find out what was happening. That's what he said.'

This adds yet more weight to our conclusion that Prince Philip was the driving force behind Horsley's flying saucer study. In his autobiography, Horsley notes:

'I submitted a report to the Duke of Edinburgh, saying that I was satisfied that the Vampire crew were perfectly reliable.'

'Though not a trained interrogator, I was quite satisfied in my own mind that what Johnson and Smythe had seen was a genuine UFO.'

Besides travelling to RAF stations to interview aircrew witnesses as part of his study for Prince Philip, Peter Horsley invited several members of the public who had reported UFO sightings to Buckingham Palace.

Although Prince Philip appears never to have been present at these interviews Horsley's reasoning was that during witnesses to the Palace would act as some kind of 'truth drug', encouraging them to give the fullest and truest accounts of their experiences.

PH: I went into RAF records, talked to a lot of people and the Captain of

an airliner who saw them and his passengers saw them, the famous Howard case in 1954, and I spoke to him, in fact he came to the Palace. I thought I would impress him, and make sure that he spoke the truth, and I swear that he did.

Howard was very interesting. He was flying a BOAC airliner out of Gatwick [Newfoundland] and he saw these things circling the airliner.

His crew and some of the passengers saw them as well. He was the best one I spoke to. Howard's was the sighting I was most impressed with.

There was the Little Rissington report too. This was the case of the instructor and pilot in a Meteor. Both saw this thing which filled the windscreen of their aircraft. It was obviously very large, enormous, and was seen on radar, and they scrambled the Tangmere wing after it, but they never caught it.

This is the strange thing for me, that they are very elusive. I don't know whether there was any record kept of that. None have crashed that I know of in this country and they seem to be able to master their whereabouts, because you would think that today that radar would pick them up. It seems to have picked them up in the 50s, but not today.

[Here Horsley refers to a case which took place on 21 October 1952 at RAF Little Rissington, then the RAF's Central Flying School. Both the instructor, Air Commodore Michael Smythe and his student, Lt. Cdr. David Crofts of the Royal Navy, saw three huge, disc-shaped objects in the sky for several minutes during a daylight exercise.

Steven Darbishire's famous photograph taken in Comiston in 1954

The objects were tracked on radar and Smythe and Crofts were confronted by Air Intelligence. The full story of this case is in *Out of the Shadows*, pp 98-102, and an expanded version of the account, with contemporary interviews with both pilots will be featured in an upcoming issue of *UFO Magazine*.

One of the most famous UFO sightings of the 50s - and possibly one of the most famous UFO photographs ever - was taken in February 1954 by schoolboy Steven Darbishire.

PH: And the Darbishire boys, they took some photographs in Comiston. He came to the Palace with his father too. I don't know whether they were speaking the truth, but I took the photographs to Wallace Heaton, who was a famous photographer at the time, and asked him to investigate them and he said yes, they could have been faked, but it would have cost a lot of money. And I don't think the Darbishire boys got anything out of it really, except a fair amount of publicity.

RC: Who was present when these people arrived?
PH: Only me. They came to see me in my study and I would talk to them as I'm talking to you now. That was my point in inviting them to the Palace, to overwhelm them!

[When we interviewed Stephen Darbishire in April last year, he vividly remembered the visit he made to the Palace. The 13-year-old schoolboy was in London with his father to discuss the photographs at a meeting of a 'flying saucer' society. During the visit a rented car was sent to pick them up and take them to the Palace.

The trip had been arranged by Desmond Leslie via Peter Horsley.

As a London newspaper reported at the time: '[Stephen] went to Buckingham Palace to talk to one of the Duke of Edinburgh's secretaries. It was all very hush-hush... it seems that the Duke read about Stephen and wanted to know more; so it was arranged that the schoolboy should talk it over with someone at the Palace and that a report of the conversation should be sent to the Duke in Australia.'

In 2001 Stephen recalled: 'We went with shut up windows and were questioned by three very nice gentlemen. One was a secretary, Philip's secretary [Commander Mike Parker].

'Prince Philip was interested, and just wanted to know what was going on, that's all it was.'

Horsley himself was somewhat overwhelmed by one incident in which he believed he may have met an extra-terrestrial. This peculiar meeting came about through Air Chief Marshal Sir Arthur Barrett, who had retired from the RAF following the cessation of hostilities in 1945, but was still in touch with Horsley through his role as Gentleman Usher to the Sword of State.

Barrett was himself interested in UFOs and it was through this mutual interest that he introduced Horsley to a General Martin who, according to Horsley, 'believed flying saucers were extraterrestrial from a highly developed planet whose inhabitants were trying to warn us of the perils of nuclear war.'

Peter Horsley takes up the story:

Dear General

I am very sorry that I haven't been able to sort out the flying saucer case for you. I hope to get it together shortly when I will send it to you.

I thought that you might like to see this magazine on Flying Saucers edited by Derek Dempster, who is a Flight Lieutenant in No. 604 Auxiliary Squadron with 11 Flies the regularity on Airborne with the Daily Express (no recommendation!)

The article which is particularly interesting is the one on the report of Flight Lieutenant Saladin. I have spoken to him and he tells a most convincing story.

Yours sincerely
Peter Horsley

Arrived: The Earl Mountbatten of Burma, KG, DSO.

Letter from Sir Peter Horsley to Earl Mountbatten

PH: Sir Arthur Barrett was interested in flying saucers and he said 'I'd like you to meet a friend of mine, General Martin' who lived near me at the time, 'because he is very interested in them too'. So we went to the 'In and Out Club' one evening and I met General Martin and he said, 'I'd like you to meet someone, a Mrs. Markham, who has a friend when I want that evening to that that she'd like you to meet'. And that's when I went that evening to that floor met this extraordinary man there.

[Horsley admits he had no idea what to expect at the peculiar meeting.]
PH: I thought it would be 'just an evening', the usual gushing, 'would you like a glass of sherry', but it was not like that at all; it was a very serious business and he sat by the fire, and I couldn't really see him very well at all and it was getting dark, and there was just a table-lamp by the fire.

RC: Did he introduce himself when you entered the room?
PH: No. Mrs. Markham said: 'I want you to meet my friend Mr. Janus' and I said 'How do you do. And we sat down and we went straight in.

[After the introductions, Mr. Janus said he wished to know everything Peter Horsley knew about flying saucers. Horsley then asked what Janus's interest in him was. Mr. Janus was straight to the point.]
PH: He said 'I want to meet the Duke of Edinburgh'. And you know,

that made me worry about the security side of it. He was just a normal person. He seemed about 35-40. I talked quietly, that's about all. I think I shook hands with him when I went in, I'm not sure.

[Whether or not Horsley was worried by the 'security' side of it, he fell sufficiently under the mysterious spell of Mr. Janus and came to believe he could read his thoughts.

Mr. Janus sat and talked to Peter Horsley for several hours about a wide range of subjects, from the practical to the esoteric.

Horsley was astounded at just how much he seemed to know, especially about physics and what appeared to be a glass of sherry, but it was conveyed to Horsley was very much typical of the 1950s contactees; a message of doom and gloom for life on earth unless mankind was prepared to become more spiritual.

Eventually Mr. Janus turned to the subject of flying saucers and several pages in Horsley's book is given over to Janus's proto new-age saucer speak.

Bizarre through the meeting with Mr. Janus was, there was a further twist to the story.

After writing his usual report for Prince Philip, Horsley discussed the case with General 'Boy' Browning, the Duke's treasurer, who was desperately interested and persuaded him to arrange another meeting. ➤

Prince Philip, the Royal Equerry & Flying Saucers

Suddenly, all was not what it seemed.

Horsley tried phoning Mrs. Markham over a period of several days but got no reply. He turned to General Martin for advice, but he became 'distant and evasive' and told Horsley that Mrs. Markham had gone away and he knew nothing about her whereabouts. In desperation Horsley went back to the second floor flat in Smith Street only to find it empty. On questioning her neighbours he was puzzled to be told 'she had appeared to leave in a hurry'.]

Was Mr Janus an extraterrestrial? Although Horsley thought so, it seems unlikely. But if he wasn't an 'ET' then who was he? A practical joke played on Peter Horsley at his expense is certainly possible, as not all those close to Prince Philip shared his enthusiasm for flying saucers. But there may be a more logical, if slightly sinister, explanation. Consider this.

Prince Philip's keen interest in flying saucers was well known to both his immediate circle of friends and within the media. It would therefore have quickly come to the attention of the security services whose responsibility was both to protect the Royal Family and the country. It may have been thought that HRH's interest was leaving him open to manipulation. As this all took place at the height of the Cold War the security services would have been worried about the possibility that official secrets could be leaked by Prince Philip, or his equerry, if they were approached in certain ways.

Horsley didn't agree when we asked if the whole thing could have been a set-up, something put on by the Security Services.

PH: I don't think so at all. I think that the flat was 'borrowed' for the evening. But I went back to the flat again and it was empty. But then life moves on very quickly, and I didn't spend much time trying to trace him really.

And General Martin, I never saw him again. It was very funny because I thought of reporting it to the Security Forces because he knew too much, he seemed to have a lot of knowledge of power plants and that sort of thing and it was as though my thoughts had transferred because that's when he disappeared.

RC: Did you question General Martin about this?

PH: No, because he had disappeared. I never found him again.

RC: What's your opinion of the Janus episode in retrospect?

PH: I don't know. I mean, after reading Tim's [Good's] latest book he does say in there that there are 'observers' about. He was a very strange man and he impressed me

and I still remember him today. I wish I knew.

[Despite Horsley's assurances to the contrary, the likelihood of his meeting with Mr. Janus being either a practical joke or, more likely an intelligence agency 'set up' remains. Perhaps the clues were there for Sir Peter from the start; the meeting was hosted by a Mrs. Markham, and there is a Markham Square immediately adjacent to Smith Street. And the very name 'Janus' is taken from the Roman god with two faces. A clue that Janus was in some way 'two-faced'?

Perhaps, somewhere, deep in the archives of MI5, lies a file detailing just how far the Security Services probed Peter Horsley, and Prince Philip's integrity by manipulating his interest in flying saucers and extraterrestrials.]

Horsley's tour of duty as Prince Philip's equerry ended in 1955, but he continued his active interest in UFOs. His growing fascination for the subject does not appear to have adversely effected his career prospects. From 1971, Horsley was promoted to Commander of the RAF's nuclear deterrent bomber force and after two years became Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Strike Command, where he remained until retirement in 1975.

PH: Later on when I went back to the RAF, I was in a job where the Air Force Ops' Room came under me and I saw an incredible amount of reports. These went into the Air Force tray, to AFOR [Air Force Operations Room], because all reports of unusual occurrences in the air went into AFOR.

RC: Where was this based?

PH: At the Ministry of Defence.

This was the Standard Operations Procedure that I refer to in my book.

Any report went into the Air Ministry AFOR and a report was filled in and from there it would go to the Technical branch for analysis and, as I say, 95 per cent could be explained. There was an incredible number of reports.

RC: What period are you referring to here?

PH: The Air Force reports I saw were later on, about 1965. Between 1965 and 1969, that sort of time.

RC: What happened to all this paperwork, because the MoD say today that everything before 1961 has been destroyed or lost - they say it doesn't exist.

PH: I bet you that it does still exist, at the Ministry. Perhaps they are not telling you, I don't know. They [the reports] went through to Technical Intelligence, D.D.I. (Tech) and they did analysis of them and they were filed away somewhere. There was an immense number of reports, I can

assure you of that. And I doubt that they would have been destroyed.

RC: Did you ever come across any evidence for a cover-up of information to do with UFOs?

PH: I did contact the Americans at one stage and the Americans wouldn't tell me anything. I was very surprised and I had a feeling that they were covering up something. I was doing this study for Prince Philip and there was some American report and I got onto the Air Attache (Group Captain H.A.C. Bird-Wilson). That was 1952 and he made enquiries for me in the USA and he came back and more or less hinted that the Americans were covering up. Not actually saying so, but he got nothing. But I'm surprised because he was our Air Attaché and had lots of contacts in Washington.

RC: Do you know why orders were issued to RAF pilots in 1953 not to discuss this subject with the Press or anyone outside the Air Ministry?

PH: I don't know. They probably thought the best thing to do was keep quiet. The forces do this from time to time, they don't want pilots and people to talk about it.

This subject did worry the C of C of Fighter Command at the time, this I do know. His interest was that the Russians were getting into our airspace. Sir Thomas Pike, I talked to him about them. He just pooh-poohed it all, but one worry was that our airspace was being invaded by the Russians. It was the height of the Cold War, after all!

RC: How seriously was this subject taken at the time?

PH: Well you have to remember this was the height of the Cold War. I think it was quite serious because we were experimenting with supersonic and very high-flying planes and we were intercepting Russian aircraft that were trying to penetrate our airspace at that time, up in the North particularly, so any report was taken very seriously.

They never caught a Russian plane over this country. They had one that came over the coast by mistake and the pilot said to his co-pilot: 'I wonder if this is frightening the British as much as it is frightening me!'

RC: What's your opinion of UFOs, after doing your study for Prince Philip?

PH: I don't believe in them [flying saucers] and I don't disbelieve in them. The conclusions I reached were very much in line with most official views on the subject [that] 95 per cent of the sightings could be explained by normal things such as balloons, but a hard core of five per cent were totally unexplainable. The five per cent are incredible really and they can't be explained away.

There's something going on, of that I'm sure, but what I didn't know and that is the view I still hold today.

SUMMARY

Sir Peter Horsley retained an interest in the subject of flying saucers at the time of his death, at the age of 82, in December 2000.

We recommend interested researchers an autobiography, *Prince Philip: The Duke of Edinburgh's Story*, by Peter Horsley, published by Hodder & Stoughton, 1997. It is a very good read and contains a lot of information about the Duke's life and his interest in flying saucers.

The Royal Family have also published a book, *Prince Philip: The Duke of Edinburgh's Story*, by Peter Horsley, published by Hodder & Stoughton, 1997. It is a very good read and contains a lot of information about the Duke's life and his interest in flying saucers.

Prince Philip's interest in flying saucers was well known to both his immediate circle of friends and within the media. It would therefore have quickly come to the attention of the security services whose responsibility was both to protect the Royal Family and the country. It may have been thought that HRH's interest was leaving him open to manipulation. As this all took place at the height of the Cold War the security services would have been worried about the possibility that official secrets could be leaked by Prince Philip, or his equerry, if they were approached in certain ways.

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UFO VIEWPOINT

Letters to the Editor
UFO Magazine,
Valley Farm Way,
Wakefield Road,
Stourton,
Leeds LS10 1SE,
England

WHO CAN TELL?



We write to correct some of the factual inaccuracies in Nick Pope's (above) superficial review of our book *Out of the Shadows* (UFO Magazine, July 2002).

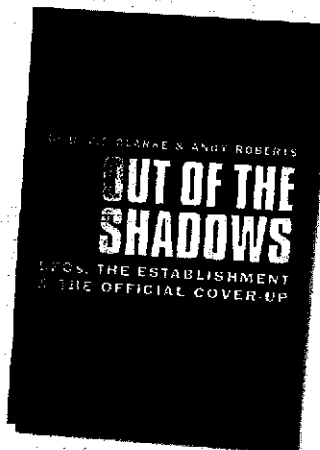
Firstly, Nick claims that we are 'paper trail researchers'.

This is correct. But as much, if not more, of our time is spent interviewing witnesses and officials who have been involved in the UFO mystery. We are investigators and researchers and were so when UFOs were just a gleam in Nick's imagination.

He then claims that 'many people have written about foot fighters and ghost rockets'.

Well, yes they have. But this rather misses the significant point that *Out of the Shadows* reveals - for the first time - the official Air Ministry files on those subjects, which others such as Tim Good and Nick Redfern have searched for without success in the past. These files go into some detail regarding individual aircrew sightings and how the Air Ministry treated the matter. They also introduce R.V. Jones into the subject of UFOlogy where he would play a central role for many years.

The ghost rocket files in particular give great insight into the political and administrative confusion prevalent in the Air Ministry throughout the whole saga. None of this has been written about before. Nick then claims that the UFO interest of



R.V. Jones and Peter Horsley is well known via their autobiographies.

But how many people have actually read those books?

Very few we would suggest.

Our research into these key personalities, along with Lord Mountbatten was amplified both by direct interviews with Peter Horsley (see the article in this issue of UFO Magazine), R.V. Jones' son, Mountbatten's daughter and backed up with archive research and access to their personal papers. If Nick's view of UFOlogy is that you accept the one dimensional view - that what you read in books is the whole story - then we have serious doubts about his abilities as a researcher!

Which brings us neatly to Nick's assertion that outsiders cannot possibly understand the MoD's involvement with UFOs, simply because they are outsiders, and that the information given to us by numerous interviewees is flawed because they are bound by the Official Secrets Act. What utter nonsense - on both counts.

Military historians, or investigative journalists, for instance are rarely part of the organisation they choose to write about and

yet despite or because of this they are dispassionate enough to be able to take an objective look at the subject they are researching. Take for example, historian Richard Aldrich's magnificent insight into the world of Cold War Intelligence, *The Hidden Hand* (John Murray, London, 2001).

This is exactly the tradition we followed with *Out of the Shadows*, which was written from the point of view of a historian, not a UFOlogist. That Nick finds fault in its accuracy is a sad reflection on the UFO circus he has become caught up in. As for the OSA? Yes, service personnel and government employees are signatories to it - but the OSA is not a magic spell. It will not stop people from saying what they choose and the government rarely acts on any information 'revealed'. If information obtained from interviewees is backed up by findings on the 'paper trail' (as ours is) then it is a reasonable assumption to assume it is factual. The majority of our interviewees were old and wealthy - they no longer cared about the petty administrative restrictions they were once under.

On the other side of the coin if Nick is choosing to invoke the OSA as a reason why information we have been given is invalid, we would suggest people immediately stop buying his books for the simple reason that by his own argument nothing he says should be taken seriously because he remains bound by the OSA.

All his writings and lectures therefore count for nothing and may actually be regarded as disinformation because by his own admission he 'knows' - yet cannot tell.

If Nick finds fault with our historical investigation of the UK government role in UFO research, we suggest that instead of hiding behind the toothless OSA he actually tells the UFO community something genuinely new about the UFO phenomenon. We're waiting Nick!

In the meantime we will continue to interview key players in the UK Government's UFO history and witnesses to remarkable UFO events, keeping an open mind. Our findings may not always please our critics, but we are happy to be judged upon the quality and originality of our material.

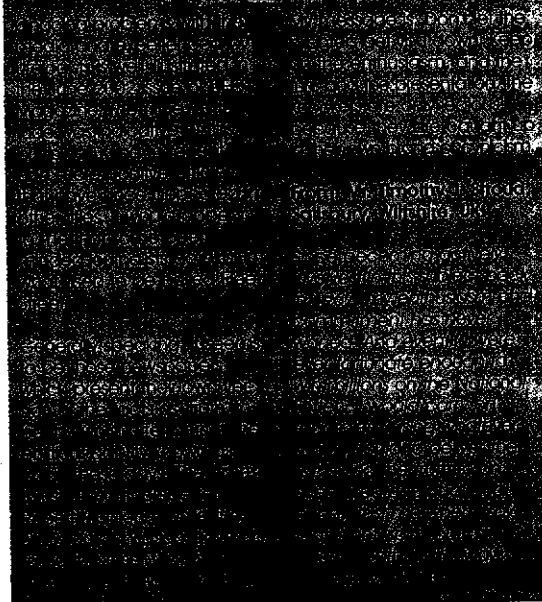
We have no hesitation in reporting the facts as we find them, without recourse to hiding behind outdated laws and semantic jiggery-pokery as Nick has chosen to do.

From: Dr. David Clarke and Andy Roberts, cd292@ crazydiamonds.fsnet.co.uk

It comes as no surprise to see three high profile UFO researchers such as Nick, David

Letter of the Month

A QUESTION OF SPEED



and Andy become at loggerheads over long-held views, beliefs and differences of opinion. Few would disagree, though, that the Official Secrets Act is in urgent need of a radical overhaul, but so long as they remain the law of the land, Nick will be subservient to each and every one of its scriptures.

Arguments will doubtless rage between leading protagonists in this subject for years to come, but how I wish they would sometimes just agree to disagree - Editor

CRACKING STUFF

As a regular and dedicated subscriber to UFO Magazine, which I and our members believe to be the finest of its kind in the world, we followed your reports of happenings in and around the Bonsall area of Derbyshire with interest. You deserve credit for both the features and your editorial comment, all of which are based on truths, facts and not fiction. Well done on a fine piece of work and keep up the excellent standards on what is a cracking magazine.

From: Mr. Peter Cliffe, IFONUK, 47 Whincover Grange, Leeds LS12 5JJ.

WHOSE HAND?

I find the contents of UFO Magazine fascinating and thought-provoking, especially those centred on strange objects seen in the skies and depicted on many works of art, mostly of a religious nature. I tend to have an open mind on UFOs and lean towards scepticism when faced with dubious 'evidence', be it in the form of grainy photographs, obvious fakes or hoaxes, or simply phenomena that can be explained away as weather balloons, high-altitude aircraft, etc.

I suppose the only way to settle this argument is to have an extraterrestrial spacecraft land in, or near, a large city or town.

Given such a hypothetical scenario, what might be the supposed sequence of events following such a landing? How would political, scientific, security, military and media institutions respond, for example?

And who would act as the official representative of Earth to greet these visitors? The UN secretary general? A Head of State? A local chief dignitary, such as a mayor or governor? It may sound like science fiction to some, but one never knows!

From: Mr. F. Anderson, Glasgow, Scotland.

An interesting dilemma, but I wouldn't bet against Tony Blair appearing at the head of any welcoming committee - Editor

THE NEED TO KNOW

I wish to commend you on an excellent magazine. I have been an avid reader for well over two years and find it extremely informative. I look forward to the different and up to date articles you present each month and hope you can maintain the professional and unbiased writing - it adds so much credibility to informing the sceptical public and media at large. I recognise that maintaining the pace in communicating such important information can be a chore in itself, and that is another reason why UFO Magazine is so important to me. I profess to being totally amazed by this phenomenon, but I am also anxious by it.

I sense an underlying urgency in its interaction with the human condition, and that the speed of this 'communion' is increasing to fulfil a purpose.

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UFO MAGAZINETM

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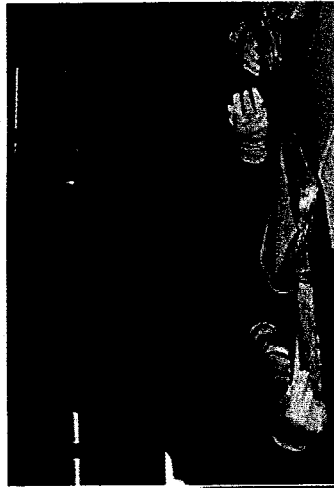
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INSIDE
**PRINCE PHILIP,
THE ROYAL EQUERRY
& FLYING SAUCERS**



Britain's Men

New documentary sheds light on Room 801 and the role of government appointed officials who investigated unidentified flying objects in post-war Britain



Dr. David Clarke & Andy Roberts

A new documentary on UFOs was premiered on The Discovery Channel on Wednesday, 24 July.

'Britain's Men in Black' was based on the investigative efforts of Dr. David Clarke and Andy Roberts, who, after years spent at government archives, finally unearthed an almost 50-year-long hidden chapter of official Government involvement in investigating 'flying saucer' reports in post-war Britain.

Having finally persuaded the Ministry of Defence to release a hitherto classified report by the 'Flying Saucer Working Party' in 2001, the programme focused on some of the key characters who were involved with the early 1950s study.

Thanks to a *Reynolds' News* article from June 1957, UFO researchers have long known that government officials based in Room 801 at the former Hotel Metropole building in Northumberland Avenue, off London's Trafalgar Square, were actively engaged in studying flying saucer reports. The paper even quoted an Air Ministry spokesman admitting they had 'something like 10,000 [UFO reports] on our files.'

Although nothing like that number has ever been the light of day, Clarke and Roberts were successful in shedding light on those responsible for investigating and analysing at least some of them.

Having gleaned salient names, ranks and responsibilities as detailed in the 'Flying Saucer Working Party Report', Clarke and Roberts eventually traced and personally interviewed some of its key figures.

Among them was Wing Commander Stan Hubbard, whose trade at the Working Party for dismissing so lightly his two UFO sightings while stationed at RAF Farnborough was one of the documentary's highlights. As a credible witness, Stan Hubbard ranks up there with the very best.

Incredibly, Clarke and Roberts discovered that Wing Commander Myles Formby, who was told to research UFOs for the government, was still alive and living in retirement in a coastal town in Northern Ireland.

"When we found him he came clean straight away," Roberts told journalist Julian Champkin of the *Sunday Express*.

Black



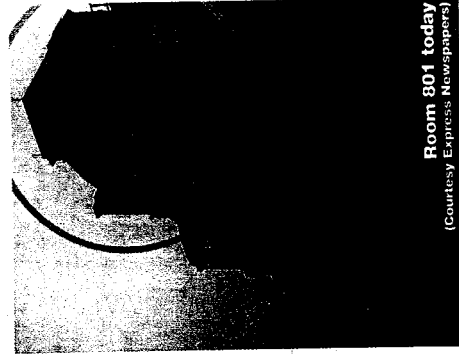
"Everything that we had discovered, he confirmed, without reluctance. But he knows much more; and about those things he would not speak. He was unable, or unwilling, to say more."

Unfortunately, when a film crew accompanied Clarke and Roberts to Northern Ireland, they had to make do with comments from Mr. Formby's relatives. The man himself, now in his late eighties, chose not to appear.

More unfortunate still, perhaps, is the manner in which 'Britain's Men in Black' seemed to lose the plot mid-way through. Despite the appearance of Georgina Brunt and Nick Pope in a section dealing with the Rendlesham Forest incident of December 1980, little was added to what is already known.

But to then include a piece on The Aethelus Society and insert an acutely embarrassing ageing interview with its founder, George King, took the shine off what was otherwise an excellent historical documentary.

For every Stan Hubbard, there are hundreds and possibly thousands of other witnesses like him. They, above all others, are the ones most people wish to see and hear. Those engaged in making UFO documentaries in the future would be well advised to keep that in mind. ■



Room 801 today
(Courtesy *Express Newspapers*)

THE SECRET OF ROOM 801

BY NICHOLAS NEWS REPORTER
IN Room 801 of the former Hotel Metropole, the Ministry is investigating reports of unidentified flying objects. The room is a small, dark, and somewhat mysterious place. It is the only room in the hotel where the British Government is taking the flying saucer seriously.

Many of the key characters who were involved with the early 1950s study. Thanks to a *Reynolds' News* article from June 1957, UFO researchers have long known that government officials based in Room 801 at the former Hotel Metropole building in Northumberland Avenue, off London's Trafalgar Square, were actively engaged in studying flying saucer reports. The paper even quoted an Air Ministry spokesman admitting they had 'something like 10,000 [UFO reports] on our files.'

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UFOs: The Vatican Files

MIR Publications have released Alfredo Lissoni's *UFO: I dossier del Vaticano* (UFOs: The Vatican Files). The book covers UFO, pre-UFO and post-UFO apparitions and phenomena reported in the Christian tradition from the Middle Ages. Visit the CISU (Italy) website for further information.
www.CISU.org/magle.htm
www.upiar.com

California UFO is a peach

New Saturn-white peaches are being sold on California's west coast. The shaped like flying saucers and are boxed with Gray Alien logos that wear an evil smile. U.S. readers can order from ITO Packing Co., Inc., Reedley, California.

Chinook pilots 'to blame'



The two pilots who crashed a Chinook helicopter carrying 25 counter-terrorist experts into the Mutt of Kinyra in 1984, killing everyone on board, cannot be absolved from blame, the Government has ruled after another inquiry into the tragedy.



Announcing the decision on 22 July, Defence Secretary Geoff Hoon said no mechanical faults had been detected to explain the crash. Relatives of Flight Lieutenants Jonathan Tapper and Richard Cook vowed to continue to clear their names. Mike Tapper, father of Jonathan, said: "There's a major cover-up here. The battle is not over yet. We will fight on."

UFO Magazine will shortly report on a sensational new development in this matter.

=== COVER PAGE ===

57/1

TO: _____

FROM: DINFOEXP

FAX: [REDACTED]

TEL: [REDACTED]

COMMENT:

Papers already sent to Dr Clarke on 25 July 02. D Info(Exp) informed.
26/7/2002 [REDACTED] on 40

0 1110

25 JUL 2002

EXP

Telefax

To:	
Fax:	
From:	
Date:	25/7/02
Pages:	2

Dr David Clarke

Director of Information Exploitation
Room 828
St Giles Court
1-13 St Giles High Street
LONDON WC2B 8LD

Your ref: DGInfo/3/1/3/1

22 July 2002

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your letter of 2 October 2001 in response to my appeal for a review of a decision by the Ministry of Defence to withhold documents following a request I made under the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information.

You will recall that my appeal concerned five documents from a MOD file concerning an alleged UFO sighting near RAF Woodbridge in December 1980.

In your letter of 2 October last year you said you had decided that having reviewed these documents you felt it appropriate to disclose two of the documents. You added that:

"...it is not appropriate to disclose the remaining documents...as these consist of advice from officials to Ministers and are properly covered by Exemption 2 of the Code, which relates to internal discussion and advice."

You advised me that if I was dissatisfied I could ask an MP to take the matter up with the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration (the Ombudsman) who may decide to investigate.

I now understand that a third party (another member of the public) has made an appeal directly to the Ombudsman in respect of the three documents withheld, and that the Ombudsman has in the last few days ruled that the three remaining documents should be disclosed.

If that is the case then I now wish to resubmit my original application for copies of the three documents which were the subject of my original appeal on 20 August 2001.

These documents, from MOD file ref D/Sec(AS)12/2/1, are:

- 1) an internal Minute from a MOD official to a Minister's office, submitting a draft response and an accompanying background note in respect of a Parliamentary Question (PQ) tabled by Sir Patrick Wall MP.

- 2) a duplicate copy of the first page of 1) above.
- 3) an internal Minute from a MOD official to a Minister's office, submitting a draft response and accompanying background material in respect of a letter to the Secretary of State for Defence, the Rt Hon Michael Heseltine MP, from David Alton MP, which had enclosed a letter from one of Mr Alton's constituents.

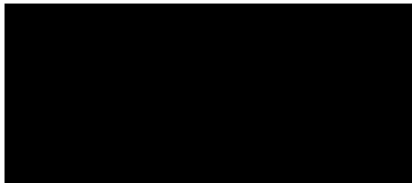
I see no reason why, given the Ombudsman's ruling and the impending Freedom of Information Act, that these three documents should continue to be withheld.

The circumstances surrounding the alleged incident are now over 20 years old, and are a matter of legitimate public and historical interest. By withholding this information, the MOD are simply encouraging suspicion that it has something to hide concerning an incident which it said had "no defence significance" in the first place.

I hope that you will look again at my original request. In view of the recent development, I hope that it will not now be necessary to refer this matter to the Ombudsman via my MP.

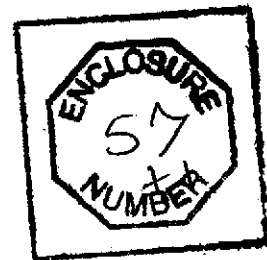
I look forward to hearing from you,

Yours faithfully,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.



From: [REDACTED]
Directorate of Air Staff (Lower Airspace)
Operations & Policy 1
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Room 6/73, Metropole Building, Northumberland Avenue, London,
WC2N 5BP

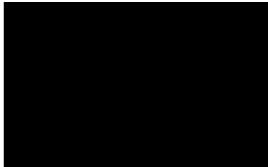


Telephone

(Direct dial)
(Switchboard)
(Fax)
(GTN)

020 7218 2140
020 7218 9000

Dr David Clarke



Your Reference

Our Reference
D/DAS/64/3/11
Date
25 July 2002

Dear Dr Clarke



I am writing concerning three documents from the MOD file on the alleged sighting of an 'Unidentified Flying Object' near Rendlesham Forest, Suffolk, which were withheld from you under Exemption 2 of the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information (the Code).

There has recently been an investigation by the Parliamentary Ombudsman into the decision to withhold these documents and the Ombudsman has concluded that the three documents do fall under the scope of Exemption 2. However, in the particular circumstances of this case he recommended that the documents should nonetheless be provided to the individual who made the complaint, and MOD has accepted this.

The MOD also agreed to supply the documents to all those from whom they had previously been withheld and they are therefore enclosed for your information. Some have been anonymised in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998.

Yours sincerely,



M1

Priority

This non-oral question has been allocated to Minister(AF) for answer.

2. Would you please supply a draft reply and background note, together with any relevant Hansard extracts and Press cuttings, to reach this office at the time shown on the front cover.
3. Please submit a copy of the draft answer to PS/USofS(AF) when returning this, allowing sufficient time for USofS(AF) to comment.

REDA

CUMENT

Office of Minister(AF)
Room 6386 Main Building

20.10.83

M2

APS/Minister(AF) (thro' DUS(Air))

Copy to:
APS/US of S(AF)
Ops(GE)2(RAF)

1. I have placed opposite a draft reply to PQ 7608C.
2. The same background note has been provided for PQ 7607C and PQ 7609C.

REDACTION

21 October 1983

DS 8
MB 7257

FQ 7608C

SIR PATRICK WALL (CONSERVATIVE) (BEVERLEY)

Sir Patrick Wall

- To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether, in view of the fact that the United States' Air Force memo of 13 January 1981 on the incident at RAF Woodbridge has been released under the Freedom of Information Act, he will now release reports and documents concerning similar unexplained incidents in the United Kingdom.

SUGGESTED ANSWER (Mr Stanley)

This has been considered. It is the intention to publish reports.

(281)

Background Note

These three questions follow from the News of the World article of 2 October 1983 (Annex A) describing an alleged UFO sighting by USAF personnel at RAF Woodbridge in Suffolk on 27 December 1980.

The report of 13 January 1981 (Annex B) examined by the Air Staff and DS 8. It was concluded that there was nothing of defence interest in the alleged sighting.

There was, of course, no question of any contact with "alien beings" nor was any unidentified object seen on any radar recordings, as alleged in the News of the World.

A BBC investigation into the incident following publication of the News of the World Article concluded that a possible explanation for the lights seen by the USAF personnel was the pulsating light of the Orfordness lighthouse some 6 - 7 miles away.

The sole interest of the MOD in UFO reports is to establish whether they reveal anything of defence interest (eg intruding aircraft). MOD investigations are not pursued beyond the point at which we are satisfied that a report has no defence implications. No attempts are made to identify and catalogue the likely explanation for individual reports.

Last year, Lord Long, during a debate initiated by the Earl Clancarty, said that he would look into the possibility of publishing such reports as are received by the Ministry of

/...

Defence. US of S(AF) has now decided to release compilations of reports. They will be published on a quarterly basis and will be available to members of the public, at a small charge to cover costs. US of S(AF) had planned to make an announcement shortly in the House of Lords through an arranged PQ. Pending arrangements for an announcement in the Lords, US of S(AF) has agreed that we should indicate the decision in the Commons.

M1

Priority

This non-oral question has been allocated to Minister(AF) for answer.

2. Would you please supply a draft reply and background note, together with any relevant Hansard extracts and Press cuttings, to reach this office at the time shown on the front cover.

3. Please submit a copy of the draft answer to PS/USofS(AF) when returning this, allowing sufficient time for USofS(AF) to comment.

REDACTED

DOCUMENT

Office of Minister(AF)
Room 6386 Main Building
Extension [REDACTED]

21-10-83

M2

APS/Minister(AF) (thro' DUS(Air))

Copy to:

APS/US of S(AF)

Ops(GE)2(RAF)

1. I have placed opposite a draft reply to PQ 7607C.
2. The same background note has been provided for PQ 7608C and PQ 7609C.

REDACTED

21 October 1983

DS 8

MB 7257 [REDACTED]

ES7

PQ 7067C

SIR PATRICK WALL (CONSERVATIVE) (BEVERLEY)

Sir Patrick Wall

- To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, if he has seen the United States Air Force memo dated 13 January 1981 concerning unexplained lights near RAF Woodbridge.

SUGGESTED ANSWER (Mr Stanley)

Yes.

(C86)

Background Note

These three questions follow from the News of the World article of 2 October 1983 (Annex A) describing an alleged UFO sighting by USAF personnel at RAF Woodbridge in Suffolk on 27 December 1980.

The report of 13 January 1981 (Annex B) examined by the Air Staff and DS 8. It was concluded that there was nothing of defence interest in the alleged sighting.

There was, of course, no question of any contact with "alien beings" nor was any unidentified object seen on any radar recordings, as alleged in the News of the World.

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The sole interest of the MOD in UFO reports is to establish whether they reveal anything of defence interest (eg intruding aircraft). MOD investigations are not pursued beyond the point at which we are satisfied that a report has no defence implications. No attempts are made to identify and catalogue the likely explanation for individual reports.

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12/4 copy to: 12/2/11

M5

APS/US of S(AF)
through Sec(AS)2 [REDACTED]

1. US of S(AF) will recall recent correspondence on this matter with Lord Hill-Norton and Rt Hon Merlyn Rees MP. In both cases he took the line that we have nothing to add to what had already been said on the Woodbridge incident. Indeed, this was the line taken in previous correspondence with David Alton (See M3). The enclosed draft reply to Mr Alton once more follows this approach.
2. Mr Alton specifically requested a copy of the MOD official reply to [REDACTED] last letter. This is enclosed, together with an earlier letter to which it refers. There is no objection to passing this correspondence to Mr Alton.
3. You may wish to note that Mr Alton has apparently passed on both letters sent by Lord Trefgarne on 19 March 85, even though one of these was intended to be for his information only.

REDACTION C [REDACTED]

12 June 1985

Sec(AS)2
MB 8245 [REDACTED]

DRAFT

D/US of S(AF)/DGT 5173

June 1985.

Thank you for your letter of 16 May to Michael Heseltine enclosing one from [REDACTED]. You asked to see a copy of the Department's reply to [REDACTED] letter of 25 February 1985 and this is enclosed, together with earlier correspondence to which it refers.

As I pointed out in my letter of 19 March, the MOD concerns itself only with the defence implications of reported UFO sightings. In this context, the report submitted by Col Halt in January 1981 was examined by those in the Department responsible for such matters and, as I have made clear in the past, it was considered to have no defence significance. We have since seen nothing to alter this view and there is nothing I can usefully add to the comments made in Sec(AS)'s letter or [REDACTED].

Lord Trefgarne

David Alton Esq MP

Job No 2-24



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

16th May 1985

Dear Michael,

I enclose a letter I have received from [REDACTED] following on from enquiries I first raised with your Department in March.

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

I read [REDACTED] letter with great interest and it seems to me that the points he raises are quite reasonable and merit a reply.

I should be most grateful if you could let me have your comments and if you could let me see a copy of the reply to [REDACTED] own letter to your Department dated 25th February 1985.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
David Alton, MP.

The Rt. Hon. Michael Heseltine, MP.
Secretary of State
Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London

SW1 2HB

14th May, 1985

David Alton, Esq., MP,
House of Commons,
Westminster,
London SW1

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

Dear Mr. Alton,

[REDACTED] has kept me informed about her correspondence with you on the unusual incidents which were reported to the Ministry of Defence by USAF authorities at RAF Woodbridge in January 1981. I have also seen Lord Trefgarne's letters to you of 19th March.

[REDACTED] decided to write further to you about this puzzling and disquieting case, and she referred to me her enclosed letter of 31st March, which is addressed to you, in the hope that I might be able to add useful comments. Much to my regret I have had to spend much time out of London on other business in recent weeks and it is only now that I am able, very belatedly, to send on [REDACTED] letter to you.

My own background, in brief, is that I served in the Ministry of Defence from 1949 to 1977, leaving in the grade of Under Secretary of State. From 1969 to late in 1972 I headed a Division in the central staffs of the MOD which had responsibilities for supporting RAF operations. This brought me into touch with a proportion of the many reports which the Department receives about unidentified traces in British airspace.

I believe that [REDACTED] is right to remain very dissatisfied with the official line which the MOD has adopted on the Rendlesham Forest incidents of December 1980. I have myself said so on a number of public occasions, and I have pursued the matter in correspondence with the MOD - wholly without success.

At the risk of burdening you with an excessive amount of paper, I attach the most recent of my letters to the Ministry of Defence. You will see that this is dated 25th February 1985. I have so far received no answer, despite reminders. On a previous occasion it took the Department three and a half months to send me a wholly perfunctory reply.

[REDACTED] claims much collateral evidence for her own views; on this I am not competent to comment. My own position is, quite simply, that an extraordinary report was made to the Ministry of Defence by the Deputy Base Commander at RAF Woodbridge early in 1981; that the very existence of this report was denied by the MOD until persistent researchers in the US secured its release under the American Freedom of Information Act in 1983; and that the MOD's responses to questions since that time have been thoroughly unsatisfactory.

I cannot accept Lord Trefgarne's view that there is no Defence interest in this case. Unless Lt.Col. Halt was out of his mind, there is clear evidence in his report that British airspace and territory were intruded upon by an unidentified vehicle on two occasions in late December 1980 and that no authority was able to prevent this. If, on the other hand, Halt's report cannot be believed, there is equally clear evidence of a serious misjudgement of events by USAF personnel at an important base in British territory. Either way, the

case can hardly be without Defence significance.

The dates in question are now rather remote, but I doubt that this should be taken to excuse the very perfunctory manner in which Lord Trefgarne has dealt with your letter. I hope that you may feel able to pursue the matter further, either in correspondence or in a PQ. The essence of the questions to be pressed seems to me to lie in my preceding paragraph. Seen in these terms, [REDACTED] article in the GUARDIAN (which Lord Trefgarne rather surprisingly falls back upon) is wholly irrelevant. If the USAF really are capable of hallucinations induced by a lighthouse which must surely be very familiar to them, then I shudder for that powerful finger which lies upon so many triggers...

My own letter to the MOD (enclosed) raises other more detailed questions. But I do not suggest that you should necessarily concern yourself with them, anyway at this stage. It would be nice if the MOD would answer letters, of course ! But the essence of the Defence interest which I suggest a responsible Member of Parliament might reasonably raise lies in the argument I have tried to present above.

If I can be of any assistance in discussion with you, I am at your disposal.

Yours sincerely,

RED

NT



From: [REDACTED]
Directorate of Air Staff (Lower Airspace)
Operations & Policy 1
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Room 6/73, Metropole Building, Northumberland Avenue, London,
WC2N 5BP

56

Telephone

(Direct dial)
(Switchboard)
(Fax)
(GTN)

020 7218 2140
020 7218 9000
[REDACTED]

Dr David Clarke
[REDACTED]

Your Reference

Our Reference
D/DAS/64/3/11
Date
16 July 2002

Dear Dr Clarke

Thank you for your letter of 11 July addressed to my colleague [REDACTED] in which you requested copies of material released to a member of the public concerning a 'UFO' sighting report made on 5 November 1990.

Please find enclosed a copy of the report as requested. Two lines have been obscured in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998 as they contain the name of the pilot who made the report, and the actual post of an individual working within the MOD. I can, however, inform you that their Department was the Directorate of Air Operations.

With regard to your request for the "case file", we do not have a file specifically for this case and as far as we are aware, this is the only document concerning this sighting which we hold.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely,
[REDACTED]

UNCLASSIFIED

CWD197 06/1542 310C2587

FOR CAB

ROUTINE 061340Z NOV 90

FROM RAF WEST DRAYTON
TO MODUK AIR

UNCLASSIFIED
SIC Z6F

SUBJECT: AERIAL PHENOMENA

A. 5 NOV 1800Z

B. ONE LARGE AEROPLANE (SHAPE). 5 TO 6 WHITE STEADY LIGHTS. 1 BLUE STEADY LIGHT. CONTRAILS FROM BLUE AREA

C. IN THE AIR M.C.6 AREA. FL270 YPENBURG

D. NAKED EYE

E. HEADING 100 DEGREES. SAME ALT FL270

F. INTO OUR 12 OCLOCK

G. ONE QUARTER MILE AHEAD

H. STEADY

J. N/K

K. N/K

L. WORKING DUTCH MILL RADAR

M. [REDACTED] INFORMATION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

PAGE 2 RBDAID 0009 UNCLAS

N. NIL

O. 2 OTHERS FROM LAARBRUCH

P. OTHER INFO. AIRCRAFT WAS UNDER DUTCH MIL CONTROL UFO APPERRED IN

OUR RH SIDE SAME LEVEL, WE WERE TRAVELLING AT MACH POINT 8. IT WENT INTO OUR 12 OCLOCK AND ACCLLERATED AWAY. ANOTHER 2 TORNADOS SEEN IT

AND POSSIBLE IDENTED IT AS A STEALTH AIRCRAFT

BT

DISTRIBUTION Z6F

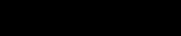
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SAB	1	SEC (AS)	ACTION (CXJ	1	AFDO)
CYD	1	[REDACTED]			
CAV	1	DI 55			
CAV	2	DGSTI			

Dr David Clarke


Directorate Air Staff
Ministry of Defence
Metropole Building
Northumberland Avenue
London WC2N 5BP

11 July, 2002

Dear 

You will recall our correspondence last year with regard to my applications for UFO-related material under the terms of the Code of Practice for Access to Government Information.

I understand that following an application under the Code from a member of the public, MoD have recently released copies of a report filed with MoD by the crews of three RAF Tornado aircraft. This relates to a UFO observed on 5 November 1990 above the North Sea when the aircraft were flying from UK to RAF Laarbruch, West Germany.

Information concerning this incident has been in the public domain for some years and was the subject of a Parliamentary Question in 1996.

- 24 July 1996. D/Sec(AS) 64/4 A
E75

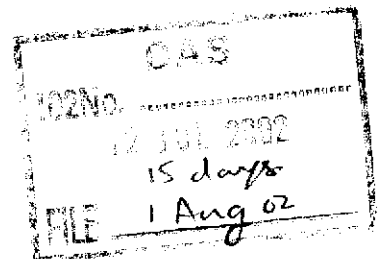
I wish to make an application under the Code of Practice for a copy of the case file relating to this report – including the statements made by the aircrew/s, and copies of analysis, advice and conclusions made by the Air Staff/MoD relating to the incident.

I am prepared to pay any charges deemed necessary for processing of the relevant file.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, I enclose an SAE and look forward to hearing from you,

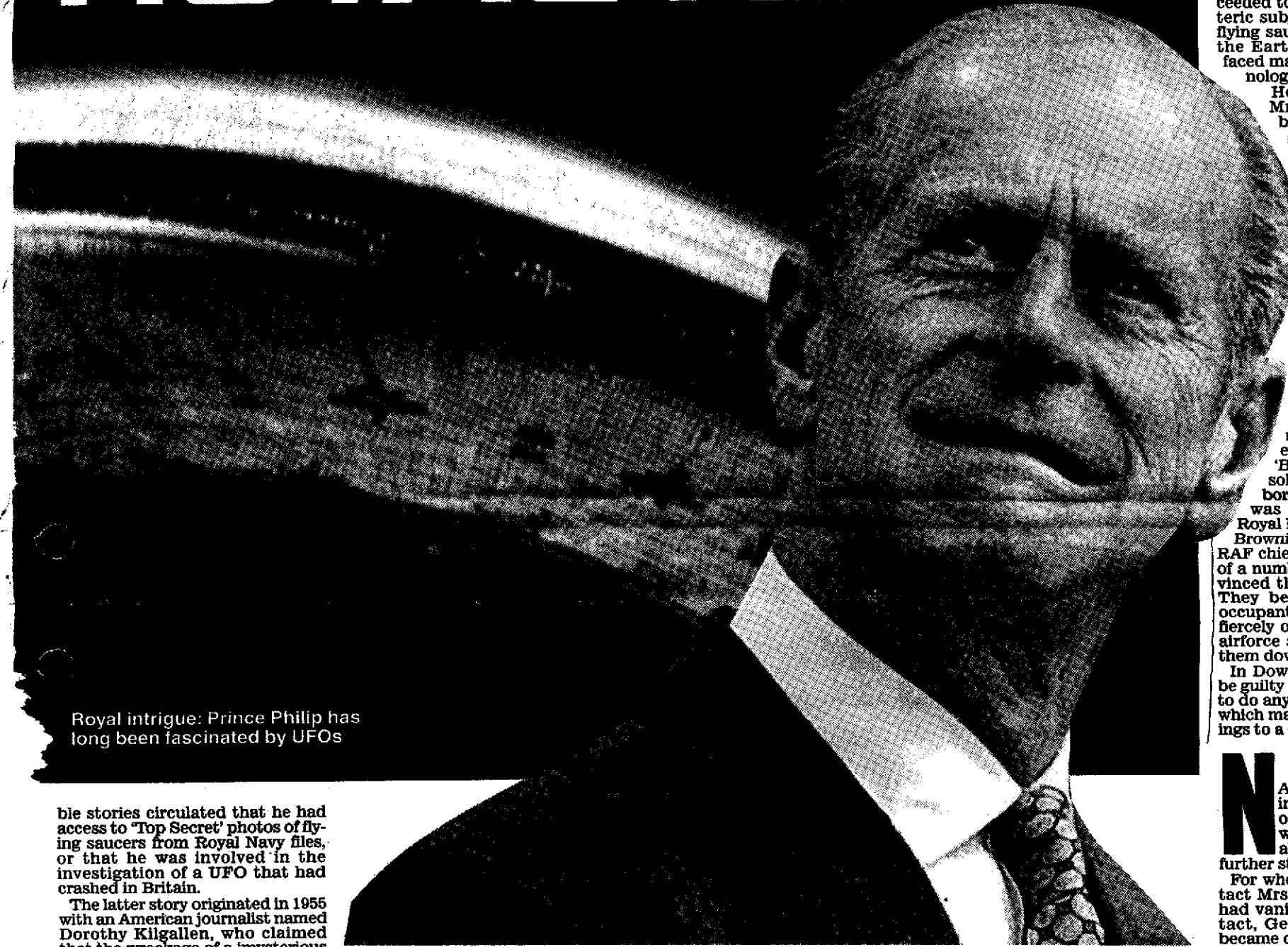
Yours sincerely,





ENCOUNTERS

ROYAL KIND



Royal intrigue: Prince Philip has long been fascinated by UFOs

ble stories circulated that he had access to 'Top Secret' photos of flying saucers from Royal Navy files, or that he was involved in the investigation of a UFO that had crashed in Britain.

The latter story originated in 1955 with an American journalist named Dorothy Kilgallen, who claimed that the wreckage of a 'mysterious flying ship' was being investigated by scientists. The tale was later embroidered with claims that the saucer was crewed by 'small men, probably under four feet tall'.

Kilgallen said the Government was holding back from issuing an official statement because 'it does not want to frighten the public'. She claimed her source was 'a British official of Cabinet rank' who wished to remain anonymous.

Rumours went around that it was Mountbatten. Since Kilgallen was a well-known figure at high-society parties where she mixed with royalty and aristocrats, this was not totally implausible — although it seems unlikely that Mountbatten would have let slip state secrets to a gossip columnist over cocktails.

After Kilgallen refused to elaborate on her story, UFO enthusiasts became convinced that she had been 'silenced' by the Establishment. Her sudden — and some claim mysterious — death in 1965 added to their suspicions that there was a conspiracy to hide the truth about UFOs.

Years later, Margaret Thatcher would fuel these cover-up theories. At a cocktail party in 1997, author Georgina Bruni claimed she discussed alien technology with the

former Prime Minister. Baroness Thatcher was said to have treated the matter with utmost seriousness, twice repeating the comment: 'UFOs? You must get your facts right, and you can't tell the people.' She then abruptly changed the subject.

Details of Prince Philip's interest in UFOs have been given by one of his equerries, the late Sir Peter Horsley.

He confirmed that Philip 'was open to the immense possibilities of new technology leading to space exploration, while at the same time not discounting that, just as we were on the fringe of breaking out into space, so other older civilisations in the universe might already have done so'.

By one account, later denied by royal sources, the Duke requested that all flying saucer reports received by the Air Ministry should be copied to him.

He was once reported to have told a dinner party guest: 'I'm sure they exist. All the evidence points to it. So many people say they have seen them.'

Horsley's autobiography revealed how reports of flying saucers were enthusiastically discussed among

the staff at Buckingham Palace throughout his time as equerry.

Most intriguingly, Horsley recounts how Philip 'agreed that I could investigate the more credible reports, provided I kept it all in perspective and did not involve his office in any kind of publicity'.

BY VIRTUE of this unofficial role as royal UFO investigator, Horsley was given carte blanche to read any reports of UFO sightings by the RAF, and to interview the pilots concerned.

The case which impressed him most involved two pilots from 25 Squadron, who observed a flying saucer while on patrol in a Vampire jet from RAF West Malling, Kent, one afternoon in November, 1953.

Horsley investigated the sighting as thoroughly as he could, visiting the base and quizzing both airmen. He submitted a report to the Duke of Edinburgh, saying that he was 'satisfied that the Vampire crew was perfectly reliable' and the two airmen had seen 'a genuine UFO'.

A number of UFO witnesses were

invited to the Palace, including James Howard, captain of a British airliner who, with his passengers and crew, reported seeing a formation of UFOs over the Atlantic.

The most unusual visitor was 11-year-old Stephen Darbishire from the Lake District, who had taken photographs of a 'saucer-shaped' object hovering over the slopes of Conistone Old Man in 1954.

In both these instances, it was the equerry who sent out invitations to Buckingham Palace. There can be no doubt, however, that he was encouraged to do so by the Duke of Edinburgh and that his reports detailing these sightings are still preserved in the royal archives.

Horsley says he invited UFO witnesses to the Palace partly to 'put them on the spot' and test their honesty in the presence of royalty — a ploy that may indeed have been as effective as any truth serum in those deferential times.

One of Sir Peter's strangest contacts was a mysterious General Martin, who believed UFOs were visitors from an alien civilisation which wanted to warn us of the dangers posed by atomic war.

Martin arranged for Sir Peter to

meet an equally enigmatic woman named Mrs Markham at a flat in Chelsea. Arriving from Buckingham Palace one night in 1955, he was ushered into a second-floor drawing-room on Smith Street occupied by a man referred to only as 'Mr Janus'.

Janus asked Sir Peter to tell him everything he knew about UFOs. Sir Peter asked what was his interest in the subject. The answer was simple: 'I would like to meet the Duke of Edinburgh.'

Sir Peter and Mr Janus proceeded to discuss a variety of esoteric subjects, including how the flying saucers were trying to save the Earth, and the perils which faced mankind as a result of technological progress.

He recalled that although Mr Janus never claimed to be from another planet, he gave the impression that he was visiting Earth as 'an observer'. Throughout the meeting, the equerry was given the strange impression that his thoughts were being read via telepathy.

Horsley was acutely aware of his responsibility to report any evidence of plots against the Royal Family to the security services. However, he was sufficiently swayed by Mr Janus's otherworldly presence not to take this seemingly obvious step.

Instead, he handed his report to another UFO enthusiast at the Palace, 'Boy' Browning, a renowned soldier who had led the airborne forces at Arnhem and was now Controller of the Royal Household.

Browning, along with the retired RAF chief Lord Dowding, was one of a number of war veterans convinced that UFOs were a reality. They believed that the saucer occupants were peace-loving and fiercely opposed the idea that the airforce should attempt to shoot them down.

In Dowding's words: 'We should be guilty of criminal folly if we were to do anything to hinder a contact which may well bring untold blessings to a distraught humanity.'

NATURALLY, 'Boy' Browning wished to arrange his own personal audience with Mr Janus. But the already surreal story took a further step into the twilight zone.

For when Sir Peter tried to contact Mrs Markham, he found she had vanished and his other contact, General Martin, 'suddenly became distant and evasive'.

Puzzled, Sir Peter retraced his steps to the Smith Street address where he had met Mr Janus — and found it empty. Neighbours said its occupant had 'left in a hurry'.

Had he been the victim of an elaborate hoax designed to ensnare the Royals? Sir Peter remained convinced that he might actually have made contact with a visitor from another world.

On one level, this and other accounts of royal and aristocratic involvement with the early development of the flying saucer myth may be read as just celebrity gossip.

But the influence of the British Establishment upon the formation of public opinion during the Fifties was immense, and should not be underestimated.

Rightly or wrongly, their endorsement put the stamp of authority on UFO sightings and belief in visitors from space.

■ **EXTRACTED** from *Out Of The Shadows* by Dr David Clarke and Andy Roberts, to be published by Piatkus Books on May 9 at £17.99. Copyright © 2002, Dr David Clarke and Andy Roberts. To order a copy for £15.99 (p&p free), please call 01476 541-001

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THE alien craft was shaped like a cross between an upturned saucepan and a child's spinning top. It was 20 to 30 feet in diameter, the colour of aluminium, with portholes around the side. And it was hovering over the home of Lord Louis Mountbatten, one of the most senior members of the British Royal Family.

The remarkable apparition was reported in February 1955 by a bricklayer called Briggs. In a signed statement, he told how he had spotted the flying saucer while on his way to work at Broadlands, Mountbatten's country residence in Hampshire.

Briggs described how he had dismounted from his bicycle as the saucer hovered, and was amazed to see a tube descend from its centre. A platform appeared in the tube, containing a man. He was wearing a dark suit or overalls and a close-fitting helmet.

As he watched, Briggs was suddenly overcome by an 'unseen force' which caused him to stumble. The tube retracted into the flying saucer, which suddenly shot straight up into the sky and disappeared.

Later, the flying saucer and its occupant returned. Communicating via telepathy, the alien being invited Briggs on board and whisked him off to see the Egyptian pyramids — a round trip that lasted just ten minutes.

Before he was returned to Hampshire, the aliens told the bricklayer: 'If Lord Mountbatten met us, he could change the world.'

Sceptics might have their own view of this tale, but Mountbatten himself was fascinated. His personal records show that he questioned his employee closely. Then, accompanied by another of his workers, he visited the scene of the sighting.

They found marks in the snow consistent with Briggs' account of his movements, but there was no evidence of the UFO's visit.

But the very fact that Mountbatten took so much trouble to check out the story speaks volumes about the seriousness with which he — and other members of the Royal Family and military elite — took the whole strange subject of extra-terrestrial activity.

As we will see, those who came to share his interest included the Battle of Britain mastermind Air Chief Marshal Sir Hugh Dowding, the British Army general Sir Frederick 'Boy' Browning, and — most astonishingly of all — Mountbatten's nephew, Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh.

By the early Fifties, a significant number of this discreet 'gentleman's club' had become convinced that Earth was under observation by aliens.

To this day, Prince Philip has every issue of the magazine *Flying Saucer Review* sent to him at Buckingham Palace — and once appointed an enquiry as his personal UFO investigator.

THE story of the British Establishment's interest in UFOs really begins in World War II, when pilots first began to report what became known as 'foo-fighters' — mysterious lights in the sky that resembled unknown enemy craft.

For years, however, the question was hushed up and UFO investigators could find no official documentation.

It was only in 1986 that proof of RAF sightings emerged when the late Goon Show star Michael Bentine, a former intelligence officer with Bomber Command, spoke of debriefing crews who told of lights which were 'pulsating and had flown round the aircraft'.

In fact, such reports had long been taken with great seriousness within military circles — particularly in the years after the war, as fears grew about the threat from the Soviet Union. Some experts believed the saucers could be advanced Soviet aircraft.

Mountbatten belonged to a small group of high-ranking military personnel who believed flying saucers were from another world. He began collecting reports of sightings using his contacts in the armed services.

His theories about their origins were clear in letters he wrote to his friend Charles

Eade, editor of the Sunday Dispatch, one of the popular newspapers of the day.

'These extraordinary things have now been seen in almost every part of the world: Scandinavia, North America, South America, Central Europe,' he wrote.

'It seems clear that the overwhelming weight of opinion from every part of the world will show that some new thing definitely exists which is capable of flying at very slow speed, or even perhaps of hovering and accelerating at an unheard-of speed several times the speed of sound.'

'The available evidence will show that they are not of human agency, that is to say they do not come from Earth. If that is so, then presumably they must come from some heavenly body, probably a planet.'

Mountbatten believed that the UFOs should be seen as the intergalactic equivalent of contemporary aircraft. 'Maybe it is the Shackletons or Scotts of Venus or Mars who are making their first exploration of our Earth,' he mused.

But he also suggested that the flying saucers might be the alien life-forms themselves —

CLOSE OF THE

The Mail opens the
Buckingham Palace
X-Files and finds
that Prince Philip (an
avid reader of *Flying
Saucer Review*) appointed
his own investigator into
visitors from space...

by **David Clarke**
and **Andrew Roberts**

'not a form of aeroplane from another planet but the actual inhabitants of that planet!'

Sensing the media headlines which sensational statements such as these would produce, Mountbatten asked Eade to keep his private opinions out of the newspapers.

'I know this sounds ridiculous and I am relying on you as a very old and loyal friend not to make any capital out of the fact that I have put forward such a far-fetched explanation.'

SUCH an explanation, however, would apparently fill all known cases in which the flying saucer has so far been seen.

Despite his desire to conceal his own beliefs, Mountbatten was keen to persuade the public to take the subject seriously. He urged Eade to publish weekly articles about UFOs in order to gauge the popular reaction.

Eade obliged with a series of sensational reports and a long editorial describing UFOs as 'the story that may be bigger than the atom bomb wars'.

The editorial went on to

describe how the subject had been dismissed as nonsense, but 'many intelligent and distinguished people in all parts of the world are intensely interested, and treat such reports very seriously indeed'.

Eade quoted from a letter he had received 'from one of the most famous men alive today', whom he could not name but who 'commands universal respect and admiration'.

It was a discussion with this mystery man, Eade said, which led to his decision 'to place before the readers of the Sunday Dispatch all that is known about the flying saucers and all the theories about them, no matter how sensational and fantastic'.

We now know that the 'mystery man' was Lord Mountbatten — and the effect of his intervention was to prove dramatic.

Following publication of these stories in the Dispatch, accounts of UFOs poured into newspaper offices across the British Isles.

In hindsight, it is clear that the aggressive newspaper campaign played a huge part in creating the fascination with UFOs that was to grip the country for decades to come.

OVER the years, rumours of Mountbatten's role leaked out to UFO enthusiasts. Improbable

Loose Minute

Info(Exp)R/3/7/8

18 March 2002

Info(Exp)R1 - S&T

Copy to:

DAS(LAS) Ops & Pol

ENQUIRY FROM A DR DAVID CLARKE: EX-MALVERN RECORDS

1. Dr Clarke is a frequent enquirer whose research is centred on the subject of "aerial phenomena".
2. He has written to the PRO concerning ex-Malvern documents that have apparently been deposited with the PRO (?) following the closure of the TRE/RRE Malvern radar research archive.
3. Are you aware of any records originated by Malvern being reviewed or wait review? I have a vague recollection that one of the former DERA sites, possibly Malvern, deposited a significant holding of records not to Hayes but rather to a museum. Have you heard any thing about this?

Info(Exp)R1/

DAS	
102No.	
18 MAR 2002	
FILE	_____

From: DAS-LA-Ops+Pol
Sent: 14 February 2002 17:03
To: Info(Exp)-Records1
Subject: ENQUIRY FROM DR DAVID CLARKE

Importance: High

[REDACTED] on 40

Your 3/7/8 of 11 February.

I have looked through our two large files of correspondence with Dr Clarke and can find no mention of an incident in Little Rissington in 1952 - "the Topcliff-Meteor incident".

Dr Clarke did ask about reports sent to AI 5b at DDI Tech dating from 1950 to 1967. (Neither you, nor the DI area would find any AI 5 files.)

At one point he asked the question "Have DSTI undertaken at any time a search of their records for UFO-related files, reports or analysis from the period dating from 1950-80. If no search has taken place how is it possible to claim that files before 1961 have not been retained." I consulted with DI ISec and replied to Dr Clarke, "A search of DIST records was undertaken to identify all of their file holdings; files prior to 1961 had not been retained."

Otherwise he has, of course, pursued Report No 7 - which was identified in a routine file search.

Just one comment on your draft; perhaps the penultimate paragraph is better left unsaid or softened a bit?

[REDACTED]

Loose Minute

52

D Info(Exp)R/3/7/8

11 February 2002

DAS(LA)Ops+Pol

ENQUIRY FROM DR DAVID CLARKE

1. I attach a copy of a letter from Dr Clarke on the subject of records relating to "aerial phenomena".
2. He contends that a Ministerial statement about the subject, 1967, would have resulted in records post-1962 being preserved. He also cites the example of survival of Report No 7 and a number of documents preserved at the Public Record Office as supporting his belief that relevant records survived through to the mid-1970s. He therefore suggests that this information should help the MOD should devote effort locating these records.
3. Dr Clarke's interest and enthusiasm for his subject is well known to both our branches and his current request really adds nothing new but simply restates earlier enquiries.
4. I attach a draft reply to Dr Clarke effectively reiterating earlier advice and inviting him to identify records from the PRO catalogue that are "retained in department in accordance with Section 3(4)" that he believes are relevant to his research. Providing the number is sufficiently small I will consider a rereview exercise. However, before I send the letter it might be the case that you have already addressed these concerns of Dr Clarke and you would like the opportunity to agree the wording!

[Redacted]

Info(Exp)R1/

[Redacted]

DAS
102No.
12 FEB 2002
FILE

From: [REDACTED]
 To: <defence.records.1@gtnet.gov.uk>
 Sent: 14 March 2002 13:19
 Subject: FW: Malvern archive

[REDACTED] on 40

This would relate to material pushed out of Malvern last year I think, and which would have landed with S&T if it was already old enough. Can your S&T and/or Listing people help me with this please?

[REDACTED] tion 40

> -----
 > From: David Clarke [REDACTED]
 > Sent: 13 March 2002 12:28
 > To: [REDACTED] 40
 > Subject: Malvern archive
 >
 > Dear [REDACTED] 40
 >
 > [REDACTED] of DSTL suggested I contact you with regards to documents
 > that were recently deposited with the PRO following the closure of the
 > TRE/RRE Malvern radar research archive, formerly with DERA.
 >
 > I'm research aspects of the history of radar technology in Britain,
 > particularly
 > the phenomena known as 'angels' and 'anomalous propagation' investigated
 > by the TRE and RAF during the period 1941 onwards.
 >
 > I would be interested to learn what material the Malvern archive
 > contained,
 > and when this collection will be available for scrutiny by PRO readers. I
 > would be particularly interested to see a list of the documents or subject
 > areas covered.
 >
 > Perhaps you could let me know if that will be possible. I can be contacted
 > by email or via phone on [REDACTED]
 >
 > Dr David Clarke
 > National Centre for English Cultural Tradition
 > University of Sheffield
 >

 This email and any files transmitted with it are confidential and intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed. If you have received this email in error please notify the system manager.

18/03/02

DRAFT REPLY TO DR CLARKE

Thank you for your letter dated 6 February 2002 seeking a fresh impetus from the Ministry of Defence to locate records, you believe continue to be held by the Department, relating to the subject of "aerial phenomena" over 30 years old.

A number of the examples you cite as justifying your belief that relevant record must survive are, of course, familiar to the MOD (a number you have previously brought to my attention in support of earlier requests for searches of the archives).

Notwithstanding any Ministerial statements in the past or that documentation from 25 years ago apparently supports the fact that at one time a number of files once existed searches of the two MOD archives under the control of the Departmental Record Officer reveals no cache of records, over 30 years old, relating to the subject of "aerial phenomena".

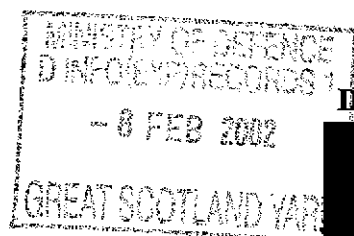
As you are aware records selected for the Public Record Office (PRO) that are too sensitive for release at the normal point are retained in department in accordance with Section 3(4) of the Public Records Act of 1958. MOD, as with all other government departments that retain records beyond the 30-year point, is legally required to review these files at least once every ten years (this is how Report No 7 on file DEFE 19/9 came to light). You are also aware that the PRO catalogue identifies

files that are retained, and where extracts or redactions occur enclosures on files carry a notion.

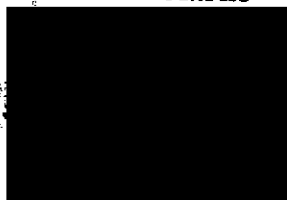
Records not selected for the PRO are destroyed. Destruction may be by the branch or Departmental Record Officer staff.

? [What this means is that the information you have provided, no matter how helpful you may feel it to be, does not add any new to the subject, certainly nothing new to result in a systematic search of retained files.

✓ However, if after examining the PRO catalogue you would care to suggest files that are closed for rereview, providing the number is relatively small, and you are able to cite PRO references, I will consider a limited rereview exercise later this year as and when the current work programme permits.



Dr David Clarke



6 February 2002

Your ref: D INFO(EXP)R/3/7/8

Dear 

A belated thank you for your letter of 5 September last year and for taking the trouble to explain in detail the history of records registration at MoD, particularly the system for selecting records for preservation. This information has been of great assistance in my continuing post-doctoral research into records of official investigations of 'aerial phenomena.'

I accept your point that 90 percent of records relating to my area of interest during the period 1947-62 are likely to have been destroyed at First Review. However, I would point out that:

- REPORTS
- a) in 1967 the Under Secretary of State for Defence, Merlyn Rees MP, asked MoD to end the automatic destruction of UFO records at intervals of five years, as was then the practice. This request is on record at the PRO, and is acknowledged and actioned in departmental correspondence dating from 1968-70. As a result it has been stated by Ministers that records have been preserved post-1962.
 - b) in correspondence pre-May 2001 I was assured that DSI/JTIC Report No 7, created in 1951, could not be located and it had to be presumed that it had not survived the passage of time. Yet the report did exist, and clearly had not been destroyed.

If we agree that automatic destruction of UFO records ended in 1967 then *some* records of Air Intelligence investigations before that date, when still on file or in use, should have been preserved. The identification last year of DSI/JTIC Report No 7 suggests this was indeed the case.

Specifically, I draw your attention to an internal minute prepared by a member of the Defence Intelligence staff (copy enclosed, source: PRO AIR 2/18117). This is dated 13 December 1967, ie. *after* the routine destruction of records had ended, and states:

"....we [ie DSTI] have recovered all but two of the 'Metropole' (ie Intelligence) files on UFOs for the period 1951-2...the files examined indicate that Topcliffe-Meteor incident, which occurred during the NATO Exercise Mainbrace, was typical of reports about such aircraft at that time..."

The Topcliffe-Meteor incident referred to occurred in September 1952, i.e. after the 'Flying Saucer Working Party' was disbanded, and yet was the subject of further intelligence studies. Records of these clearly existed, were recovered and consulted in 1967 by specialist staff. In paragraph 4 of the memo the writer refers to "the report DSI/JTIC Report No 7" within the same context as the Intelligence files for the period 1951-2 referred to above. This indicates that further UFO-related records exist, possibly in the same or a related file to that in which Report No 7 was located (DEF 9/9: Scientific Intelligence 1948-60).

Furthermore, I refer to evidence provided by Air Commodore Michael Swiney OBE. In 1952 Swiney was an instructor with the Central Flying School, Little Rissington, and made an official report concerning aerial phenomena he observed whilst flying a Meteor VII on 21 October that year. This was shortly after the Topcliffe incident, referred to above, was reported to Air Ministry/MoD (see copy enclosed PRO Ref AIR 29/2310). Swiney and his student, a Royal Navy lieutenant, were interviewed by Air Intelligence and a report prepared for Air Ministry. He further informs me that in 1974/75 whilst posted to intelligence duties at MoD Main Building, he requested sight of his original report. Air Commodore Swiney maintains that he was shown a DDI (Tech) folder, on file with MoD, that contained not only his own sighting report, but also that of his student pilot.

As the Little Rissington incident involved a Meteor aircraft and occurred in 1952 I would suggest that in all likelihood it is filed amongst the "Metropole (Intelligence) files on UFOs from 1951-52" referred to by DSTI in 1967.

If those records existed in 1967, and were still in use during the mid-1970s, after the decision was taken to preserve UFO records, then the question remains: where are they today? [redacted] of the AHB informs me they are not among the records now at Bentley Priory, and refers me back to the MoD records division.

I realise there has to be a limit to the time and effort required to search MoD files in response to requests such as this. However, there is and will remain substantial historical interest in the content and context of these records, and I would suggest that given the information I have provided the task of locating them should be far simpler.

I'm grateful for your assistance in this matter and look forward to hearing from you,

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]
D.W. Clarke

National Centre for English Cultural Tradition
University of Sheffield

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Room 6/71, Metropole Building, Northumberland Avenue,
London, WC2N 5BP.

Telephone (Direct dial)
(Switchboard)
(Fax)

020 7218 9000

Dr David Clarke

Your Reference

Our Reference

→ D/DAS/64/3/11

Date

28 December 2001

Dear Dr Clarke,

Further to my letter of 11 December, I now have the results of my enquiries.

Up to the end of 2000, Parliamentary Question (PQ) and Parliamentary Enquiry (PE) folders were routinely destroyed at around the six year point. The rationale behind the decision was that a fuller picture would be held on the files of the branch with the lead responsibility and that those files would be considered for permanent preservation. However, on the basis that some individual folders might have been preserved we asked if any files of Parliamentary correspondence were at the PRO, although these would not necessarily hold the title 'UFO'. A search has been made of the PRO internet catalogue against all AIR and DEFE classes and four PQ files of the AIR 2 class containing material relating to 'UFOs' have been identified under the heading "Parliamentary Questions and Parliamentary Enquiries". The four files are:

AIR 20/9320 – Air Traffic Control 1957
AIR 20/9321 – Air Traffic Control }
AIR 20/9322 – Air Traffic Control } 1953 to 1957
AIR 20/9994 – Air Traffic Control }

I hope this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

DAS-LA-Ops+Pol

From: Info-Records1
Sent: 18 December 2001 09:48
To: DAS-LA-Ops+Pol
Subject: FW: ENQUIRY BY DR CLARKE

-----Original Message-----

From: Info-Records1
Sent: 18 December 2001 09:46
To: 'DAS-LA-Ops+Pol'
Subject: RE: ENQUIRY BY DR CLARKE

in 40

Yes please use the paragraph starting "Up to preservation."

I should also make the point that my search was against the PRO internet catalogue (Dr Clarke will have similar access) AIR 2 class only. Using "Parliamentary Questions, Parliamentary Enquiries, PQ and PE."

The record identified are Ministerial files (they contain no branch identification), although from a quick trawl no obvious air staff subjects.

I have though revisited the catalogue and search against all AIR and DEFE classes. The four PQ files we are aware of relating to UFOs are shown:

- ✓ AIR 20/9320 Air Traffic Control, PQ on UFOs, 1957
- ✓ AIR 20/9321 ditto
- AIR 20/9322 ditto
- AIR 20/9994 ditto 1953-57

tion 40

-----Original Message-----

From: DAS-LA-Ops+Pol
Sent: 14 December 2001 10:34
To: Info(Exp)-Records1
Subject: RE: ENQUIRY BY DR CLARKE
Importance: Low

tion 40

Thank you for this.

Your first point - Are the PQ/PE files you have identified from this Directorate. If they are it would be helpful to have their number and titles so that I can tell Dr Clarke and he may check if he so wishes.

Are you content that we say publically (to Dr C) that "Up to the end of 2000 PQ and PE folders were routinely destroyed at around the six year point." I would like also to add the next sentence you quote by way of explanation. (I assume Dr Clarke would like, if possible, to view some old PQ material that includes a surviving advice to Ministers/background note so I believe it is a good idea to explain why he is unlikely to be successful.)
With thanks - [REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: Info(Exp)-Records1

Sent: 12 December 2001 08:53
To: DAS-LA-Ops+Pol
Subject: RE: ENQUIRY BY DR CLARKE

h 40

A quick check of the PRO catalogue has been made for any possible PQ/PE files on policy files that might contain parliamentary business.

Eight files have been identified that appear to be either PQ or PE folders. All specific subjects, but none relevant to UFOs.

For background.

As a category PQ/PE folders are not preserved (although oddments have clearly found their way to the PRO).

Up to the end of 2000 PQ and PE folders were routinely destroyed at around the six year point. The rationale, a fuller picture would be held on the files of the branch with lead responsibility and it these files that would be subject of consideration for permanent preservation.

You also may recall that up until the early/mid 1990s PQ/PE folders were sent out to branches and the branch in turn returned the folder with their advice. Thus correspondence on these folders was usually limited to (1) the question or enquiry, (2) the branches submission to Private Office (background note and draft answer, (3) a copy of the final reply. The practice of sending out folders to branches probably ceased as a result of technological changes, greater use/availability of fax machines and of course the Chots network!.

on 40

Original Message-----

From: DAS-LA-Ops+Pol
Sent: 11 December 2001 15:42
To: Info(Exp)-Records1
Subject: ENQUIRY BY DR CLARKE
Importance: Low

Section 40

Just a postscript I hope - I believe Dr Clarke's researches are pretty well at an end and that he is likely to publish in the spring!

His latest letter asks the following:

"Finally, perhaps you may be able to advise me as to the likely location of two Air Ministry files relating to Parliamentary Questions that were answered in 1955 and 1957 respectively. These were briefing files compiled for use by the then Secretary of State for Air, George Ward MP, are referred to in the file Air 2/18564 (PRO number - [redacted] that was released following my request under the Code of Practice in January this year (from your area I believe, [redacted] 40) have carefully checked the PRO catalogue for a record of these files, but without success.

As they were briefings for PQs to the Secretary of State that were re-used in later years as background folders for use in answering questions by MPs it seems unlikely that they would have been destroyed. They are:

Air Ministry PQ 196/55 - PQ by Sir Patrick Wall, 5 May 1955

Air Ministry PQ 121/57 - PQ by J A Leavey, 20 March 1957 "Flying saucer" sightings at Wardle, Lancashire."

Looking back at the list of files you gave me on 16 Nov 2000, I note the Directorate does not appear to have a designated Parliamentary correspondence file until the 1970s. The 'UFO' statistics for the years 1959 to 1967 are very modest, under 100 "reports" in each year, and only 22 in 1959. Assuming earlier years statistics (not kept it appears) were likewise modest it is possible that the papers of any PQ asked and answered would have been lodged on another AIR 2 file.

If there are no UFO parliamentary correspondence files from the 1950s, is there an AIR 2 parliamentary

To
add to
Letters

business file from the period from the Low Flying area - not specifically 'UFO'?

[REDACTED]

COPY



██████████ Directorate Air Staff (Lower Airspace) Ops + Pol

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Room 6/71, Metropole Building, Northumberland Avenue,
London, WC2N 5BP.

Telephone (Direct dial) ██████████
(Switchboard) 020 7218 9000
(Fax) ██████████

Section 40
020 7218 9000
Section 10

Dr David Clarke
██████████

Your Reference

Our Reference
D/DAS/64/3/11
Date
11 December 2001

Dear Dr Clarke,

Thank you for your letter of 5 December and the enclosed cheque for £30.00. I am sorry that you did not receive receipts for your earlier cheques although a request to that effect was made as we passed them on. I now attach one receipt, produced here, itemising all three payments that I hope will be satisfactory.

As you will already know, the number of reported 'UFO' sightings in the years from 1959 to 1967 was under 100 in any one year. If the number of PQs each year prior to 1967 was also modest then it is possible that any asked and answered will have been retained on another branch file, a general Parliamentary file. I am, therefore, asking Defence Records to advise concerning Parliamentary Question (PQ) files from the 1950s as well as asking them to check their listing of 'UFO' files.

I shall reply to you when I have heard from them.

Yours sincerely,

██████████ 0



From - the Directorate of Air Staff, Ministry of Defence, Northumberland Avenue, London WC2N 5BP.

RECEIPT

In payment for work researching, reviewing and copying of material.

Received on 20 January 2001 a cheque in the sum of £183.75

Received on 18 March 2001 a cheque in the sum of £20.00

Received on 11 December 2001 a cheque in the sum of £30.00

[REDACTED]
DAS (Lower Airspace) Ops + Pol

From: DAS-LA-Ops+Pol
Sent: 11 December 2001 15:42
To: Info(Exp)-Records1
Subject: ENQUIRY BY DR CLARKE

Importance: Low

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If there are no UFO parliamentary correspondence files from the 1950s, is there an AIR 2 parliamentary business file from the period from the Low Flying area - not specifically 'UFO'?

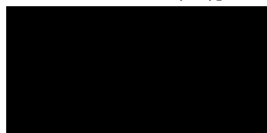
49



Directorate Air Staff (Lower Airspace) Ops + Pol
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Room 6/71, Metropole Building, Northumberland Avenue,
London, WC2N 5BP.

Telephone (Direct dial) [redacted]
(Switchboard) 020 7218 9000
(Fax) [redacted]

Dr David Clarke



Your Reference

Our Reference
D/DAS/64/3/11
Date
11 December 2001

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I shall reply to you when I have heard from them.

Yours sincerely,





From - the Directorate of Air Staff, Ministry of Defence, Northumberland Avenue, London WC2N 5BP.

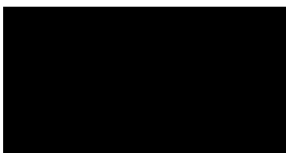
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DAS (Lower Airspace) Ops + Pol

48

Dr David Clarke



**Ministry of Defence
Room 6/71
Metropole Building
Northumberland Avenue
London WC2N 5BP**

5 December 2001

Your ref: D/DAS/64/3/11

Dear 

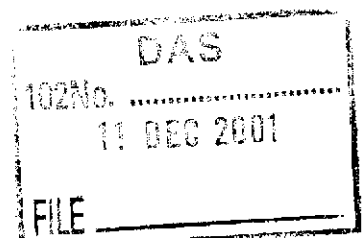
Thank you for your letters of 26 October and 8 November in response to my list of questions concerning reports of 'unidentified flying objects.'

I am grateful for the detailed response I received that has answered the majority of the outstanding issues that emerged from my research at the PRO over the past two years.

With regards to Question 5, specifically the alleged tracking of a UFO by CRC Neatishead in September-October 1980, I'm again grateful for your attempts to trace a record of the incident in the files relating to that period. As the result has been negative, I will not pursue this matter further unless I can uncover more specific information as to the precise date of the incident at some point in the future.

I'm enclosing as requested a crossed cheque for £30 made out to 'Accounting Officer MOD' to cover the costs of examining these files on my behalf. Would it be possible for you to provide me with a receipt for this cheque and for the two earlier payments I have made for material under the Code of Practice. These were £183.75 and £20 respectively earlier this year, a total of £233.75. I did not receive a receipt for the two earlier payments, and require these for my research accounts.

Finally, perhaps you may be able to advise me as to the likely location of two Air Ministry files relating to Parliamentary Questions that were answered in 1955 and 1957 respectively. These were briefing files compiled for use by the then Secretary of State for Air, George Ward MP, are referred to in the file Air 2/18564 that was released following my request under the Code of Practice in January this year. I have carefully checked the PRO catalogue for a record of these files, but without success.



Air Ministry PQ 121/57

Parliamentary Question by J.A. Leavey, 20 March 1957
'flying saucer' sightings at Wardle, Lancashire.

Yours Sincerely,

D.W.Clarke



Lloyds TSB

Church Street Sheffield Branch
14 Church Street Sheffield South Yorkshire S1 1HP

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Date 5 DECEMBER
2001

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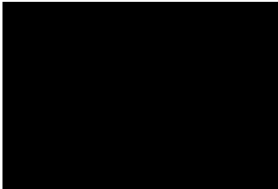
£ 30

14JLY00 Lloyds TSB Bank plc
Cheque No. Branch No.

Account No.

⑈000193⑈ 30 9751⑈

Dr David Clarke



**Ministry of Defence
Room 6/71
Metropole Building
Northumberland Avenue
London WC2N 5BP**

5 December 2001

Your ref: D/DAS/64/3/11

Dear 

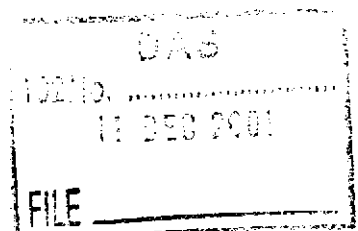
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With regards to Question 5, specifically the alleged tracking of a UFO by CRC Neatishead in September-October 1980, I'm again grateful for your attempts to trace a record of the incident in the files relating to that period. As the result has been negative, I will not pursue this matter further unless I can uncover more specific information as to the precise date of the incident at some point in the future.

I'm enclosing as requested a crossed cheque for £30 made out to 'Accounting Officer MOD' to cover the costs of examining these files on my behalf. Would it be possible for you to provide me with a receipt for this cheque and for the two earlier payments I have made for material under the Code of Practice. These were £183.75 and £20 respectively earlier this year, a total of £233.75. I did not receive a receipt for the two earlier payments, and require these for my research accounts.

Finally, perhaps you may be able to advise me as to the likely location of two Air Ministry files relating to Parliamentary Questions that were answered in 1955 and 1957 respectively. These were briefing files compiled for use by the then Secretary of State for Air, George Ward MP, are referred to in the file Air 2/18564 that was released following my request under the Code of Practice in January this year. I have carefully checked the PRO catalogue for a record of these files, but without success.



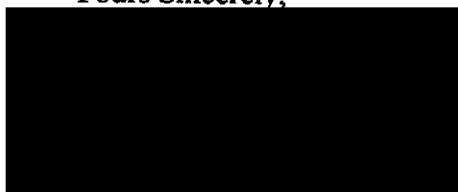
As they were briefings for PQs to the Secretary of State that were re-used in later years as background folders for use in answering questions by MPs it seems unlikely that they would have been destroyed. They are:

Air Ministry PQ 196/55 Parliamentary Question by Sir Patrick Wall, 5 May 1955,
'Flying Saucers'

Air Ministry PQ 121/57 Parliamentary Question by J.A. Leavey, 20 March 1957
'flying saucer' sightings at Wardle, Lancashire.

As these are historical files my question may be better directed to your Defence Records or the Air Historical Branch. I would be grateful for any assistance you can provide in locating these files.

Yours Sincerely,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

D.W.Clarke

DAS-LA-Ops+Pol

From: DAS4A(SEC)
Sent: 10 December 2001 16:10
To: DAS-LA-Ops+Pol
Subject: FW: New UFO Book About MOD

Importance: Low

From: D News RAF
Sent: Monday, December 10, 2001 4:10:10 PM
To: DAS4A(SEC)
Subject: FW: New UFO Book About MOD
Importance: Low
Auto forwarded by a Rule

[REDACTED] n 40

Could you pass this on to the correst person?
Who does do UFOs? I'm having a blank!

[REDACTED] n 40

-----Original Message-----

From: FinPol(Rep)2
Sent: 10 December 2001 15:17
To: D News RAF
Subject: New UFO Book About MOD
Importance: Low

[REDACTED] 40

I thought you'd want to know that a book is due to be published by Piatkus in May 2002, focusing on Air Ministry and MOD research and investigation into the UFO phenomenon, from the Second World War to the present day. The book is by Dave Clarke and Andy Roberts and is called *Out of the Shadows*.

They've interviewed a number of military and civilian personnel (including me) who have been involved in an official capacity, or who have had UFO sightings themselves. Dave and Andy are generally sceptical about extraterrestrials, but will highlight past MOD secrecy on the UFO issue. I'm not sure how critical of MOD it will be, overall.

Dave is a journalist who has previously placed UFO stories in the Nationals (most recently *The Guardian* and *The Observer*), so it's virtually certain that there will be some significant media coverage when the book is published.

Further details are at their website www.flyingsaucery.com, under the heading "Coming Soon".

I leave it up to you as to whether to pass this on to DAS, but they might appreciate a heads up.

Please let me know if you need any further information.

[REDACTED] n 40

49



██████████ Directorate Air Staff (Lower Airspace) Ops + Pol

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Room 6/71, Metropole Building, Northumberland Avenue,
London, WC2N 5BP.

Telephone	(Direct dial)	020 7218 2140
	(Switchboard)	020 7218 9000
	(Fax)	██████████

Dr David Clarke



Your Reference

Our Reference
D/DAS/64/3/11
Date
8 November 2001

Dear Dr Clarke,

I consulted ██████████ of Info (Exp) Records about the possibility that a number of files from the 1970's might contain correspondence that would help us to answer your Question 5.

██████████ has been able to consult his own record of files reviewed before they are passed to the archives and has informed me that the content of four files I had identified was "reports" and not any associated correspondence. I believe, therefore, that recalling and examining the files is unlikely to be helpful. I am sorry to have to send this disappointing reply.

Yours sincerely,

██████████ 40

~~46~~
46

From: DAS-LA-Ops+Pol
Sent: 14 December 2001 10:34
To: Info(Exp)-Records1
Subject: RE: ENQUIRY BY DR CLARKE

Importance: Low

Section 40

Thank you for this.

Your first point - Are the PQ/PE files you have identified from this Directorate. If they are it would be helpful to have their number and titles so that I can tell Dr Clarke and he may check if he so wishes.

Are you content that we say publically (to Dr C) that "Up to the end of 2000 PQ and PE folders were routinely destroyed at around the six year point." I would like also to add the next sentence you quote by way of explanation. (I assume Dr Clarke would like, if possible, to view some old PQ material that includes a surviving advice to Ministers/background note so I believe it is a good idea to explain why he is unlikely to be successful.)

With thanks - [REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: Info(Exp)-Records1
Sent: 12 December 2001 08:53
To: DAS-LA-Ops+Pol
Subject: RE: ENQUIRY BY DR CLARKE

n 40

A quick check of the PRO catalogue has been made for any possible PQ/PE files on policy files that might contain parliamentary business.

Eight files have been identified that appear to be either PQ or PE folders. All specific subjects, but none relevant to UFOs.

For background.

As a category PQ/PE folders are not preserved (although oddments have clearly found their way to the PRO).

Up to the end of 2000 PQ and PE folders were routinely destroyed at around the six year point. The rationale, a fuller picture would be held on the files of the branch with lead responsibility and it these files that would be subject of consideration for permanent preservation.

You also may recall that up until the early/mid 1990s PQ/PE folders were sent out to branches and the branch in turn returned the folder with their advice. Thus correspondence on these folders was usually limited to (1) the question or enquiry, (2) the branches submission to Private Office (background note and draft answer, (3) a copy of the final reply. The practice of sending out folders to branches probably ceased as a result of technological changes, greater use/availability of fax machines and of course the Chots network!.

n 40

Original Message-----

From: DAS-LA-Ops+Pol
Sent: 11 December 2001 15:42
To: Info(Exp)-Records1
Subject: ENQUIRY BY DR CLARKE

From: Info(Exp)-Records1
Sent: 12 December 2001 08:53
To: DAS-LA-Ops+Pol
Subject: RE: ENQUIRY BY DR CLARKE

40

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Eight files have been identified that appear to be either PQ or PE folders. All specific subjects, but none relevant to UFOs.

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Original Message-----

From: DAS-LA-Ops+Pol
Sent: 11 December 2001 15:42
To: Info(Exp)-Records1
Subject: ENQUIRY BY DR CLARKE
Importance: Low

on 40

Just a postscript I hope - I believe Dr Clarke's researches are pretty well at an end and that he is likely to publish in the spring!

His latest letter asks the following:

"Finally, perhaps you may be able to advise me as to the likely location of two Air Ministry files relating to Parliamentary Questions that were answered in 1955 and 1957 respectively. These were briefing files compiled for use by the then Secretary of State for Air, George Ward MP, are referred to in the file Air 2/18564 (PRO number - [redacted] that was released following my request under the Code of Practice in January this year (from your area I believe, [redacted] 40) have carefully checked the PRO catalogue for a record of these files, but without success.

As they were briefings for PQs to the Secretary of State that were re-used in later years as background folders for use in answering questions by MPs it seems unlikely that they would have been destroyed. They are:

Air Ministry PQ 196/55 - PQ by Sir Patrick Wall, 5 May 1955

Air Ministry PQ 121/57 - PQ by J A Leavey, 20 March 1957 "Flying saucer" sightings at Wardle, Lancashire."

Looking back at the list of files you gave me on 16 Nov 2000, I note the Directorate does not appear to have a designated Parliamentary correspondence file until the 1970s. The 'UFO' statistics for the years 1959 to 1967 are very modest, under 100 "reports" in each year, and only 22 in 1959. Assuming earlier years statistics (not

kept it appears) were likewise modest it is possible that the papers of any PQ asked and answered would have been lodged on another AIR 2 file.

If there are no UFO parliamentary correspondence files from the 1950s, is there an AIR 2 parliamentary business file from the period from the Low Flying area - not specifically 'UFO'?

[REDACTED]

DAS-LA-Ops+Pol

From: DAS-LA-Ops+Pol
Sent: 30 October 2001 14:07
To: Info(Exp)-Records1
Subject: RE: DR CLARKE - further thoughts on UFO files

Importance: High

*called.
It appears that yes much
of the 1970s correspondence
may not have been kept.*

Thanks for this. As you will have seen, I was looking at one of your minutes with the very helpful list of files attached. I was hoping that correspondence from the early 70s might be on the file I mentioned. If it is not (the dates you have given seem to confirm that is correct) then it appears that the practice (until 1977ish) may have been to keep all reports but destroy the associated correspondence. (That would fit in with our 'line' - produced goodness knows how many years ago but not usually interpreted in that light.)

Is that likely to be correct - or do we need to run another check.

Your help is appreciated.

-----Original Message-----

From: Info(Exp)-Records1
Sent: 29 October 2001 07:51
To: DAS-LA-Ops+Pol
Subject: RE: DR CLARKE - further thoughts on UFO files

on 40

These files should be at Hayes. But before recalling them my loose minute, October 2000, shows the dates of these files from 1977 thru' 1981 ie 8/75/2/1 A - C - 1977 1978, 8/10/209 A & B - 1981, 8/75/2/5 A & B - 1980.

Are you still interested?

on 40

-----Original Message-----

From: DAS-LA-Ops+Pol
Sent: 25 October 2001 18:30
To: Info(Exp)-Records1
Subject: FW: DR CLARKE - further thoughts on UFO files
Importance: High

further thoughts. might I ALSO HAVE (IF STILL WITHIN YOUR AREA) ds810/209 parts a AND b AND DS8/75/2/5 Parts A and B. In relation to 2 more of Dr C's queries. With thanks -

-----Original Message-----

From: DAS-LA-Ops+Pol
Sent: 25 October 2001 18:24
To: Info(Exp)-Records1
Subject: DR CLARKE - further thoughts on UFO files
Importance: High

on 40

I do not know whether you would be able to help me.

Dr Clarke has asked a series of questions and I have been able to answer most including by reference to old UFO files. However, I have been surprised to discover that a range of files from 1973/1974 have reports but no correspondence - which may be elsewhere.

I looked through past minutes sent by you to this office, in particular one dated 16 Nov 00 (3/7/8). I see (from the attachment) that you may have DS8/75/2/1, parts A/B/C. Would you let us have those files if that is the case; I am guessing that they might have correspondence from the early 1970s.

DAS-LA-Ops+Pol

From: Info(Exp)-Records1
Sent: 29 October 2001 07:51
To: DAS-LA-Ops+Pol
Subject: RE: DR CLARKE - further thoughts on UFO files

[REDACTED] n 40

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Are you still interested?

[REDACTED] ion 40

-----Original Message-----

From: DAS-LA-Ops+Pol
Sent: 25 October 2001 18:30
To: Info(Exp)-Records1
Subject: FW: DR CLARKE - further thoughts on UFO files
Importance: High

[REDACTED] ion 40 further thoughts. might i ALSO HAVE (IF STILL WITHIN YOUR AREA) ds810/209 parts a AND b AND DS8/75/2/5 Parts A and B. In relation to 2 more of Dr C's queries. With thanks - [REDACTED] on 40

-----Original Message-----

From: DAS-LA-Ops+Pol
Sent: 25 October 2001 18:24
To: Info(Exp)-Records1
Subject: DR CLARKE - further thoughts on UFO files
Importance: High

[REDACTED] on 40

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I looked through past minutes sent by you to this office, in particular one dated 16 Nov 00 (3/7/8). I see (from the attachment) that you may have DS8/75/2/1, parts A/B/C. Would you let us have those files if that is the case; I am guessing that they might have correspondence from the early 1970s.

With thanks - [REDACTED] n 40



██████████ Directorate Air Staff (Lower Airspace) Ops + Pol

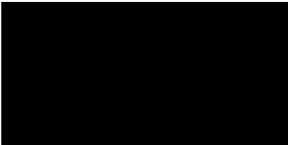
44

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Room 6/71, Metropole Building, Northumberland Avenue,
London, WC2N 5BP.

Telephone	(Direct dial)	020 7218 2140
	(Switchboard)	020 7218 9000
	(Fax)	██████████

Dr David Clarke



Your Reference

Our Reference
D/DAS/64/3/11
Date
26 October 2001

Dear Dr Clarke,



I am writing further to my letter of 25 September. I have looked at a number of files in an attempt to answer your questions, as well as receiving information from others, and hope you will find what follows useful.

Question 4: Neither service nor external psychologists have been called upon in respect of individual investigation or analysis of 'UFO' issues.

I approached Defence Records with the additional information you supplied and they have now traced a reference, in a directory, to a ██████████ working in an RAF Directorate. An individual by that name worked in Science 4 (RAF) (within the area of the Assistant Chief Scientist (Personnel) (RAF)) in the mid 1960s with a responsibility for "scientific briefs and research on all RAF personnel matters". The PRO catalogue was also consulted briefly (AIR 77) but none of the reports/memos originating from the area of the Chief Scientist (RAF) (including Science 3 and 4 (RAF)) appear to cover your own area of interest.

Question 5: There are no records of 'UFOs' tracked by Neatishead.

- I am sorry that I cannot really add anything to my earlier reply. We are unable either to confirm or deny Flt Lt Wimbledon's account.
- Prior to 1990, the detection of unidentified tracks on radar and the subsequent response by air defence aircraft was not unusual. As is still the case, details of operations were recorded in operational log books but we can only assume that some books were not considered to be of historic value and were, therefore, destroyed.

In preparing to answer this question I also consulted the files listed below but could find no mention of an incident in September-October 1980 in which Neatishead had an involvement.

D/DS8/10/209 parts A and B
D/DS8/75/2/5 part B

D/DS8/75/2/5 part A
D/DS8/75/2/1 parts G and H

As a final check I have called for three additional DS8 files that may contain correspondence as well as reports and shall look through them if you wish this further search to be made. Depending on the content of the files I believe the additional check through the material is likely to take in the region of one hour. Perhaps you would let me know if you are willing to pay for this additional work and do wish me to undertake the task.

Question 8: Details of sorties . . . are recorded in Operational Record Books that are destroyed after 5 years.

It is feasible that details of some significant operational events may have been extracted to produce a separate report that will later go to the PRO, and the Form 540 may also include some information from operational record books. Routine operational activity would not necessarily have been considered of historic importance and therefore the record would not have been retained.

Question 11 -

11a: Files created by AI 5b, Air Ministry

I understand that a number of researchers have asked about holdings of 'AI 5' files but that none have been identified to date. Unfortunately, no register of events has been discovered.

11b: Towards the end of 2000, DI ST decided that 'UFO' reports were of no defence interest and should no longer be sent to them.

Reports of sightings, comprising brief records and letters from the public, were sent to DI ST in case they contained any information of value relating to their primary role of analysing the performance and threat of foreign weapons systems, nuclear, chemical and biological weapons programmes and emerging technologies. These records, whether from members of the public or service sources, have not proved valuable. For this reason DI ST decided the records should no longer be sent to them. This decision covers material from service and civilian sources.

You ask "what would happen if a 'UFO' incident occurred today that was judged to be of defence interest". Reports may be sent to Air Defence staff (who are not located within the DI area) for assessment, as I confirmed in an attachment to an earlier letter dated 25 July in answer to your question 1. To date no 'UFO' report has been judged to be of defence interest.

11c: A search of DI ST records was undertaken to identify all of their file holdings; files prior to 1961 had not been retained.

DI ST hold no 'UFO' files prior to 1975.

Question 12: Unidentified helicopter incident 1973/74 – no papers traced to suggest MOD acted in an advisory capacity to a Police Special Branch operation.

I have looked through the files listed below but have not traced any material on an incident involving an unidentified helicopter in 1973/74. The files contain, almost exclusively, brief details of reported sightings but no additional correspondence from the Department to members of the public or within the Department.

AF 583

AF 7464 Parts I and II

AF 584

AF 585

AF 586

It has taken a little over six hours to undertake the work of examining files on your behalf. The first four hours has been undertaken free of charge but, as indicated in my letter of 25 September, the remaining two hours is to be charged at £15.00 per hour, making a total of £30.00. I would be grateful if you would let me have your crossed cheque, made payable to "Accounting Officer MOD".

Yours sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the sender.

DAS-LA-Ops+Pol

From: DAS-LA-Ops+Pol
Sent: 25 October 2001 18:30
To: Info(Exp)-Records1
Subject: FW: DR CLARKE - further thoughts on UFO files

43

Importance: High

Section 40 further thoughts. MIGHT I ALSO HAVE (IF STILL WITHIN YOUR AREA) ds810/209 pARTS a AND b AND ds8/75/2/5 Parts A and B. In relation to 2 more of Dr C's queries. With thanks - Janet

-----Original Message-----

From: DAS-LA-Ops+Pol
Sent: 25 October 2001 18:24
To: Info(Exp)-Records1
Subject: DR CLARKE - further thoughts on UFO files
Importance: High

DS8-75/2/5 A+B.

DS8. 810/209 A+B

Section 40

I do not know whether you would be able to help me.

Dr Clarke has asked a series of questions and I have been able to answer most including by reference to old UFO files. However, I have been surprised to discover that a range of files from 1973/1974 have reports but no correspondence - which may be elsewhere.

I looked through past minutes sent by you to this office, in particular one dated 16 Nov 00 (3/7/8). I see (from the attachment) that you may have DS8/75/2/1, parts A/B/C. Would you let us have those files if that is the case; I am guessing that they might have correspondence from the early 1970s.

With thanks - Section 40

DS8-75/2/1. A-C.

From: DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1
Sent: 22 October 2001 14:37
To: DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1
Subject: FW: Request for documents

From: Info(Exp)-Records1
Sent: Monday, October 22, 2001 2:37:01 PM
To: DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1
Subject: RE: Request for documents
Auto forwarded by a Rule

Messrs Clark and Roberts recd copies of the Report.

I understand that the PRO picked up the Report on 2 October. Its likely to be a few more weeks before the public will be able to access it!

██████████n 40

PS copy of the Observer article on its way.

-----Original Message-----
From: DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1
Sent: 22 October 2001 14:28
To: Info(Exp)-Records1
Subject: RE: Request for documents

Thanks ██████████n 40 that's really helpful.

I have looked at the web site. It is always useful to know what is being said about released documents. I will keep an eye on this site from now on.

I have not seen the Observer article, but I would be grateful for a copy if you have it.

By the way, has Report No. 7 been released in the PRO yet or is Dr Clark the only person who has it? .

██████████n 40

-----Original Message-----
From: Info(Exp)-Records1
Sent: 22 October 2001 10:13
To: DAS4A1(SEC)
Subject: RE: Request for documents

██████████n 40

I'll arrange for Hayes and OWO archives to be checked.

You may be interested to learn that yesterday's Observer (page 14) carried a piece about the JTIC Report No 7. Also the BBC World Service this morning 05.25 had 3/4 minutes with Dr Clarke talking about the Report.

If you have access to the internet Dr Clark/Mr Roberts web site is www.flyingsaucery.com. It has copies of a number of docs incl Report No 7 and pages from the Rendlesham file and also refers to their forthcoming book.

tion 40

-----Original Message-----

From: DAS4A1(SEC)
Sent: 17 October 2001 15:16
To: Info(Exp)-Records1
Subject: Request for documents

tion 40

Please see my attached LM.

<< File: BRUNI - Records 1 LM.doc >>

LOOSE MINUTE

D/DI SEC/10/8/3

1 October 2001

DAS 4A - Sec

Copy to:
DAO – ADGE 1
AD DI 55
DISSY

OFFICIAL ACTION LETTER FROM DR D CLARKE – UFO QUESTIONS

Reference: DAS/64/11 dated 3 September 2001

1. Thank you for your minute at reference containing further questions from Dr Clarke. Our responses are as follows:

- a. **Question 4:** We spoke earlier about whether this was a DIS or RAF employed psychologist. We have searched the DIS archives and can find no reference to files emanating from Science 4(RAF). We therefore assume that he must have been employed by the RAF.
- b. **Question 11a:** Special Register. We do not seem to have a Special Register in our archives, nor can we find any record of it.
- c. **Question 11b:** We suggest the following response. I have added the last line in italics as he asked the question, but you or the Air Staff may have a more appropriate line to take.

"You asked for a statement explaining the reasoning behind DI ST's decision not to receive reports of UFOs. These reports were only sent to DIST in case they contained any information which was of value in DI ST's primary role which is to analyse the performance and threat of foreign weapons systems, nuclear, chemical and biological weapons programmes and technologies and emerging technologies. However, none of the reports received over a period of 30 years have yielded any valuable information whatsoever. DI ST therefore decided not to receive these reports any longer. The reports could originate from either a military or a civilian source, so I confirm that DI 55 are no longer receiving reports from either. *If there were an incursion into UK airspace by an aircraft whose country of origin was unknown, then that would count as of "defence interest" and appropriate action would be taken.*"

- d. **Question 11c:** We can confirm that we hold no UFO files prior to 1975.

2. I hope this answers the questions, but get in touch if you require more.

42





DAS4A(SEC)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 01 October 2001 16:29
To: DAS4A(SEC)
Cc: [REDACTED] DAO ADGE1
Subject: reply to Dr Clarke



dr d clarke - ufo - fm3
to DAS...

[REDACTED] on 40
I hope you got [REDACTED] replies on Lord Hill Norton's questions. Attached is answers for Dr Clarke.

40

Dr David Clarke

41


DAS (Lower Airspace) Ops+Pol
Ministry of Defence
Room 6/71
Metropole Building
Northumberland Avenue
London WC2N 5BP

28 September 2001

Your ref: D/DAS/64/3/11

Dear 

Thank you for your letter of 25 September and for the details of the research you have undertaken to identify material relating to my questions on the subject of 'UFOs.'

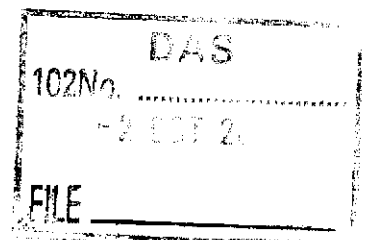
This is to confirm that I am content for the work you have initiated to be finalised and that I am willing to pay the charges you calculated for the work undertaken.

If you are able to locate material directly relevant to the RAF Lakenheath/Neatishead incident of 13/14 August 1956 during your review of Archival records and/or the helicopter incidents of 1973-74 I would appreciate copies of the relevant papers (redacted if necessary).

I am grateful for your attention to my request and look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

None found.
DN





██████████ Directorate Air Staff (Lower Airspace) Ops + Pol

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Room 6/71, Metropole Building, Northumberland Avenue,
London, WC2N 5BP.

Telephone (Direct dial) 020 7218 2140
(Switchboard) 020 7218 9000
(Fax) ██████████

Dr David Clarke

Your Reference

Our Reference
D/DAS/64/3/11
Date
25 September 2001

Dear Dr Clarke,

Thank you for your letter of 23 August in which you ask a number of additional questions on the subject of 'UFOs'.

I now have the majority of the material required to answer your questions; this work has involved several members of staff working for less than four hours in total. I have also recalled files from the Defence Records Archives and have received six volumes covering the period identified in your Question 5 and Question 12. An initial inspection suggests that they contain somewhere in the region of 1000 enclosures close reading of which might take up to 16 hours (at one minute per enclosure). However, I believe that I shall be able to complete the search for material from the period you mention in two to three hours searching initially for the dates you identify and then inspecting more closely any relevant papers. This may result in the raising of a charge for one to two hours work at £15.00 per hour; I would be grateful if you would confirm that you are content for this work to be finalised.

At present the files that contain our correspondence are with the Directorate of Information Exploitation. I would like to refer to some material collected previously in order to reply to earlier answers to your questions. I shall therefore complete any outstanding work as soon as those papers have been returned to us.

Yours sincerely,

Signed ██████████

DAS4A(SEC)

From: Info(Exp)-Records1
Sent: 13 September 2001 12:01
To: DAS4A(SEC)
Subject: RE: DR CLARKE

39

██████████ on 40

✓ 1. Re ██████████ and Chief Scientist (RAF) organisation.

We hold a number of old Office Directories. The earliest, mid 1960s (approx), shows ██████████ working in the Assistant Chief Scientist (Personnel) (RAF) areas, a section of CS(RAF). Specifically Science 4(RAF) with responsibility for "Scientific briefs and research on all RAF personnel matters."

By January 1973 he moved from ACS (P) (RAF) to a ACS (Training) (RAF) section, Science 3(RAF) work description "RAF selection, training, manpower, modelling, flight safety, air traffic control." ACS (T) (RAF) still existed as did Sc 4(RAF) the latter with responsibility for "Social research, RAF recruitment, wastage, attitude surveys, organisational behaviour."

The Office Directory for June 1976 shows ██████████ had moved to Sc 4(RAF).

However, by October 1977, Sc 4 (RAF) seems to have merged with Sc 3(RAF). ██████████ features in the new branch, which had responsibility for "RAF selection, trg, manpower modelling, flight safety, air traffic services, and social factors affecting recruitment and retention of RAF personnell."

But by October 1978 ██████████ had moved to the Army Personnel Research Establishment (APRE).

2. Sc 4(RAF) files held by MOD.

I've asked both Hayes and OWO archives to check their holding of these files, post 1975.

But a quick look at the PRO catalogue shows that PRO class AIR 77 holds more than 600 reports/memos originated by the Chief Scientist (RAF)s area including Sc 3(RAF) and Sc 4(RAF)! None apparently relating to Dr Clark's area of interest. (perhaps not too surprising given their overall responsibility relating to personnel and training issues).

I'll let you know the outcome of the archives search in due course.

OUTSTANDING

██████████ on 40

-----Original Message-----

From: DAS4A(SEC)
Sent: 11 September 2001 10:04
To: Info(Exp)-Records1
Subject: RE: DR CLARKE
Importance: High

██████████ on 40 We are told, by the good Dr, that a psychologist, ██████████ was appointed as a psychologist to Science 4(RAF) in 1969. It is believed that the post (but not the branch title) survived "up until the early 1980s".

██████████ on 40

-----Original Message-----

From: Info(Exp)-Records1
Sent: 11 September 2001 08:35
To: DAS4A(SEC)
Subject: RE: DR CLARKE

██████████n 40

Do you have a specific period in mind?

██████████tion 40

-----Original Message-----

From: DAS4A(SEC)
Sent: 11 September 2001 08:15
To: Info(Exp)-Records1
Subject: DR CLARKE
Importance: Low

██████████ion 40

Do you by any chance have any S4(RAF) - Science 4 (RAF) - files in your archives. I'm trying to trace what became of them. ██████████n 40

From: Info(Exp)-Records1
 Sent: 28 August 2001 08:37
 To: DAS4A(SEC)
 Subject: RE: DR DAVID CLARKE

38

n 40

Rm64.

Thanks for the sight of your reply to Dr Clarke.

[Hopefully someone in your office has access to today's Guardian, there is a piece by Richard Norton-Taylor on ufos. His named source is Dr Clarke. Apparently his book is to be published by Piakus next year.]

Re your specific questions:

1. list of files retained. I read this as a list of all retentions not just those relating to his area of research. I plan to tell him that data is already, and has been for many years, available. The PRO catalogue identifies retentions ie files retained in department under S3(4) of the PRA. Also, files released that have been the subject of deletion or extraction of sensitive material will carry a notation in the file.

2. AI 5. Over the years we have been asked by researchers about holdings of these files. In all that time we have not identified any. Interestingly, we do have uncatalogued (there have been reviewed and selected for the PRO) a large number of DIS, and predecessor, files including a number from AI 3 and DDI(Tech). I will have to advise him of this material. Fortunately, none relating to UFOs.

n 40

-----Original Message-----

From: DAS4A(SEC)
 Sent: 24 August 2001 16:21
 To: Info(Exp)-Records1
 Subject: DR DAVID CLARKE
 Importance: High

<< File: DrClarke25Jul01.doc >>

Records 1/1 - Thank you for faxing a copy of Dr Clarke's latest letter.

It may help you to look at the last letter from this Directorate to Dr Clarke, which comes attached to this letter. It is getting quite difficult to answer his questions. Do you have any other letters from him on which you are still doing work? If so a chat might be helpful.

I see that one of his questions in his letter of 20 August relates to file holdings ". . . would it be possible to obtain a list of the files currently retained." I know that we corresponded about this question quite some time ago and the result of one of our searches confirmed that a few volumes had, almost certainly, been destroyed. Do we both need to revisit our lists and holdings (in office and archives). Would you let me know?

Finally, I have had a short period of leave following by a busy stretch. May I ask a follow up question. I understand, from DI, that "no files with the prefix Air Intelligence 5b, AI 5b or AI(Tech)5b have been traced". Their reply to me indicated that their records branch might be checking with you. Did that occur and do you have any trace of a record of such files dated between 1950 and 1967? See the answer to Dr Clarke's question number 11a attached to my letter of 25 July. (This would also appear to have a read across to his to you on 20 Aug, question number 2.)

n 40

(now DAS (Lower Airspace) Ops+Pol)

DAS4A(SEC)

From: Info(Exp)-Records1
Sent: 24 July 2001 08:37
To: DAS4A(SEC)
Subject: RE: 'UFO' AND RELATED QUESTIONS

37

n 40

Question 1:

You will not be surprised to learn that questions have previously been asked by researchers about AI 5 papers (in fact Dr Clarke raised such a question recently - May 2001 - about DDI Tech and AI5b files that he suggested might be held by AHB. AHB replied that they held not such papers).

I am not surprised that DI had no luck finding these files as on previous occasions when asked I received the same reply. As it is DI is no different than any other branch in the MOD in that they should comply with departmental regulations re the review of their files ie files should be processed at a relatively early age and no later than the 30 years point. Retention beyond that date requires the Lord Chancellor's approval.

To enquirers our response has been that if any papers from AI survive older than 30 years (DI was created in 1964) papers will be identifiable from the PRO catalogue.

A quick search on the PRO catalogue against the words "Air Intelligence" identified some 150 files. As Dr Clarke seems well researched on this subject I suspect that he has already discovered the PRO search facility and presumably determined that none are relevant to his research (an outcome discovered by other researchers on this subject).

Question 2:

As with DI I would have been very surprised if Air Ops had records (for the same reasons as DI).

I can only suggest that Dr Clarke try, if he has not already, the ORBs RAF Waterbeach AIR 28/1439 and for RAF Neatishead AIR 29/1369, 2631. But as with his earlier research I am sure that he has investigated these records.

As for S4(Air) records, AIR 20 has 5 files covering the early to mid 1970s: AIR 20/7390 (1950-54), AIR 20/9320 to 9322 (1977) and AIR 20/994 (1953-57). I am again sure that Dr Clarke is aware of these records.

I can though confirm that Defence Records (Hayes and the OWO archive) holds no cache of out of time records covering the subject of UFOs. Generally our review programme is comfortably examining surviving files from the mid-1970s.

on 40

-----Original Message-----

From: DAS4A(SEC)
Sent: 23 July 2001 11:17
To: Info(Exp)-Records1
Subject: 'UFO' AND RELATED QUESTIONS

ion 40

I wonder if you might be able to help us. It's a Dr Clarke query; he has asked quite a range of questions to which we have most of the answers. As always, however, there are a few

glitches!

QUESTION 1: Queries have been raised concerning the metamorphosis of a branch named Air Intelligence 5b (AI 5b) and some of the responsibilities of that area.

DI have done a search and have discovered no files with the following in the title:

Air Intelligence 5b

AI 5b

AI(Tech)5b.

Do you have a record of any file heading corresponding with that title? The likely period is 1950-1967

QUESTION 2: Dr Clarke has asked about material on incident alleged to have happened in 1956 on the night of 13/14 August. He mentions that the 'UFO' was tracked by CRC RAF Neatishead/or satellite radar stations and there was an attempted interception by Venom aircraft from RAF Waterbeach.

Air Ops have traced no records. There is a chance that something reached our side (in the DS8 days perhaps) but I would have thought that should be in the PRO. What do you think - any advice?

[REDACTED]

DAS4A(SEC)

From: DAS4A(SEC)
Sent: 11 September 2001 08:15
To: Info(Exp)-Records1
Subject: DR CLARKE

Importance: Low

36

on 40

Do you by any chance have any S4(RAF) - Science 4 (RAF) - files in your archives. I'm trying to trace what became of them. on 40

DAS4A(SEC)

From: Info(Exp)-Records1
Sent: 19 September 2001 10:42
To: DAS4A(SEC)
Subject: FW: DR CLARKE

35

Section 40

Re the search of both Hayes and OWO archives.

No identifiable cache of Sc4(RAF) etc files held post 1975.

Section 40

-----Original Message-----

From: Info(Exp)-Records1
Sent: 13 September 2001 12:01
To: DAS4A(SEC)
Subject: RE: DR CLARKE

Section 40

1. Re Section 40 and Chief Scientist (RAF) organisation.

We hold a number of old Office Directories. The earliest, mid 1960s (approx), shows Section 40 working in the Assistant Chief Scientist (Personnel) (RAF) areas, a section of CS(RAF). Specifically Science 4(RAF) with responsibility for "Scientific briefs and research on all RAF personnel matters."

By January 1973 he moved from ACS (P) (RAF) to a ACS (Training) (RAF) section, Science 3(RAF) work description "RAF selection, training, manpower, modelling, flight safety, air traffic control." ACS (T) (RAF) still existed as did Sc 4(RAF) the latter with responsibility for "Social research, RAF recruitment, wastage, attitude surveys, organisational behaviour."

The Office Directory for June 1976 shows Section 40 had moved to Sc 4(RAF).

However, by October 1977, Sc 4 (RAF) seems to have merged with Sc 3(RAF). Section 40 features in the new branch, which had responsibility for "RAF selection, trg, manpower modelling, flight safety, air traffic services, and social factors affecting recruitment and retention of RAF personnell."

But by October 1978 ANDERSON had moved to the Army Personnel Research Establishment (APRE).

2. Sc 4(RAF) files held by MOD.

I've asked both Hayes and OWO archives to check their holding of these files, post 1975.

But a quick look at the PRO catalogue shows that PRO class AIR 77 holds more than 600 reports/memos originated by the Chief Scientist (RAF)s area including Sc 3(RAF) and Sc 4(RAF)! None apparently relating to Dr Clark's area of interest. (perhaps not too surprising given their overall responsibility relating to personnel and training issues).

I'll let you know the outcome of the archives search in due course.

Section 40

-----Original Message-----

From: DAS4A(SEC)
Sent: 11 September 2001 10:04
To: Info(Exp)-Records1
Subject: RE: DR CLARKE
Importance: High

Section 40 told, by the good Dr, that a psychologist, Section 40 was appointed as a psychologist to Science 4(RAF) in 1969. It is believed that the post (but not the branch title) survived "up until the early 1980s".

Section 40

-----Original Message-----

From: Info(Exp)-Records1
Sent: 11 September 2001 08:35
To: DAS4A(SEC)
Subject: RE: DR CLARKE

Section 40

Do you have a specific period in mind?

Section 40

-----Original Message-----

From: DAS4A(SEC)
Sent: 11 September 2001 08:15
To: Info(Exp)-Records1
Subject: DR CLARKE
Importance: Low

Section 40

Do you by any chance have any S4(RAF) - Science 4 (RAF) - files in your archives. I'm trying to trace what became of them. Section 40

34

DAO/1/13

12 Sep 01

DAS (Lower Airspace) Ops & Pol

Copy to:

DI ISec Sec 4
Info(Exp)R1

'UFO' CORRESPONDENCE – DR DAVID CLARKE

Reference:

A. D/DAS/64/11 dated 3 Sep 01.

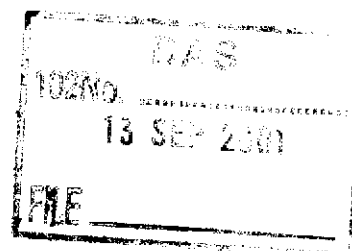
1. At Reference, you asked for comment on further issues raised by Dr Clarke following your last response to him.

2. ~~Question 5.~~

✓a. I am unable to either confirm or deny the account given of the UFO incident in Aug 56 by the Neatishead controller, Flt Lt Wimbledon, in the RAF Air Warfare Museum Newsletter.

✓b. Throughout the Cold War, the detection of unidentified tracks on radar and the subsequent response by air defence aircraft was commonplace. Details of operations were, and still are, recorded in operational log books as events occurred. Given the frequency of such incursions, one can only assume that they were not considered to be of any historic value and, therefore, the log books were disposed of in what is the normal manner rather than being passed to the PRO.

3. ~~Question 8.~~ The destruction of "operational record books" (ORBs), which I take to mean operational log books, does not necessarily mean that no documentation or, more accurately, information originating from these sources will ever be preserved as Public Records. It is feasible that details of specific, significant operational events, for example an aircraft accident, might have been extracted to produce a separate report which subsequently was passed into the PRO. Equally, unit F540s which form the traditional historic record should contain a monthly precis of operational activity, some of the information for which might be drawn from ORBs. Routine operational activity, such as the regular scramble of aircraft to investigate unidentified tracks, would not necessarily have been considered of historic importance. Furthermore, there is no extant, blanket requirement to justify long term preservation of records of routine operations for scientific or any other purpose.



4. Question 12. I am unable to offer any further information on the subject of the unidentified helicopter incident in 1973/74. Without knowing which department within MOD undertook to prepare the paper on the subject, we cannot even start a search to determine whether it has been preserved. I would suggest that it is highly unlikely that, if it was ever produced, a document of this nature would have survived the passage of time!

5. I hope the foregoing comments provide you with sufficient input to reply to Dr Clarke. You asked for an indication of how long the research took in order that a charge may be levied for the work. I would estimate that approximately 2 hours were spent on the formulation of this reply.



Wg Cdr
DAO ADGE 1
MT451 
CHOtS: DAO ADGE1

Loose Minute

Info(Exp)R/3/7/8

33

// September 2001

DAS (Lower Airspace) Ops & Pol

Copy to:

DAO - ADGE 1



DR DAVID CLARKE - "UFO" CORRESPONDENCE

Reference: D/DAS/64/11 dated 3 September

1. Thank you for your loose minute together with a copy of another letter from Dr Clarke seeking further advice/clarification in respect the Ministry of Defence's interest in the subject of "UFOs".

2. You sought Info(Exp)R input to a number of points raised by Dr Clarke:

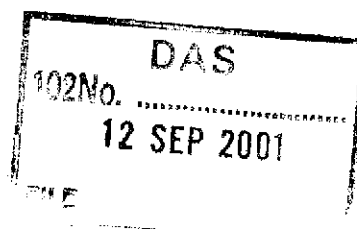
Question 5 - Neatishead records

Question 8 - storage of documents/value to MOD/posterity and ORBs.

ORBs (RAF Forms 540) are preserved at the Public Record Office (PRO). Dr Clarke apparently takes issue with their completeness, or rather lack of. RAF Stations and units raise ORBs and their compilation rests entirely in the hands of the officer designated with that responsibility. ORBs are routinely passed to the Air Historical Branch, who in turn transfer them to this branch for review at around the 25-year point. Our review is not a selection review but one intended to identify potential sensitivities that might preclude release on transfer to the PRO. I attach copies of letters to Dr Clarke, from this office and AHB, dated 27 February and 6 June 2001 that touched on this subject.

As you will also see from my letter to Dr Clarke (pages 1-3), dated 3 September 2001 (attached), I wrote in great detail on the evolution of the record review process. Including how those responsible for the creation of records have authority to destroy them locally and also provided statistics of what is reviewed by DRO staff in the context of what is selected for permanent preservation.

Question 11a - "UFO" records prior to 1962, specifically DDI(Tech)/AI3/AI5b for the period 1950-1970.



I am aware that, over the years, statements have been made by Ministers to the effect that prior to 1962 UFO records had been routinely destroyed and that since then that they have been kept and further more would not be destroyed. For example a Ministerial submission and draft reply to an MP, dating from 1970, in the PRO under ref BJ 5/311 (released in January 2001).

Unfortunately, I cannot account for the fate of non-DIS files covering this subject (see below), but presume that prior to 1987 (when HQ branches were given authority to destroy files locally) files on this subject from branches other than DAS (and predecessors) were assessed as have no administrative or historical value. But I believe it pertinent that there appears to have been no MOD-wide promulgation of Ministers continued commitment to preserves UFO documentation.

On the question of Dr Clarke's contention that RAF/Air Ministry/MOD files for the period 1947-67 must be in the Defence Records archives (Hayes and Old War Office). I can advise that no such cache exist.

However, in respect of DIS holdings, in October 1991 a formal agreement was agreed with DISSEC whereby reviewers from Records would examine DIS records over 20 years old. Initial work commenced November 1991 but was halted by the collocation of DIS branches in the Old War Office. It was subsequently reactivated in January 1996. Due to concerns about the loss of a great deal of valuable and irreplaceable material dating back to World War II an embargo on local weeding and destruction was introduced (June 1996) pending visits by reviewers.

It is estimated Defence Records reviewers have examined in excess of 2,200 linear feet of DIS records in situ, many of which were "out of time" ie older than 30 years. Although approximately 90% were judged unsuitable for preservation at the PRO (and presumably DIS has since destroyed them) more than 2,000 files/reports (the great majority still in DI custody) have been provisionally selected for the PRO. These date from 1947. It is noted that a few DDI(Tech) and AI 3 references have been selected for preservation, but none from AI 5. None apparently relate to Dr Clarke's area of research.

3. I hope that this is helpful.

[REDACTED]

1 Info(Exp)RV [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



From: [REDACTED] Room 1.01

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

3-5 Great Scotland Yard, London SW1A 2HW

CHOTs address: Info(Exp)-Records1

e-mail address: defence.records.1@gtnet.gov.uk

Tele: (Direct dial)
(Switchboard)
(Fax)

020 7218 9000

Dr D Clarke

Your Reference

Our Reference

D INFO(EXP)R/3/7/8

Date

27 February 2001

Dear Dr Clarke

Thank you for your letter dated 8 February 2001 concerning the absence of Forms 541 from the Public Record Office for a number of RAF facilities for the year 1956.

I have consulted a senior in-house air historian on this matter and have been advised:

- Queen's Regulations [3rd Edition 1953] stated only that units were required to complete a Form 541 when undertaking "major operations" or when "placed on a war footing".
- Whereas today Squadrons are required to complete a Form 541, they are notoriously reluctant in many cases to do so.
- Even if a Form 541 existed for the period you are interested in it is unlikely to contain any details other than those that you have already obtained from the aircrews' logbooks. Form 541s generally specify aircraft, crew, time of take-off and duration of flight and a basic statement of task - frequently the latter will merely record some brief statement such as "Duty Carried out".

I am sorry to give you what will be a disappointing reply.

[REDACTED]

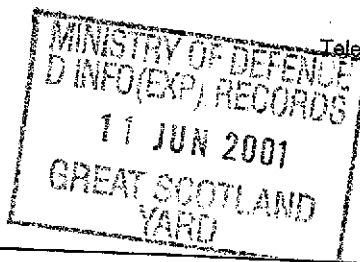
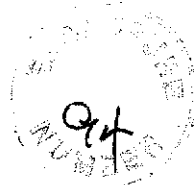
Deputy Departmental Record Officer

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]



Head of Air Historical Branch (RAF)
Royal Air Force
Bentley Priory
Stanmore
Middlesex
HA7 3HH



Telephone (Direct dial) 020 8838 7828
(Switchboard) 020 8838 7000
(Fax) 020 8838 7375

Dr David Clarke



Your Reference

Our Reference
D/AHB(RAF)8/10

Date
6 June 2001

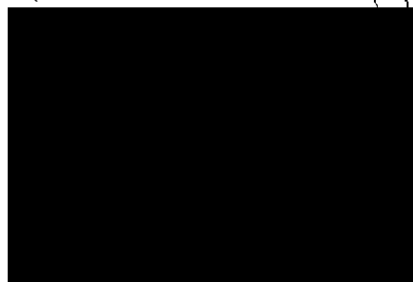
Dear Dr Clarke,

Your letter of 8 May 2001 to [REDACTED] regarding the holdings of the Air Historical Branch has been passed to me for reply.

You posed several specific questions which I shall do my best to answer. Firstly, you asked for what reason a particular month's ORB might be omitted from a run of such documents in the PRO relating to the same unit. The reason, I am afraid, is usually the simple but prosaic one that the unit concerned, from whatever cause, did not submit a Form 540 for the month or months in question. In other words, the document was never compiled in the first place. In our experience this is a far from uncommon experience, and usually, though not always, relates to a change over of compiling officers or COs on the unit concerned.

With regard to your query regarding records in the S290 series from DDI Tech or AI5b I can confirm that we do not hold records from either of these two organisations. Nor do we hold any records relating to Operation Charlie, and so far as we can trace through our index no records relating to this operation have ever passed through this Branch.

Yours sincerely,



Cc Info(Exp)R1 - fao [REDACTED]



From: [REDACTED] Deputy Departmental Record Officer
Mezzanine 2

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

3-5 Great Scotland Yard, London SW1A 2HW

CHOTs address: Info(Exp)-Records1
e-mail address: defence.records.1@gtnet.gov.uk

Tele: (Direct dial) [REDACTED]
(Switchboard) 020 7218 9000
(Fax) [REDACTED]

Dr D Clarke



Your Reference

Our Reference

D INFO(EXP)R/3/7/8

Date

03 September 2001

Thank you for your letter dated 20 August 2001. You effectively raise two series of questions, one, concerning a number of identified records, over 30 years old, that you have apparently been lead to believe continue to be held by the Ministry of Defence's records branch, and two, questions anticipating the introduction of the Freedom of Information legislation.

You have been mistakenly advised on the extent of records held by the Ministry of Defence's records branch. Following review records are either selected for preservation at the Public Record Office (PRO) or are assigned a destruction date.

Although you may feel that 40 plus years after creation there are files that might still have some residual historical value, it is my experience (10 years as Deputy Departmental Record Officer and 30 years MOD experience in all) that busy desk officers generally attribute a very limited value to records that they have created.

Although I have touch on the subject of record processing in the MOD, my letters dated 31 July 2000 and 4 April 2001, you may find it helpful if I explained in slightly more detail the records legislation in force during the period 1947 through to 1959 that subsequently lead to the present review arrangements.

By the early 1950's concern was expressed both in the quantities of records accumulating in government departments and the records which had seemingly failed to survive the existing destruction procedures. This was primarily because the legislation then in force, the 1877 Public Record Office Act, was a semi-voluntary arrangement. In the absence of a systematic preservation/destruction policy a committee under the chairmanship of Sir James Grigg was set

to "review the arrangements for the preservation of the records of government departments". The committee recommended (Cmnd 8204) radical changes in four main areas that would subsequently be enshrined in the Public Record Acts of 1958 and 1967:

- a. Ministerial responsibility and the Advisory Council on Public Records
- b. The executive role and authority of the PRO and departments
- c. The system for selecting records for preservation
- d. Disclosure of records

Of particular relevance to your enquiry is the third change. The Grigg Committee believed that the crucial requirement in a modern records system was not only a satisfactory method of selecting those records which should be preserved both because of their value to departments, and because of their potential value to future users of the PRO, but also the early destruction of records assessed as having only a limited value. The committee proposed a two-stage review process:

- (i) **First Review:** conducted five years after the closure of the record. Records would be assessed for possible administrative or historical value. If the former applied a date for destruction would be determined (Grigg estimated that 90% of departments papers would fall into this category), but if the latter applied the records would be set aside for a second record.
- (ii) **Second Review:** files that survived the first review would be examined again at the 25-year point. At this review the historical criterion could be applied directly because of the greatly reduced bulk of files, the perspective brought about by time and the participation of the PRO. At this review files are either destroyed or transferred to the PRO, becoming available to the public after 50 years (reduced to 30 years with the 1967 amendment).

The MOD complies with the terms of the Public Records Acts and the brief outline (above) reflects the general working practice since the Act came into force. However, due to the size and diversity of the MOD certain aspects of the review activity have been delegated. For example, non-Headquarter areas (the Services and research and development establishments) undertake their own first review. Only records generally perceived to have possible historical value are transferred to the main MOD archives. Those records not judged to have historical interest are destroyed when designated by the local desk officer. Since the mid-1980s Headquarter branches ie Whitehall, undertake a pre-review of files. Where files are determined to have no administrative or potentially historical value branches are free to destroy them locally. All other files are deposited in the archives for review at the appropriate point.

The Act provides for the closure of records beyond the 30-year point for reasons such as continuing sensitivity. In such cases submissions justifying closure are submitted to the Lord Chancellor via the Public Record Office. If approved it is a condition that records must be re-examined at least once every 10 years until such time as release is possible.

Although I have no statistics to reflect the extent of destruction across the MOD as a whole the following figures covering the formal review activity undertaken by DRO staff since 1985:

REVIEW STATISTICS: PERIOD 1985/01

		Linear feet	Miles	Metres	Estimated No. of files reviewed (based on 14 files per 1'ft)
1 st & 2 nd review		195,360	37	59,585	2.735 mill
1 st review		133,984	25.4	40,865	1.876 mill
2 nd review		61,376	11.6	18,720	0.859 mill
1 st review destroyed	Immediately	68,208	12.9	20,803	0.955 mill
1 st review destroyed	Forward Destruction	42,000	8.0	12,810	0.588 mill
2 nd review destroyed		53,200	10.1	16,226	0.745 mill
1 st review %	Immediate Destruction	51%			
1 st review %	Forward Destruction	31%			
2 nd review destroyed		84%			
1 st & 2 nd review destroyed		83%			

Returning to the questions raised in your letter concerning records created by the RAF/Air Ministry/MOD during the period 1947-60.

RAF Fighter Command Research Branch 1947-60

I am unaware of any records from this organisation, during this period, being retained, in accordance with Section 3(4) of the Public Records Act of 1958, by the MOD records division.

DDI(Tech)/AI5b 1947-67

Records are held covering the activities of a number of intelligence branches for this period. All fall into the category of having been provisionally selected for preservation in the PRO and currently wait assignment to appropriate classes (the delay in processing can be attributed to the requirement to raise new classes in the DEFE lettercode). A few records created by DDI(Tech) and AI 3 are included, but none from AI 5. From amongst this holding I could identify no records relating to your area of interest.

ACAS(I) 1947-60

The intelligence records waiting processing do not include those created by ACAS(I), nor I have I been able to identify any retained in accordance with Section 3(4).

Minutes of Air Staff meetings, Air Ministry 1947-60

PRO class AIR 6 holds Air Board, and Air Ministry, Air Council: Minutes and Memoranda.

RAF NEATISHEAD 1950-60

No records have been identified relating to defence activity at RAF Neatishead that have been retained in accordance with Section 3(4) of the Act. I did contact the Air Defence Radar Museum, located at RAF Neatishead, just in case they are able to contribute to your research. I am advised that regrettably they hold no records relevant to your area of research.

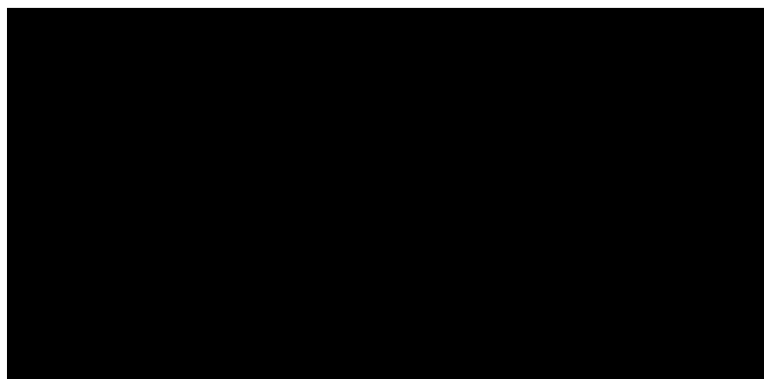
Freedom of Information

You asked about the impact of the Freedom of Information legislation might have on any records retained for more than 30 years. With the introduction of FOI members of the public will be able to request, as they have since 1992 ie since the advent of open government, the review of retained records that might relevant to their area of research. With enquiries such as this it is helpful if PRO references are cited. If it is established that retained records are still considered sensitive then an appropriate exemption will be claimed.

On the question of a list of files currently retained. This information has been in the public domain for many years. The PRO catalogue identifies where whole files are retained, and when examining files researchers will see where documents/pages are extracted or carry deletions. Therefore, it is my understanding that any FOI request for this data would fall under one of the 23 exemptions ie "already accessible to the public".

Finally, there is no obligation to provide information if the estimated cost of doing so would exceed an "appropriate limit". The details of such a charging scheme are still to be determined.

David G. ...



DAS4A(SEC)

From: DAS4A(SEC)
Sent: 20 September 2001 10:43
To: InfoExp-Access2
Subject: DR CLARKE - Comments

Importance: High

32

on 40

With thanks for the extra couple of days. My consultation with DAO on 14 Sep was, necessarily, over the phone and via a third party. In view of current events I spoke in person with the DAO representative as he became available today and showed him the text of the Restricted reply from Neatishead to Ops(GE) dated 3 Feb 8.

He has confirmed that release of that document is quite acceptable (along with the initiating request dated 26 Jan 81, Ops GE to Neatishead) - and is supplying us with additional material to answer supplementary questions concerning radar coverage that are likely to come our way!

I apologise for delaying your action to reply to Dr Clarke. I decided that excessive caution was preferable in this instance.

DAS (LA) OPS+POL

DAS4A(SEC)

From: DAS4A(SEC)
Sent: 20 September 2001 09:54
To: DAO ADGE1
Subject: RESTRICTED MESSAGE - NEATISHEAD RETURN OF FEB 81

Importance: High

h 40

With apologies; I do realise you are busy at present.

Your colleague, Wg Cdr [redacted] spoke to you over the phone on Friday and read across to you the [very short] letter from Neatishead to your predecessors in 1981. I quote:

"... in accordance with local procedures, our radar camera recorder was switched off on cessation of normal flying activities at 1527 on 29 Dec 80."

You indicated [to him] that you were content that this, previously RESTRICTED, text could be made available under the Code of Access to a member of the public and he relayed this message to me. It will now be made available to others - one via Min DP. We need to be prepared to answer the questions:

"Does this mean that, in 1980, air defence radar were switched off at the end of the flying day?

Does this mean that, although the radar was left on, a recording process did not take place after flying hours?

If radar at Neatishead were switched off were other air defence radar left on?

What is the current practice?" To the last question we need to know if this information is covered by any security classification - it will only be used in the information in the Background Note to Minister.

I would appreciate a suitable line please as soon as you are able.

Janet T

ADGE phased. He is obtaining further comments from [redacted] and will return to me when he is able. His understanding is that the recording medium may be switched off when no mil orc are airborne; this does not mean that the radar itself is off. Radar are sometimes switched off (for engineering work) but radar coverage is overlapping.

h 40

20.9.01.

DAS4A(SEC)

From: DAS4A(SEC)
Sent: 14 September 2001 13:26
To: InfoExp-Access2
Cc: DASAD4(SEC); DAS4A1(SEC)
Subject: Dr Clarke

Importance: High



Clarke2_.doc

on 40

Thank you for letting us have sight of your draft reply to Dr Clarke.

I have discussed with DAO the question of releasing the exchange of correspondence between MOD and RAF Neatishead and they have confirmed that they are content for the release to go ahead.

I have made the draft available to DAS AD (Lower Airspace) (AD4Sec on CHOTS) and he has confirmed that he is content with your suggested course of action.

I now return the draft with two minor amendments, in bold.

I would be grateful for some further advice. We have supplied the contents of the file on Rendlesham to some 5 people (including Dr Clarke) with the same exclusions. Are we obliged to return to those other people now sending them the two papers you have recommended for release? If we do that should we also remind them of their right to appeal against the decision to release the ministerial correspondence (which remains exempted). Or can we relay your decision to those people ourselves? We assume that anyone else who may in the future request the papers should now receive the two additional documents also - are they to be given the right to appeal against your decision to maintain the exemption on the docs that remain exempted?

With thanks, [REDACTED]

DAS4A(SEC)

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Sent: 14 September 2001 13:26
To: InfoExp-Access2
Cc: DASAD4(SEC); DAS4A1(SEC)
Subject: Dr Clarke

Importance: High



Clarke2_.doc

31

on 40

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With thanks, [REDACTED]

DRAFT RESPONSE FROM D INFO(EXP) TO DR CLARKE

I am writing in reply to your letter of 20 August 2001, which sought an internal review of the decision to withhold some information from a request you had made under the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information (the Code).

Your appeal concerned five documents withheld from you from a MOD file on the alleged sighting of an Unidentified Flying Object near RAF Woodbridge in 1981. They were withheld under Exemptions 1 and 2 of the Code. The five documents were:

- (A) A minute between an official's and a Minister's office, with a suggested Parliamentary Question response and background note,
- (B) A duplicate copy of the front page from A,
- (C) A letter from **a branch of the Ministry of Defence** to RAF Neatishead,
- (D) A letter from RAF Neatishead,
- (E) An exchange of letters between a MP and a Minister.

Having now reviewed the papers, I have decided that in the circumstances it is appropriate to disclose documents (C) and (D), which form an exchange of letters regarding radar observations at RAF Neatishead.

The documents that I do not believe it is appropriate to disclose are advice from officials to Ministers. Firstly, a submitted draft answer and background material in respect of a PQ tabled by Sir Patrick Wall (PQ7067C answered in October 1983). Secondly, a draft response and background material in response of a letter from David Alton MP to the then Secretary of State for Defence, Michael Heseltine, which enclosed a letter from a constituent. (It is not our practice to disclose letters from MPs to Ministers).

In both these cases, the advice to Ministers is covered by Exemption 2 of the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information, which relates to internal discussion and advice.

I trust this response is satisfactory. If you remain unhappy with the outcome of this internal review, you can appeal to a MP to take up the case with the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration (the Ombudsman) who can investigate on your behalf.

Yours etc.

[REDACTED]

DAS4A(SEC)

From: InfoExp-Access2
Sent: 13 September 2001 10:53
To: DAS4A(SEC)
Subject: Clarke request

[REDACTED] h 40

We spoke yesterday. Would you please cast an eye over the attached just to make sure there is nothing unpalatable for DAS(Sec)?

Thank you,

[REDACTED]
InfoExp-Access2
St Giles 819
Tel: [REDACTED]
Fax: [REDACTED]



Clarke2.doc

DRAFT RESPONSE FROM D INFO(EXP) TO DR CLARKE

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(B) A duplicate copy of the front page from ~~B~~, ~~9~~ - A ✓ checked

(C) A letter from ~~RAF Neatishead~~, MOD (Ops (GE) 26 (RAF)) to RAF Neatishead

(D) A letter from RAF Neatishead,

of the failed def.

(E) An exchange of letters between a MP and a Minister.

a more branch

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Yours etc.

[Redacted signature]

DAS4A1(SEC)

30

From: DAS4A1(SEC)
Sent: 04 September 2001 16:40
To: Info(Exp)-Records1
Subject: Request for Files

tion 40

As disussed yesterday, I would be grateful if you would retrieve the following files. As they cover 1972-75 I believe they are with the PRO. They are required to answer Dr Clarke's latest letter.

AIR 2/18872 UFO Reports 1972-73

AIR 2/18873 UFO Reports 1973-74

AIR 2/18874 UFO Reports 1974-75

AIR 20/12555 UFO Reports Dec 1973

Also we would like to see the following three files which I believe may be with your section.

AF/584 UFO Reports Jan 1974

AF/585 UFO Reports Feb 1974

AF/586 UFO Reports March 1974

Thanks for your help.

DAS(LA)Ops+Pol 1 (DAS4A1(SEC) on Chots)
MT6/73

LOOSE MINUTE

File

29

D/DAS/64/11

3 September 2001

DAO – ADGE 1

DI ISEC - SEC4

Copy to: Info(Exp)R1

DR DAVID CLARKE – ‘UFO’ CORRESPONDENCE

1. I have received another letter from Dr David Clarke on ‘UFO’ issues further to my last letter to him forwarding answers to the list of questions he sent in earlier in the year. I apologise for the fact that I am unable to quote your reference; Dr Clarke has appealed against a decision taken by this Directorate to withhold briefing to Ministers under the Code of Practice and so I do not have the file with me at present.

2. I attach a copy of Dr Clarke’s letter and enclosures to that letter.

Question 4 – DI ISEC – you will see that Dr Clarke has identified a file at the PRO that includes of evidence of a RAF psychologist advising on ‘UFO’ issues. Notwithstanding your earlier advice I would be grateful for any light you can throw on the subject especially in view of the comment by the retired psychologist that he believed that RAF psychologists may have given advice on the subject until the early 1980s.

Question 5 – ADGE 1 – Dr Clarke raises two further questions (a. and b.) on which you may be able to make some comment (I attach a copy of “The Lakenheath Incident” to which a. and b. refer).

Question 8 – ADGE 1 – you may have an appropriate comment. This may also be the point at which I take advice on MOD ability to house documents and how we judge interest in various subjects (Info(Exp) do you have anything to add here).

Question 11a – DI ISEC – I refer to the question on whether MOD has a “special register” of sightings.

Question 11a - Info(Exp) – I wonder whether you are able to shed any light on the comment concerning records prior to 1962. Certainly our line has been that, since 1967, material has been preserved and that “generally” prior to that material was destroyed after 5 years.

Question 11a – Info(Exp) – I believe that you have this question also in a letter from Dr Clarke and are preparing to answer, if that is the case I shall strike that one off the list.

Question 11b – DI ISEC – you will note the distinction made by Dr Clarke. ADGE 1 – I intend to comment in answer to the second half of the question that we take advice from other defence “experts” as appears necessary to us. It may be helpful to identify that expert as an authority on radar – are you content?

Question 11c – DI ISEC – Dr Clarke is seeking to confirm whether or not some specifically ‘UFO’ files have been held beyond the 30 year period. Your advice would be appreciated.

Question 12 – ADGE 1 – you will see that Dr Clarke is interested in a “unidentified helicopter” incident. As this is not an unidentified object, I wonder if we might expect to find information on the incident in some other area. (The page from the Special Branch file is attached.) I shall also call back some of our old files to see if we have any documentation on the “event”.

3. I am sending a short note to Dr Clarke now to say that we are working to answer his further questions. I would be grateful if, when you reply, you could indicate how long your researches took as I may need to raise a charge for this work if it exceeds 4 hours overall.

Signed on CHOTS

██████████
DAS (Lower Airspace) Ops + Pol
MT6/71 ██████████

DAS4A(SEC)

From: DAS4A(SEC)
Sent: 24 August 2001 16:21
To: Info(Exp)-Records1
Subject: DR DAVID CLARKE

28

Importance: High



DrClarke25Jul01.doc

Records 1/ [redacted] Thank you for faxing a copy of Dr Clarke's latest letter.

It may help you to look at the last letter from this Directorate to Dr Clarke, which comes attached to this letter. It is getting quite difficult to answer his questions. Do you have any other letters from him on which you are still doing work? If so a chat might be helpful.

I see that one of his questions in his letter of 20 August relates to file holdings "...would it be possible to obtain a list of the files currently retained." I know that we corresponded about this question quite some time ago and the result of one of our searches confirmed that a few volumes had, almost certainly, been destroyed. Do we both need to revisit our lists and holdings (in office and archives). Would you let me know?

Finally, I have had a short period of leave following by a busy stretch. May I ask a follow up question. I understand, from DI, that "no files with the prefix Air Intelligence 5b, AI 5b or AI(Tech)5b have been traced". Their reply to me indicated that their records branch might be checking with you. Did that occur and do you have any trace of a record of such files dated between 1950 and 1967? See the answer to Dr Clarke's question number 11a attached to my letter of 25 July. (This would also appear to have a read across to his to you on 20 Aug, question number 2.)

[redacted] on 40

(now DAS (Lower Airspace) Ops+Pol)



From: [REDACTED] Directorate Air Staff 4a
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Room 8243, Main Building, Whitehall, London, SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial)
(Switchboard)
(Fax)

Section 40
020 7218 9000
Section 40

Dr David Clarke

Your Reference

Our Reference
D/DAS/64/11
Date
25 July 2001

Dear Dr Clarke,

Further to my letter of 12 July I attach at Annex a list of your questions and the answers to those questions.

We have consulted with a number of different areas to request a search for material and our answers reflect the outcome. Although not all information has been traced I hope you will, nevertheless, find the answers helpful. In addition I attach, as requested, a sheet giving the numbers of "unexplained" aerial sightings communicated to the Ministry of Defence in each year since 1959 and a copy of a "report" form.

This Directorate is to move from the above location at the end of this week; our new address will be:

Room 671
Ministry of Defence
Metropole Building
London WC2N 5BP.

Yours sincerely,

ANNEX

Question 1:

Can the MOD list the current posts within the Air Staff and in Operations where staff have a direct or subsidiary responsibility for the investigation of UFO reports and/or the handling of public inquiries relating to the subject. Of the posts identified, can a percentage of staff time allocated to 'UFO'-related duties be specified.

Answer:

Directorate Air Staff - Two posts within DAS have a direct responsibility for the handling of public inquiries; this work includes Parliamentary business and can take up to 50% of the time of each of the individuals concerned. Two other posts within the Directorate have a responsibility of oversight of 'UFO'-related work and this work can take up to 5% of the time of each of those individuals.

Defence Intelligence Service - There are no current posts within the DIS where staff have a direct or subsidiary responsibility for the investigation of 'UFO' sighting reports or for the handling of public enquiries.

Air Defence - There are three posts within the Air Defence staff that have a responsibility for the scrutiny of any 'UFO' sighting reports sent to them by DAS. These individuals assess the reports for any significance for air defence and this work occupies approximately 4% of their collective time.

Question 2: Does DAS maintain figures/statistics of the number of enquiries received from a. the public and b. the media relating to 'UFO' issues dealt with on a year by year basis.

Answer: A record has been kept since 1959 of the number of 'unexplained' aerial sightings which have been the subject of enquiries by members of the public. A copy of the record comes attached to this letter.

No such record is kept of approaches by the media but an examination of files dating over the past five years has produced the following results. (Media enquiries include approaches from companies seeking to produce TV documentaries, by [newspaper] reporters and various 'UFO' publications.)

1996 - 6

1997 - 14

1998 - Nil

1999 - 1

2000 - 3

2001 - Nil to date

Question 3: Can MOD specify the extent of liaison that has taken place with a. the Royal Australian Air Force and b. United States Air Force with respect to the investigation of 'UFOs'.

Answer: No evidence has been found of contact with the Royal Australian Air Force or the United States Air Force with respect to a request to investigate a 'UFO' sighting.

Question 4: Has the MOD ever called upon the expertise of psychologists in respect of a. individual investigation or b. analysis or advice on any aspect of 'UFO' issues.

Answer: Neither service nor external psychologists have been called upon in respect of individual investigation or analysis of 'UFO' issues.

Question 5: Relating to the role of Air Intelligence 5b (circa 1959 to 1964).

Answer: Air Intelligence 5b was a part of the Air Ministry. The Defence Intelligence Service was established in 1964 and included the amalgamation of the three single-Service intelligence organisations. You have asked in particular about the reporting/recording of unidentified aerial sightings by service personnel; you may find it helpful to read the answer to your question 6 below.

Question 6: Can MOD outline the precise role of RAF Rudloe Manor, Wiltshire in reporting the collection and investigation of 'UFO' reports from service sources prior to 1992.

Answer: Until 1992, the Flying Complaints Flight (FCF), part of the HQ Provost and Security Services (UK) based at RAF Rudloe Manor, were the central co-ordination point for UFO reports made to RAF stations (from whatever source, ie members of the public or service personnel) its function was simply to record the details provided and pass the reports directly to Sec(AS)2 in the Ministry of Defence. Sec(AS)2 desk officers then examined the reports and decided, with other experts as necessary, whether what was seen had any defence implications. No action was taken on the reports by staff in the FCF.

The FCF no longer have any involvement in the central collection of 'UFO' reports. All reports by air force stations are now forwarded directly to DAS (formerly Sec(AS)2) for consideration. The extent now of Rudloe Manor's involvement in the 'UFO' reporting process, in common with all other RAF stations, is to take down the details of any reports made in the local area and pass the details to DAS.

Question 7: Does the MOD maintain a paper or electronic record of radar tracks or reports of radar tracks recorded within the UK Air Defence Region that have remained unidentified following investigation. If that is the case for how long are records preserved, what is their security classification and after what period of time will records be available at the PRO.

Answer: The MOD does not maintain a record of radar tracks recorded within the UK Air Defence Region that have remained unidentified following investigation, other than by possible reference in operational log books. Electronic recordings of the air picture are retained for a

period of 30 days, to assist primarily in the investigation of flight safety incidents, should the need arise. The overall recordings are graded NATO SECRET because of the operational content.

Question 8: In 1996 in the House of Commons, Defence Minister Nicholas Soames stated that RAF aircraft were scrambled on two occasions in the past five years to intercept unidentified targets . . . Could MOD specify:

a. details of incidents recorded between 1990-2000 when aircraft were scrambled to intercept targets that have remained 'unidentified' following MOD investigation.

b. the role of RAF Fylingdales in the investigation of UFO reports (for example, what category of report would be checked with this facility).

Answer 8a: Records of incidents when air defence aircraft were scrambled to investigate unidentified air tracks do not exist for the full period covering 1990-2000. Details of such sorties are recorded in operational logbooks that are destroyed after 5 years. No aircraft were scrambled to intercept targets that remained unidentified following MOD investigation.

Answer 8b: RAF Fylingdales may be called upon by MOD to correlate a sighting of an unidentified aerial phenomena with a known event, such as the re-entry of a satellite.

Question 9: Does MOD have records of 'UFOs' tracked by RAF Neatishead or satellite radar stations (questions a., b. and c.).

Answer: There are no records of any 'UFOs' tracked by CRC Neatishead. We do note what you say in your letters of 6 and 14 June; it has been suggested that you may find it helpful to consult the following records that, I am informed, are in the PRO:

RAF Waterbeach AIR 28/1439

RAF Neatishead AIR 29/1369 and 2631.

In addition S4(Air), AIR 20, the following files from the early to mid 1970s, also in the PRO.

AIR 20/7390 (1950-54)

AIR 20/9320 TO 9322 (1977)

AIR 20/994 (1953-57)

I have also been informed that no records covering the subject of UFOs that are more than 30 years old are still held by Defence Records.

Question 10: What are the current standing instructions to RAF stations/radar facilities with regards to the reporting and action taken to investigate a. reports or b. radar tracking of 'UFOs'. Are copies of current instructions available for public inspection.

Answer: A standard list of questions, asked over many years, has been reproduced on a form since the early 1990s. The form is produced by individual stations and is not subject to a central instruction; I attach a copy for your information.

Question 11: Can MOD confirm,

a. the existence and current location of report describing aerial phenomena originating from RAF and other service sources sent to AI5b between 1950 and 1967.

Answer: No files with the prefix Air Intelligence 5b, AI 5b or AI(Tech)5b have been traced but further enquiries are being made with the Defence Records Archives.

b. Whether the Department of Scientific and Technical Intelligence maintains records or files relating to investigation/consultation with Air Staff on the subject of aerial phenomena/UFOs.

Answer: As part of the MOD's assessment of aerial sightings, reports were copied as appropriate to the Directorate of Intelligence Scientific and Technical (DIST). Towards the end of 2000, DIST decided that these reports were of no defence interest and should no longer be sent to them. The branch still retains files containing reports received up to 4 December 2000.

c. Have DSTI undertaken at any time a search of their records for UFO-related files, reports or analysis from the period dating from 1950-80. If no search has taken place how is it possible to claim that files before 1961 have not been retained.

Answer: A search of DIST records was undertaken to identify all of their file holdings; files prior to 1961 had not been retained.

Question 12: Documents released by the Metropolitan Police under the Code of Practice indicate that MOD acted in an advisory capacity to a Police Special Branch investigation of an unidentified helicopter reported over Derbyshire between September 1973 and January 1974. Does a MOD file exist.

Answer: No papers have been traced relating to an incident involving an attempt by MOD to identify a helicopter on the dates you indicate in the Derbyshire region. If you have any additional information on the identity of the RAF Station involved in the investigation we could undertake further enquiries.

Question 13: What is the current definition of the term "of no defence significance". . . What is the precise methodology employed to determine whether a report can be categorised as of "no defence significance".

Answer: An event that has "no defence significance" is an event that is regarded as presenting no direct military threat against sovereign territory.

The means by which reports are categorised include an assessment of the location, time and nature of a report and any likely explanation of its cause (planetary objects, areas of high density air traffic, atmospheric, space objects etc). A check of operational logs may be included to determine whether any related air activity was detected at the time by the UK Air Defence system.

LOOSE MINUTE

27

D/DAS/64/3/11

24 August 2001

Information(Exploitation)-Access 2

Copy: DAS (LA)
DAS (LA) Ops+Pol 1

**APPEAL AGAINST WITHOLDING OF INFORMATION UNDER THE CODE OF
PRACTICE ON ACCESS TO GOVERNMENT INFORMATION – Dr DAVID
CLARKE**

1. I enclose the documentation requested so that you may undertake a review of our decision to withhold material from Dr David Clarke under the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information. The documents are as follows:

D/Sec(AS)12/2/1

The file is a compilation of papers relating to the alleged events at Rendlesham Forest in 1981. Although the opening date recorded on the file is 25 October 1982, it is unlikely to have been opened then as Sec(AS) was not in existence at that time. Some work was done in 1998 by Sec(AS)2 to identify the original location of enclosures. Handwritten notes are pinned to most pages and a list of the files from which these enclosures came is at E29; documents copied for Dr Clarke did not include those notes and neither was the list of files sent to him. Additional photocopied papers have been placed on the left hand side of the file; they were discovered on archived files in February 2001 during work to attempt to identify all the papers held on the alleged event. Copies of these additional papers were sent to Dr Clarke along with sanitised copies of the other documents, excepting five withheld under the Code of Practice.

You may wish to be aware that copies of the documents from this file, with identical exclusions, have also been made available, through Minister (DP), to the Lord Hill-Norton and to another member of the public.

Documents withheld under the Code of Practice

For ease of reference I have included copies of the five documents withheld from Dr Clarke; the originals remain on the above file.

Previous Correspondence with Dr Clarke

Dr Clarke has been in correspondence for some time with both ourselves, Info(Exp)-Records 1 and AHB(RAF)PCB Air. All correspondence with Dr Clarke held by this Directorate is contained in D/DAS(Sec)64/3/11 A and B attached. The letter informing him that photocopies of the papers from the file were being sent to him is dated 11 May 2001 and is at E10 on Part B. The top enclosure (Part B-E25) is Dr Clarke's latest letter to Info(Exp)-Records 1 on which they have sought our advice; some of the work is likely to fall to this Directorate.

2. When your work on these documents is complete, I would be grateful if you would return them to the following address:

Directorate of Air Staff (Lower Airspace)
Operations & Policy
Room 6/73
Metropole Building
Northumberland Avenue
London
WC2N 5BP

Signed [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
DAS(LA)Ops+Pol

MT6/71 [REDACTED]

M1

Priority

This non-oral question has been allocated to Minister(AF) for answer.

2. Would you please supply a draft reply and background note, together with any relevant Hansard extracts and Press cuttings, to reach this office at the time shown on the front cover.

3. Please submit a copy of the draft answer to PS/USofS(AF) when returning this, allowing sufficient time for USofS(AF) to comment.

40

Office of Minister(AF)
Room 6386 Main Building
Extension 40
21-10-83

M2

APS/Minister(AF) (thro' DUS(Air))

Copy to:
APS/US of S(AF)
Ops(GE)2(RAF)

1. I have placed opposite a draft reply to PQ 7607C.
2. The same background note has been provided for PQ 7608C and PQ 7609C.

21 October 1983

Head of DS 8
MB 7257

M1

HL
(E83)

Priority

This non-oral question has been allocated to Minister(AF) for answer.

2. Would you please supply a draft reply and background note, together with any relevant Hansard extracts and Press cuttings, to reach this office at the time shown on the front cover.
3. Please submit a copy of the draft answer to PS/USofS(AF) when returning this, allowing sufficient time for USofS(AF) to comment.



Office of Minister(AF)
Room 6386 Main Building
Extension 
2 11.3.83

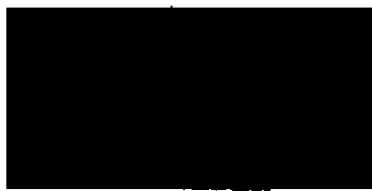
M2

APS/Minister(AF) (thro' DUS(Air))

Copy to:
APS/US of S(AF)
Ops(GE)2(RAF)

1. I have placed opposite a draft reply to PQ 7608C.
2. The same background note has been provided for PQ 7607C and PQ 7609C.

21 October 1983



Head of DS 8
MB 7257 

SIR PATRICK WALL (CONSERVATIVE) (BEVERLEY)

Sir Patrick Wall

- To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, if he has seen the United States Air Force memo dated 13 January 1981 concerning unexplained lights near RAF Woodbridge.

SUGGESTED ANSWER (Mr Stanley)

Yes.

Background Note

(C86)

These three questions follow from the News of the World article of 2 October 1983 (Annex A) describing an alleged UFO sighting by USAF personnel at RAF Woodbridge in Suffolk on 27 December 1980.

The report of 13 January 1981 (Annex B) examined by the Air Staff and DS 8. It was concluded that there was nothing of defence interest in the alleged sighting.

There was, of course, no question of any contact with "alien beings" nor was any unidentified object seen on any radar recordings, as alleged in the News of the World.

A BBC investigation into the incident following publication of the News of the World Article concluded that a possible explanation for the lights seen by the USAF personnel was the pulsating light of the Orfordness lighthouse some 6 - 7 miles away.

The sole interest of the MOD in UFO reports is to establish whether they reveal anything of defence interest (eg intruding aircraft). MOD investigations are not pursued beyond the point at which we are satisfied that a report has no defence implications. No attempts are made to identify and catalogue the likely explanation for individual reports.

Last year, Lord Long, during a debate initiated by the Earl Clancarty, said that he would look into the possibility of publishing such reports as are received by the Ministry of

Defence. US of S(AF) has now decided to release compilations of reports. They will be published on a quarterly basis and will be available to members of the public, at a small charge to cover costs. US of S(AF) had planned to make an announcement shortly in the House of Lords through an arranged PQ. Pending arrangements for an announcement in the Lords, US of S(AF) has agreed that we should indicate the decision in the Commons.

RESTRICTED
UNCLASSIFIED

7274

FILE
26

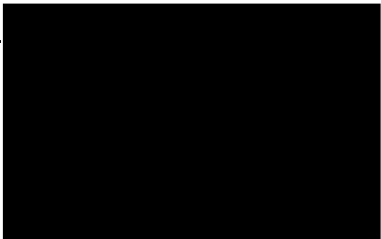
RAF Neatishead
Eastern Radar
RAF Watton

D/DD Ops(GE)/10/8

26 January 1981

UNEXPLAINED LIGHTS

1. The Deputy Base Commander of RAF Bentwaters has reported sightings of airborne phenomena on the evening of 29 Dec 80 in the Roudlesham forest area near Woodbridge. We would appreciate a statement of radar observations, or lack of them, in the area and at the time concerned.



Squadron Leader
Ops(GE)24(RAF)

RESTRICTED
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED



Royal Air Force
Neatishead Norwich Norfolk NR12 8YB

Telephone NORWICH 737361 ext [REDACTED] 40

36

Please reply to the Officer Commanding
Your reference

MOD (Ops(GE)2b(RAF))

Our reference NEAT/12/1/AIR

Date 3 Feb 81

UNEXPLAINED LIGHTS

Reference:

A. D/DD Ops (GE)/10/8 Dated 26 Jan 81. - E26

1. At Reference A you asked us to provide a statement of radar observations, or lack of them, regarding a reported sighting of airborne phenoma on the evening of 29 Dec 80.

2. I regret that, in accordance with local procedures, our radar camera recorder was switched off on cessation of normal flying activities at 1527Z on 29 Dec 80. An examination of executive logs revealed no entry in respect of unusual radar returns or other unusual occurrences.

[REDACTED]
Sqn Ldr
for OC

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

- 9 FEB 1981

DD OPS (GE) RAF

RESTRICTED
UNCLASSIFIED

Reference.....

12/4 copy to: 12/2/12

M5

APS/US of S(AF)
through Sec(AS)2 [REDACTED]

1. US of S(AF) will recall recent correspondence on this matter with Lord Hill-Norton and Rt Hon Merlyn Rees MP. In both cases he took the line that we have nothing to add to what had already been said on the Woodbridge incident. Indeed, this was the line taken in previous correspondence with David Alton (See M3). The enclosed draft reply to Mr Alton once more follows this approach.
2. Mr Alton specifically requested a copy of the MOD official reply to Mr Noyes' last letter. This is enclosed, together with an earlier letter to which it refers. There is no objection to passing this correspondence to Mr Alton.
3. You may wish to note that Mr Alton has apparently passed on both letters sent by Lord Trefgarne on 19 March 85, even though one of these was intended to be for his information only.

12 June 1985

[REDACTED]
Sec(AS)2a
MB 8245 [REDACTED]

DRAFT

D/US of S(AF)/DGT 5173

June 1985.

Thank you for your letter of 16 May to Michael Heseltine enclosing one from Mr R Noyes. You asked to see a copy of the Department's reply to Mr Noyes' letter of 25 February 1985 and this is enclosed, together with earlier correspondence to which it refers.

As I pointed out in my letter of 19 March, the MOD concerns itself only with the defence implications of reported UFO sightings. In this context, the report submitted by Col Halt in January 1981 was examined by those in the Department responsible for such matters and, as I have made clear in the past, it was considered to have no defence significance. We have since seen nothing to alter this view and there is nothing I can usefully add to the comments made in Sec(AS)'s letter or Mr Noyes.

Lord Trefgarne

David Alton Esq MP

Job No 2-24



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

16th May 1985

Dear Michael,

I enclose a letter I have received from Mr R Noyes following on from enquiries I first raised with your Department in March.

I read Mr Noyes letter with great interest and it seems to me that the points he raises are quite reasonable and merit a reply.

I should be most grateful if you could let me have your comments and if you could let me see a copy of the reply to Mr Noyes' own letter to your Department dated 25th February 1985.

Yours sincerely,

David Alton, MP.

The Rt. Hon. Michael Heseltine, MP.
Secretary of State
Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London SW1 2HB

London

14th May, 1985

David Alton, Esq., MP,
House of Commons,
Westminster,
London SW1

Dear Mr. Alton,

Jenny Randles has kept me informed about her correspondence with you on the unusual incidents which were reported to the Ministry of Defence by USAF authorities at RAF Woodbridge in January 1981. I have also seen Lord Trefgarne's letters to you of 19th March.

Jenny Randles decided to write further to you about this puzzling and disquieting case, and she referred to me her enclosed letter of 31st March, which is addressed to you, in the hope that I might be able to add useful comments. Much to my regret I have had to spend much time out of London on other business in recent weeks and it is only now that I am able, very belatedly, to send on Jenny Randles's letter to you.

My own background, in brief, is that I served in the Ministry of Defence from 1949 to 1977, leaving in the grade of Under Secretary of State. From 1969 to late in 1972 I headed a Division in the central staffs of the MOD which had responsibilities for supporting RAF operations. This brought me into touch with a proportion of the many reports which the Department receives about unidentified traces in British airspace.

I believe that Jenny Randles is right to remain very dissatisfied with the official line which the MOD has adopted on the Rendlesham Forest incidents of December 1980. I have myself said so on a number of public occasions, and I have pursued the matter in correspondence with the MOD - wholly without success.

At the risk of burdening you with an excessive amount of paper, I attach the most recent of my letters to the Ministry of Defence. You will see that this is dated 25th February 1985. I have so far received no answer, despite reminders. On a previous occasion it took the Department three and a half months to send me a wholly perfunctory reply.

Jenny Randles claims much collateral evidence for her own views; on this I am not competent to comment. My own position is, quite simply, that an extraordinary report was made to the Ministry of Defence by the Deputy Base Commander at RAF Woodbridge early in 1981; that the very existence of this report was denied by the MOD until persistent researchers in the US secured its release under the American Freedom of Information Act in 1983; and that the MOD's responses to questions since that time have been thoroughly unsatisfactory.

I cannot accept Lord Trefgarne's view that there is no Defence interest in this case. Unless Lt.Col. Halt was out of his mind, there is clear evidence in his report that British airspace and territory were intruded upon by an unidentified vehicle on two occasions in late December 1980 and that no authority was able to prevent this. If, on the other hand, Halt's report cannot be believed, there is equally clear evidence of a serious misjudgement of events by USAF personnel at an important base in British territory. Either way, the

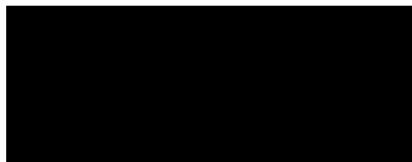
case can hardly be without Defence significance.

The dates in question are now rather remote, but I doubt that this should be taken to excuse the very perfunctory manner in which Lord Trefgarne has dealt with your letter. I hope that you may feel able to pursue the matter further, either in correspondence or in a PQ. The essence of the questions to be pressed seems to me to lie in my preceding paragraph. Seen in these terms, Mr. Ridpath's article in the GUARDIAN (which Lord Trefgarne rather surprisingly falls back upon) is wholly irrelevant. If the USAF really are capable of hallucinations induced by a lighthouse which must surely be very familiar to them, then I shudder for that powerful finger which lies upon so many triggers...

My own letter to the MOD (enclosed) raises other more detailed questions. But I do not suggest that you should necessarily concern yourself with them, anyway at this stage. It would be nice if the MOD would answer letters, of course ! But the essence of the Defence interest which I suggest a responsible Member of Parliament might reasonably raise lies in the argument I have tried to present above.

If I can be of any assistance in discussion with you, I am at your disposal.

Yours sincerely,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

(Ralph Noyes)

ORIGINAL.

26

Dr David Clarke


Directorate Air Staff 4a
Room 671
Ministry of Defence
Metropole Building
London WC2N 5BP

23 August 2001

Dear 



Thank you for your detailed response of 25 July including the replies to my list of questions relating to "UFO" issues and for the information you attached relating to numbers of sightings/report forms.

This information was most helpful, it answered the majority of my questions and I am grateful to you. There are a small number of points I wish to make where your answers have contradicted other information in my possession, or raised further issues that require clarification. These are:

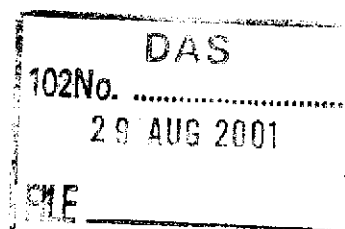
Question 4. Neither service nor external psychologists have been called upon in respect of individual investigation or analysis of UFO issues.

DI Sec
DAS papers
oldest file -
incidents.

Your answer contradicts evidence from files at the Public Record Office (Air 20/11890-91; DEFE 31/119), where it is clearly stated that an RAF psychologist, Alex Cassie, of Science 4 (RAF) was appointed in October 1967 to act as an advisor to S4f (Air) on UFO issues. I have recently interviewed Mr Cassie and he says he continued in this role until 1969, when another psychologist, , replaced him. His impression was that psychologists continued to be consulted on UFO issues by MOD/RAF until the early 1980s. My question is: if psychologists are no longer consulted, when/why did their formal involvement end? ← Check.

Question 5. There are no records of "UFOs" tracked by CRC Neatishead.

I had checked the Operational Record Books you listed for Neatishead and Waterbeach (Air 28/1439 and Air 29/1369 and 2631), without result. The fact that Neatishead scrambled Venom aircraft to intercept a UFO on the night of 13/14 August 1956 is an established fact, based upon evidence from the Chief Controller, the aircrew and the 23 Squadron daily Diary.



What puzzles me is the absence of any official record or entry in the Form 540 of either station for the date in question, particularly in view of the statement by the Controller that his logbook was removed by a senior officer from Fighter Command.

I wish to ask a) whether the MOD can confirm or deny that the events described by the Neatishead Controller in his account published in the *RAF Air Warfare Museum Newsletter* occurred as he described and b) in view of your statement that records of unidentified radar tracks might be referred to in operational log books, why there is no PRO record of these events.

- Oct 1980 - May 81 -

Additionally, my question concerning the tracking of a UFO by Neatishead on an occasion between September-October 1980, including the diversion of Phantom interceptors to investigate, has not been answered. Does a file exist relating to this incident exist or not, and if so what does it contain?

Question 8. *Details of sorties (involving scrambles to investigate unidentified air tracks) are recorded in Operational Record Books that are destroyed after 5 years.*

If ORBs are destroyed after five years does this mean that no documentation originating from these sources will ever be preserved as Public Records? If, as MOD state, radar tracks that remain unidentified are not followed up to the point of identification (other than to eliminate any defence threat) how can destruction of the records of those tracks be justified when this material *may* be of interest to scientists or authorities who may wish to investigate further (for example those in the fields of meteorology and atmospheric physics)?

Question 11a – *Files created by AI 5b, Air Ministry.*

As AI 5b were a branch of the Deputy Directorate of Intelligence (Technical) is it not more likely their files will be archived under a DDI (Tech) heading?

I enclose a copy (attachment "A") of a Policy document from PRO file (DEFE 31/118) dating from the period 1958-62 where elaborate instructions are given for the collation of UFO reports and that "responsibility has been delegated to A.I. (Tech) 3 in DDI (Tech)...for examination, analysis and examination."

I refer you to section 5 of this document which notes under "records to be kept by A.I. (Tech) 3...all reports will be entered in a special register...a folder is to be raised for each report..." etc. Although the distinction between AI 3 and AI 5b is unclear, both were branches of DDI (Tech). This document suggests there was an extensive collection of records, including a "special register" of sightings. These records are not available at the PRO, so what has happened to them?

A senior retired RAF Air Commodore informs me that a UFO report he filed in 1952 with Air Ministry was certainly in existence in recent years within a DDI (Tech) file that he saw whilst working at MOD Main Building during the mid-1970s. If that is the case, and I see no reason to doubt his word, then it simply cannot be the case that all UFO records prior to 1962 were destroyed at five yearly intervals, as has been claimed by MOD in the past.

[REDACTED]

I would therefore be grateful if you could inform me as to the results of the further enquiries being made with the Defence Records Archives to trace records of UFO incidents reported to DDI (Tech)/A.I. 3/A.I 5b during the period 1950-70.

DI Sec.

Question 11b. *Towards the end of 2000, DIST decided that UFO reports were of no defence interest and should no longer be sent to them.*

Can MOD provide a statement explaining the reasoning behind DIST's decision? Does this mean that Defence Intelligence staff are no longer interested in receiving UFO reports from service sources (ie aircrew, radar stations), or does the decision relate entirely to reports from the public? What would happen if a UFO incident occurred today that was judged to be of "defence interest" ?

ADGIE/DAO

DI Sec.

Question 11c. *A search of DIST records was undertaken to identify all of their file holdings; files prior to 1961 had not been retained.*

If that is the case, then DIST files relating to UFOs dating from 1961 onwards do exist. I would point out that on 28 October 1996 the Earl Howe in a Parliamentary written reply to Martin Redmond MP on UFOs said: "I can confirm that my Department's Scientific Intelligence Branch holds no records under extended closure for any period in excess of 30 years." (Source: House of Commons Library)

In view of this statement why have those DIST files dating from 1961-1970 not been released at the PRO under the 30 year rule?

I suspect that a number of files from the earlier period (1950s) may have been placed into later (post-1961) files. There is evidence that this was indeed the case from the PRO file AIR 2/18117 (attachment B) where in 1967 a member of DIST staff describes "retrieving" intelligence files on UFOs dating from 1950-2. If files were retained from 1961 onwards, as you state, then by definition those "intelligence files" from the 50s, referred to in 1967, should still exist.

Files DEC 73 - MAR 74

Question 12. *Unidentified helicopter incident 1973/74 - no papers traced to suggest MOD acted in an advisory capacity to a Police Special Branch operation.*

DAE
Records

Thank you for offering to undertake further inquiries into this question if I could supply additional information. Please see Attachment C from a Home Office file ref 371/74/94 (released to me under the Code of Practice in April 2001) which is a report of a meeting held in March 1974 at Horseferry House, London, involving the Home Office, Special Branch and MOD. You will see that the MOD had been involved in the joint investigation of a number of reports describing an unidentified helicopter reported in Cheshire and Derbyshire; these included some radar trackings reported by the Civil Aviation Authority. The report concludes with the statement "it was agreed that the sightings could not be ignored and MOD were asked what facilities they could provide to assist with identifying the helicopter. The use of searchlights, radar, MOD helicopters and the Harrier Jump Jet were discussed but considered either impractical or too expensive."

The meeting ended with an agreement that the Ministry of Defence would prepare a paper on the services they could provide if further reports were received, along with a breakdown of the costs involved.

I hope this information may help you to trace any file or record created by the MOD in 1973-74 relating to these incidents.

I hope that once I have established the fate of the records referred to in questions 5, 11a and 11c that I will be able to draw my research to a close. Your assistance has been appreciated.



D.W.Clarke

Seph. Oct 1980.

Tracking of UFO by
Neutirhead - diversion
of Phantom interceptors.

DS8. 10/209 1980.

DS8/75/2/5B/80.

DS8/10/209. B./81

DS8/75/2/5A-80

D/DS8/75/2/1H-80.

DS8/75/2/1G -79

No record
DEC 73 - Mar 74.

Derbyshire heli
Sighuys by night.

AF 583 - 1974

AF 7464 / 72 - 1973.

AF 584 - 74 + PE 11 May 73

AF 585 - 1974.

AF 586 - 1974.

Special Branch

22 March 1974

MEMORANDUM



CHIEF SUPT. 'B' SQUAD

1. At 2 pm today, 21 March 1974, a meeting was held at Horseferry House with D H J Hilary in the Chair to discuss a number of unexplained helicopter sightings at night, mainly reported to the police in Derbyshire.
2. Present were Messrs Clayton, McQueen and Montgomery-Pott of Home Office, Assistant Chief Constable Bowers (Derby County and Borough Constabulary), Assistant Chief Constable Laugharne and Superintendent Dean (Cheshire Constabulary), and two Ministry of Defence representatives. [REDACTED]
3. The meeting discussed the authenticity of the numerous sightings reported during the end of 1973 and January 1974, together with some allegedly corroborative reports available through the Civil Aviation Authority, from the Air Traffic Control Centre at Preston and Manchester Air Traffic Control.
4. In the event there were found to be only three 'hard' sightings and no useful pattern of timing or positioning was discernible; in addition, no crimes were reported at the times of the alleged flights. I was able to report that the Metropolitan Police Special Branch had no hard information to place potential subversive activities in the area.
5. However, it was agreed that the sightings could not be ignored and MOD were asked what facilities they could provide to assist with identifying the helicopter. The use of searchlights, radar, MOD helicopters, and the Harrier Jump Jet were discussed but considered either impractical or too expensive.
6. The meeting concluded with agreement that MOD would prepare a paper on the services they could provide should further sightings be made, the costs involved, and to which authority they would be attributed. Furthermore, the police forces involved were to keep in touch to co-ordinate any further useful information coming to hand.

7. No further action is required from Metropolitan Police
Special Branch.


A/SUPERINTENDENT

SECRET

Unidentified Flying Objects - Policy

1. The Air Ministry is responsible for the collation of all reports dealing with U.F.Os. This responsibility has been delegated to A.I.(Tech)3 in the Deputy Directorate of Intelligence (Technical).
2. All reports from all sources are to be sent to A.I.(Tech)3 for examination, analysis and classification.
3. Reports on unidentified aircraft emanating from sources other than Fighter Command.

All such reports are to be noted and passed to C.I.O. Fighter Command for investigation.

4. Letters from members of the public

Letters will be received at Air Ministry in the first instance by the Public Relations branch who will send off an immediate acknowledgement.

The letter will then be passed to A.I.(Tech)3 for analysis, or alternatively the context of the letter may be passed to A.I.(Tech)3 by P.R. over the telephone. This latter method should be used when it appears that some immediate investigation is warranted.

A.I.(Tech)3 will examine the report and attempt to obtain substantiating evidence from Fighter Command, KET, MCA etc as appropriate.

The result of the investigation is to be forwarded to the public relations department who will write a suitable reply to the member of the public concerned.

5. Records to be kept by A.I.(Tech)3

- (a) Register

All reports will be entered in a special register as they arrive and will include the following details

- (i) Details of originator i.e. civilian MET etc
- (ii) Address of originator
- (iii) Preliminary classification of sighting i.e. balloon aircraft etc
- (iv) Height
- (v) Speed
- (vi) Shape
- (vii) Size
- (viii) Colour
- (ix) Date/Time and locality of sighting
- (x) Remarks

- (b) A folder is to be raised for each report into which all papers relating to the occurrence are to be placed

- (c) A pro forma which includes the details mentioned in sub para (a) above and also shows details of the investigation and analysis is to be completed and inserted as the last enclosure in the case folder.

Reference: DEFE 31/118									
PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE									
20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11
7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0	0	0

6. Consolidated Reports

An annual report summarising all U.F.O. sightings by types is to be submitted to D.D.I.(Tech).

Examples of the various categories of U.F.O. sightings are given below

- (a) Balloons
- (b) Aircraft
- (c) Missiles
- (d) Astronomical phenomena
- (e) Other phenomena
- (f) Unknown
- (g) Insufficient data for evaluation

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"B"

MEB/3

AF/PS 427/67
Unidentified Flying Objects
Wg Cdr Sir Eric Bullus, M.P.
Julian J. A. Hennessey, Esq.

File

E180

M8

S4 (Air) MOD (Mr. W. P. Cassell)

1. Further to your M7, we have recovered all but two of the 'Metropole' (ie Intelligence) files on UFOs for the period 1951-2.
2. The files examined indicate that Topcliffe-Meteor incident, which occurred during the NATO Exercise MAINBRACE, was typical of reports about such aircraft at that time. (The Meteor was being extensively operated in a variety of roles and was the first UK jet to be so deployed).
3. As regards the particular incident the 'object' only appeared to come from the aircraft. There is no specific evidence in the files examined so far, that the object tracked or came from the aircraft. In fact, the trajectory of the apparent object was not established in absolute terms and thus typical questions such as true range have not been answered.
4. We consider that the report DSI/JTIC Report No 7 Unidentified Flying Objects covers the situation as a whole, ~~and~~ such activity at that time. Similar remarks apply to the observed radar anomalies which occurred at that time.

(J. C. DICKISON)
DI55
ROOM 4/58 EXT 5230
Metropole Building
13th December 1967

25

Ministry of Defence

Info(Exp)R1
Mezzanine 2
3-5 Great Scotland Yard
London SW1A 2HW

Phone: [REDACTED]
Fax: [REDACTED]

Facsimile Message

To: [REDACTED] From: [REDACTED]
Fax: [REDACTED] 40 Date: 21 August 2001
Phone: [REDACTED] 40 Pages: Three
Re: ENQUIRY FROM DR DAVID CLARKE CC:
☐ Urgent ☐ For Review ☐ Please Comment ☐ Please Reply ☐ Please Recycle

-Comments:

[REDACTED]

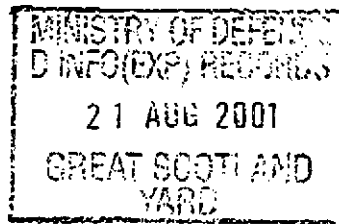
We spoke a short while ago about most. Dr Clarke's recent letter to this office raising seven question: five re historic records not apparently preserved at the PRO and, two concerning Freedom of Information.

Air Historical Branch has also been approached over the last few months about missing records at Kew ie Operational Record Books (RAF Station Diaries) and Fighter Command Operation Research Branch records. None of which they hold.

So far as the five record questions are concerned I plan to reply to Dr Clarke in early September - in the negative ie records are not held by MOD archives. The FOI questions are straightforward.

If you have any views or advice (he may be covering ground that DAS (Sec) has already addressed) it would be welcome.

[REDACTED]



Dr David Clarke



20 August 2001

Your ref: D INFO(EXP)R/3/7/8

Dear 

Thank you for your letter of 13 June and for the copies you enclosed of documents related to 'flying saucers' located in DEFE 19/9.

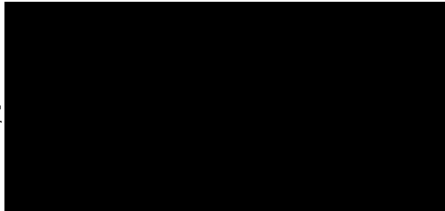
With regards to my continuing research to locate other Air Ministry/RAF documents relating to 'aerial phenomena' from the period 1947-60, I have been in communication with  of the Air Historical Branch, as you suggested.  assures me that the branch does not hold any records from the post-WW2 era that are not already available at the PRO. Records created by the RAF/Air Ministry/MOD from this period, I am told, are all held by the MOD Records Division, and some may remain 'classified' or retained under the Public Records Acts

As a result, could you provide information concerning existence, and current closure status with regards to the act, of files created by the following:

- ✓ 1. Records created by the RAF Fighter Command Research Branch, Bentley Priory, 1947-60. Some post-war records created by this branch are available at the PRO and have been checked. Are there other records created by the branch from the period above that are retained by MOD? - see 2106
P4B
21.16.03
- ✓ 2. Records created by the Deputy Directorate of Intelligence DDI (Tech), 1947-67, specifically the branch known as Air Intelligence 5b (AI 5b). The only records available at PRO created by DDI Tech are pre-1945. Where are the DDI records post 1946? It seems odd that the entire collection of paperwork produced by an important branch of Air Ministry concerned with Technical Intelligence would have been "destroyed."
- ✓ 3. Papers and correspondence created by the Assistant Chief of Air Staff (Intelligence) 1947-60, particularly the period 1956-58 when ACAS (I) was Air Vice Marshal William McDonald. Once again none are listed on the PRO catalogue post-1947.
- * 4. Minutes of Air Staff meetings, Air Ministry, circa 1947-60.
- ✓ 5. Station records or station histories of RAF Neatishead, 1950-60, that are not currently available at the PRO.

I would also be interested to learn how the pending Freedom of Information Act legislation due early next year will affect the status of Air Ministry/MOD documents retained for more than 30 years.

Under the FOIA would it be possible to obtain a list of the files currently retained, even if one was not able to obtain copies of their contents?



D.W.Clarke



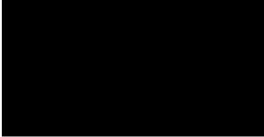
From: [REDACTED] Directorate Air Staff 4a
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Room 8243, Main Building, Whitehall, London, SW1A 2HB

24

Telephone (Direct dial)
(Switchboard)
(Fax)

[REDACTED]
020 7216 9000
Section 40

Dr David Clarke



Your Reference

Our Reference
D/DAS/64/11
Date
25 July 2001



Dear Dr Clarke,

Further to my letter of 12 July I attach at Annex a list of your questions and the answers to those questions.

We have consulted with a number of different areas to request a search for material and our answers reflect the outcome. Although not all information has been traced I hope you will, nevertheless, find the answers helpful. In addition I attach, as requested, a sheet giving the numbers of "unexplained" aerial sightings communicated to the Ministry of Defence in each year since 1959 and a copy of a "report" form.

This Directorate is to move from the above location at the end of this week; our new address will be:

Room 671
Ministry of Defence
Metropole Building
London WC2N 5BP.

Yours sincerely,



ANNEX

Question 1:

Can the MOD list the current posts within the Air Staff and in Operations where staff have a direct or subsidiary responsibility for the investigation of UFO reports and/or the handling of public inquiries relating to the subject. Of the posts identified, can a percentage of staff time allocated to 'UFO'-related duties be specified.

Answer:

Directorate Air Staff - Two posts within DAS have a direct responsibility for the handling of public inquiries; this work includes Parliamentary business and can take up to 50% of the time of each of the individuals concerned. Two other posts within the Directorate have a responsibility of oversight of 'UFO'-related work and this work can take up to 5% of the time of each of those individuals.

Defence Intelligence Service - There are no current posts within the DIS where staff have a direct or subsidiary responsibility for the investigation of 'UFO' sighting reports or for the handling of public enquiries.

Air Defence - There are three posts within the Air Defence staff that have a responsibility for the scrutiny of any 'UFO' sighting reports sent to them by DAS. These individuals assess the reports for any significance for air defence and this work occupies approximately 4% of their collective time.

Question 2: Does DAS maintain figures/statistics of the number of enquiries received from a. the public and b. the media relating to 'UFO' issues dealt with on a year by year basis.

Answer: A record has been kept since 1959 of the number of 'unexplained' aerial sightings which have been the subject of enquiries by members of the public. A copy of the record comes attached to this letter.

No such record is kept of approaches by the media but an examination of files dating over the past five years has produced the following results. (Media enquiries include approaches from companies seeking to produce TV documentaries, by [newspaper] reporters and various 'UFO' publications.)

1996 - 6

1997 - 14

1998 - Nil

1999 - 1

2000 - 3

2001 - Nil to date

Question 3: Can MOD specify the extent of liaison that has taken place with a. the Royal Australian Air Force and b. United States Air Force with respect to the investigation of 'UFO'.

Answer: No evidence has been found of contact with the Royal Australian Air Force or the United States Air Force with respect to a request to investigate a 'UFO' sighting.

Question 4: Has the MOD ever called upon the expertise of psychologists in respect of a. individual investigation or b. analysis or advice on any aspect of 'UFO' issues.

Answer: Neither service nor external psychologists have been called upon in respect of individual investigation or analysis of 'UFO' issues.

Question 5: Relating to the role of Air Intelligence 5b (circa 1959 to 1964).

Answer: Air Intelligence 5b was a part of the Air Ministry. The Defence Intelligence Service was established in 1964 and included the amalgamation of the three single-Service intelligence organisations. You have asked in particular about the reporting/recording of unidentified aerial sightings by service personnel; you may find it helpful to read the answer to your question 6 below.

Question 6: Can MOD outline the precise role of RAF Rudloe Manor, Wiltshire in reporting the collection and investigation of 'UFO' reports from service sources prior to 1992.

Answer: Until 1992, the Flying Complaints Flight (FCF), part of the HQ Provost and Security Services (UK) based at RAF Rudloe Manor, was the central co-ordination point for UFO reports made to RAF stations (from whatever source, ie members of the public or service personnel) its function was simply to record the details provided and pass the reports directly to Sec(AS)2 in the Ministry of Defence. Sec(AS)2 desk officers then examined the reports and decided, with other experts as necessary, whether what was seen had any defence implications. No action was taken on the reports by staff in the FCF.

The FCF no longer have any involvement in the central collection of 'UFO' reports. All reports by air force stations are now forwarded directly to DAS (formerly Sec(AS)2) for consideration. The extent now of Rudloe Manor's involvement in the 'UFO' reporting process, in common with all other RAF stations, is to take down the details of any reports made in the local area and pass the details to DAS.

Question 7: Does the MOD maintain a paper or electronic record of radar tracks or reports of radar tracks recorded within the UK Air Defence Region that have remained unidentified following investigation. If that is the case for how long are records preserved, what is their security classification and after what period of time will records be available at the PRO.

Answer: The MOD does not maintain a record of radar tracks recorded within the UK Air Defence Region that have remained unidentified following investigation, other than by possible reference in operational log books. Electronic recordings of the air picture are retained for a

reference in operational log books. Electronic recordings of the air picture are retained for a period of 30 days, to assist primarily in the investigation of flight safety incidents, should the need arise. The overall recordings are graded NATO SECRET because of the operational content.

Question 8: In 1996 in the House of Commons, Defence Minister Nicholas Soames stated that RAF aircraft were scrambled on two occasions in the past five years to intercept unidentified targets . . . Could MOD specify:

- a. details of incidents recorded between 1990-2000 when aircraft were scrambled to intercept targets that have remained 'unidentified' following MOD investigation.**
- b. the role of RAF Fylingdales in the investigation of UFO reports (for example, what category of report would be checked with this facility).**

Answer 8a: Records of incidents when air defence aircraft were scrambled to investigate unidentified air tracks do not exist for the full period covering 1990-2000. Details of such sorties are recorded in operational logbooks that are destroyed after 5 years. No aircraft were scrambled to intercept targets that remained unidentified following MOD investigation.

Answer 8b: RAF Fylingdales may be called upon by MOD to correlate a sighting of an unidentified aerial phenomena with a known event, such as the re-entry of a satellite.

Question 9: Does MOD have records of 'UFOs' tracked by RAF Neatishead or satellite radar stations (questions a., b. and c.).

Answer: There are no records of any 'UFOs' tracked by CRC Neatishead. We do note what you say in your letters of 6 and 14 June; it has been suggested that you may find it helpful to consult the following records that, I am informed, are in the PRO:

RAF Waterbeach AIR 28/1439
RAF Neatishead AIR 29/1369 and 2631.

In addition S4(Air), AIR 20, the following files from the early to mid 1970s, also in the PRO.

AIR 20/7390 (1950-54)
AIR 20/9320 TO 9322 (1977)
AIR 20/994 (1953-57)

I have also been informed that no records covering the subject of UFOs that are more than 30 years old are still held by Defence Records.

Question 10: What are the current standing instructions to RAF stations/radar facilities with regards to the reporting and action taken to investigate a. reports or b. radar tracking of 'UFOs'. Are copies of current instructions available for public inspection.

Answer: A standard list of questions, asked over many years, has been reproduced on a form since the early 1990s. The form is produced by individual stations and is not subject to a central instruction; I attach a copy for your information.

Question 11: Can MOD confirm,

a. the existence and current location of report describing aerial phenomena originating from RAF and other service sources sent to AI5b between 1950 and 1967.

Answer: No files with the prefix Air Intelligence 5b, AI 5b or AI(Tech)5b have been traced but further enquiries are being made with the Defence Records Archives.

b. Whether the Department of Scientific and Technical Intelligence maintains records or files relating to investigation/consultation with Air Staff on the subject of aerial phenomena/UFOs.

Answer: As part of the MOD's assessment of aerial sightings, reports were copied as appropriate to the Directorate of Intelligence Scientific and Technical (DIST). Towards the end of 2000, DIST decided that these reports were of no defence interest and should no longer be sent to them. The branch still retains files containing reports received up to 4 Decembr 2000.

c. Have DSTI undertaken at any time a search of their records for UFO-related files, reports or analysis from the period dating from 1950-80. If no search has taken place how is it possible to claim that files before 1961 have not been retained.

Answer: A search of DIST records was undertaken to identify all of their file holdings; files prior to 1961 had not been retained.

Question 12: Documents released by the Metropolitan Police under the Code of Practice indicate that MOD acted in an advisory capacity to a Police Special Branch investigation of an unidentified helicopter reported over Derbyshire between September 1973 and January 1974. Does a MOD file exist.

Answer: No papers have been traced relating to an incident involving an attempt by MOD to identify a helicopter on the dates you indicate in the Derbyshire region. If you have any additional information on the identity of the RAF Station involved in the investigation we could undertake further enquiries.

Question 13: What is the current definition of the term "of no defence significance". . . What is the precise methodology employed to determine whether a report can be categorised as of "no defence significance".

Answer: An event that has "no defence significance" is an event that is regarded as presenting no direct military threat against sovereign territory.

The means by which reports are categorised include an assessment of the location, time and nature of a report and any likely explanation of its cause (planetary objects, areas of high density air traffic, atmospherics, space objects etc). A check of operational logs may be included to determine whether any related air activity was detected at the time by the UK Air Defence system.

**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	1996 - 609
1975 - 208	1997 - 425
1976 - 200	1998 - 193
1977 - 435	1999 - 229
1978 - 750	2000 - 210
1979 - 550	
1980 - 350	

Figures from before 1959 are not available.

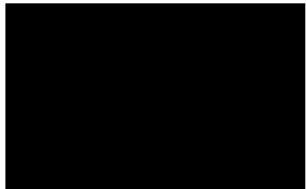
NB. The above figures relate to the number of reports, received by the Ministry of Defence, of aerial activity which was not immediately identifiable to the witness. They should not be taken to reflect sightings of "UFO/flying saucers".

REPORT OF AN UNEXPLAINED AERIAL SIGHTING

1.	Date and time of sighting. (Duration of sighting.)	
2.	Description of object. (No of objects, size, shape, colour, brightness, noise.)	
3.	Exact position of observer. Geographical location. (Indoors/outdoors, stationary/moving.)	
4.	How object was observed. (Naked eye, binoculars, other optical device, camera or camcorder.)	
5.	Direction in which object was first seen. (A landmark may be more helpful than a roughly estimated bearing.)	
6.	Approximate distance.	
7.	Movements and speed. (side to side, up or down, constant, moving fast, slow)	
8.	Weather conditions during observation. (cloudy, haze, mist, clear)	

9.	To whom reported. (Police, military, press etc)	
10.	Name, address and telephone no of informant.	
11.	Other witnesses.	
12.	Remarks.	
13.	Date and time of receipt.	

23
Dr David Clarke



14 June 2001

Dear  

Further to my letter of 5 June and my question concerning the radar tracking and interception of unidentified flying objects by RAF Neatishead/Lakenheath (USAF) in 1956.

Subsequent to sending the letter my attention has been drawn to an article (enclosed) by F.H.C Wimbledon RAF (retired) that appeared in a 1999 issue of the *Newsletter of the RAF Air Warfare Museum*. Mr Wimbledon, you will recall, was the Chief Controller on duty at RAF Neatishead G.C.I. on the night in question and personally supervised the interception by Venom NF-3s scrambled from the Battle Flight at RAF Waterbeach.

Your attention is drawn to paragraph 3 of Wimbledon's article that refers to a debriefing by "a very senior RAF officer" and a report prepared for HQ Fighter Command, RAF Bentley Priory.

The one inaccuracy in the account is Wimbledon's statement that the interceptors came from 253 Squadron. The QRA squadron on that evening was No. 23 Squadron and as I have previously noted, I have copies of flying logbook entries completed by six aircrew who took part in the interception attempts.

Given that a senior RAF officer has now discussed his role in these events in public I wish to ask for the MOD's position on this matter and whether an account of, or an explanation for the events of the night of 13/14 August 1956 can be found in official records.

Yours Sincerely,



opened his new offensive. Although the final "kill" was still not an easy matter, without the assistance of radar it would have been a difficult task for the fighters to find the enemy with any accuracy at night, as proved by the dramatic rise in successful night interceptions after the introduction of the GCI/AI system.

However, the art of the ground controller guiding the fighter onto the enemy aircraft was an evolutionary technique in the early days. The Fighter Controller training school was initially at "Woodlands", a large house at Stanmore Middlesex. In the house was a simulated Sector Operations Room (SOR) with a normal General Situation Map (GSM) surrounded by the plotting staff. To add realism they had two Walls Ice Cream tricycles, one acting as the enemy bomber and the other the intercepting fighter, both with a compass installed between the riders legs. The bomber 'pedalled' off across the field which was adjacent to the house and set a compass course as the simulated target. Three airmen/women positioned around the field took compass bearings of the 'bomber' and passed them to Operations where the bombers position was marked on the GSM to simulate a radar plot. Once the bombers course had been established, the controller ordered his 'fighter', which was fitted with VHF radio, to "Scramble" and the trainee controller proceeded to direct the fighter onto the bomber from the plots he could see on the GSM. The fighter's relative position was established by the same three bearings method as the bomber. The relative speeds of both fighter and bomber were governed by a metronome fitted on each tricycle, the pilots (riders) pedalling to the metronome; since the map on the GSM covered only the south of England and the simulated aircraft had only the field to travel in, they could not have 1940's aircraft travelling at Mach 1 or 2. It was not very successful because the field was uneven and it was difficult for the pilots to pedal in synchronism with the metronome, read the compass and steer the tricycle all at the same time, and they invariably ended up pushing their tricycles.

THE LAKENHEATH INCIDENT OF 1956.

By F H C Wimbledon

(A question frequently asked by visitors to the Museum is, "Has Neatishead ever seen any Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs)?" to which we have to answer "No", not for any security reasons, but because there do not seem to be many around these days. So we were pleased to receive the following article from Freddie Wimbledon, to put the matter straight. - Ed.)

One of the most bizarre happenings at Neatishead was the interception of a UFO on the night of 13/14 August 1956. Some time after 23.30hr Air Traffic Control at the USAF

base at Lakenheath in Suffolk rang Neatishead to report a bright light 'buzzing' the circuits at Bentwaters and Lakenheath alternately at speeds between 400 and 600 mph, then remaining stationary or moving very slowly. This activity was clearly seen on Neatishead's radar, by observers on the ground at Lakenheath and by the pilot of a C-47 transport aircraft at 10,000ft who reported that a bright light had passed underneath him.

The 12 Group Sector Operations Centre at RAF Horsham St Faith were informed of the happening and a Venom NF2A night fighter from 253 Squadron at Waterbeach, Cambridge, was scrambled for control by Neatishead. It was vectored towards the object and the Venom pilot called 'Contact' followed in a short while by 'Judy' (which meant that the Radar/Nav had the target on his airborne radar and needed no further ground assistance). But then he called, "Lost contact, more help". He was then told that his target was now behind him, and it remained glued in that position, following the Venom's every move. A second Venom was scrambled but it never got within 20 miles, before the target sped off in a north-easterly direction, climbing at terrific speed and was soon out of range of Neatishead's radar. As to what really happened during the interception led to differing views; the controller and his crew believed that the target had looped to get behind the Venom, but the pilot of that aircraft has since said that he overshot the target because it suddenly stopped in front of him.

This was all reported to HQ Fighter Command at RAF Bentley Priory as it happened, and a very senior RAF officer arrived at Neatishead the next day to interview the personnel involved, stressing absolute secrecy.

Unknown to those at Neatishead, a NCO at the US Air Traffic Control Centre at Lakenheath had followed the action on his radar and listened to the R/T conversation. He reported his version to the 7th Air Division Command Post in London and it was duly entered in the USAF "Blue Book", wherein all unexplained incidents were recorded.

And there it remained until the same NCO twelve years later wrote about the incident, claiming that he had controlled the RAF fighter. A hurried search through the "Blue Book" was instituted and sure enough there was a reference to the incident in the original report.

Years later, when so much more information was released, and it had been proven that given the type of radar available to him, the NCO could not possibly have controlled an interception, and he admitted that this was so. He also withdrew his remarks about monitoring the R/T by saying that he did not really understand the English accents of the Venom crews or the jargon they used.

In the United States, when the NCO's version saw the light of day, many the leading physicists, scientists, UFO buffs

and "foos" wanted to say their piece. However as they tried to get confirmation from the Air Ministry, Air Attaches or even Malvern, the reply was always, "We have no knowledge of this incident". As a result, numerous books have been published in the United Kingdom about the incident using the American version, which is, of course, 10% fact and 90% fiction.

The Chief Controller at Neatishead when this incident took place was one Flight Lieutenant Freddie Wimbledon, who has until now resisted all efforts to give interviews, or to appear on television; yet statements attributed to him with all the details keep appearing in various books, without his permission, and without his ever meeting any of the authors. So much information has come to light over the years, such as finding three of the original Venom aircrew with their log books, the Parliamentary Private Secretary to Sir Ray Cochrane has put on record that he was shown the camera gun film of the target object, witnesses on the ground, and an official's statement that the relevant papers had been 'accidentally destroyed' (which means that they had originally existed) all show that there can be little doubt that Neatishead's UFO existed. But what was it really? No aircraft then or since has shown the flight envelope demonstrated by that object. Are we so arrogant as to think that we are the only intelligent life in the universe.

(Makes you think. We once went to Loch Ness to see the monster, but while we were there it was at the other end of the loch. And we believe in the Diety, though we have never seen him. It is no bad thing to keep an open mind. - Ed.)

LIFE BEFORE RADAR

By Ron Hewlett.

It was soon realised in the early days of the 1914-18 war that aeroplanes were yet another weapon to use in the battle raging in France. Other than their use as reconnaissance vehicles, both the Germans and the Allies equipped their squadrons with fighters which could do combat with the enemies aircraft or drop bombs onto trenches and installations. However, in 1915 the Germans took air warfare a stage further when they attacked mainland Britain using their long range Zeppelin airships. By 1917 the Germans had developed their Gotha bomber aircraft which could also reach Britain, making its first raid on the Kent coast town of Folkestone on 25th May 1917.

Air raid warnings in those early days were activated by Coastguards, Policemen and Special Constables (See Note 2) or anyone near the coast who had access to a telephone. In most cases by the time the warning had got to the

nearest Royal Flying Corps (RFC), Royal Naval Air Service (RNAS) station or coastal artillery unit, the airship or bomber had dropped their bombs and fled. However the raiders did not always get away because the first to be shot down was Zeppelin L.21 by Lt. William Leefe Robinson of No.39 Sqn. RFC at 0230 hr on 3rd September 1916. So relieved were the Chiefs of Staff and the Government to see that this German menace in the sky was not invincible, Lt. Leefe Robinson was decorated with the Victoria Cross.

During the day aircraft could be detected by both sight and sound but since most raids were made at night it was therefore only the engine and propeller noise which warned the observer that aircraft were approaching. The range at which sound can be heard unaided is dependent greatly on the climatic conditions, i.e. temperature, air pressure, wind speed and direction, but in normal conditions an aircraft can be detected by ear at about 10 miles range. Wishing to extend the sound detection range, various mechanical devices were tried using large horns rather like the early deaf-aid 'ear trumpet', albeit with limited success. However, a group of Royal Engineers carried out experiments using parabolic shapes, the same as a satellite dish, cut into the high cliffs near Broadstairs on the Kent coast with the operator standing on a platform at the focal point to listen for aircraft engine sounds. Although an established scientific principle and an interesting experiment, they were of limited value in air defence.

Just after World War 1 the War Office decided that air defence was a priority requiring a scientific approach and formed the Air Defence Experimental Establishment (ADEE) in 1922. Because at the time aircraft engine noise was the only parameter they had to work with, the scientists centred their research on sound detection in the Acoustics Research Section of ADEE. The scientists experimented with many and various types of large concrete sound collecting mirrors and as radio and electronic development progressed in the 1920's so the use of microphones and thermionic valve amplifiers were used in this research with advantage.

The largest and most spectacular of these sound locating 'dinosaurs' was the '200ft Strip Mirror' locator. This type was constructed in the shape of an elongated strip from a sphere 150 ft in radius, built in smooth faced concrete measuring 200 ft. horizontally from end to end and 27 ft in height. In front of the mirror was a 55 ft 6 ins. sloping concrete apron leading to a 'listening trench', a further 2 ft deep and measuring 20 ft. at the narrowest point. A semicircular end wall 100 ft wide and side-walls containing the earth bank from the trench. An equipment cabin provided on the site also accommodated the operators. There were only two of this type of locator constructed, the first at Lydd near Dungeness in Kent and the second Magtab in Malta.

LOOSE MINUTE

D/DI SEC/10/8/3

5 June 2001

DAS 4A

Copy to:
DAO – ADGE 1
AD DI 55
DISSY

OFFICIAL ACTION LETTER FROM DR D CLARKE – UFO QUESTIONS

1. Further to my minute of 5 June, we are now in a position to respond to Dr Clarke's Question 11a. He asked us to confirm the existence and current location of reports describing aerial phenomena originating from RAF and other service sources sent to AI 5b at DDI Tech, Air Ministry dating from 1950-67.
2. We have undertaken a search of the DIS archives and can confirm that we hold no files for that branch. We have searched for Air Intelligence 5b, AI 5b and AI(Tech)5b (the branch name recorded by Sqn Ldr [REDACTED] in relation to AVM White's post). The files may possibly be held in the Defence Records archives if they have not yet been released to the PRO.

[REDACTED]
DI ISEC Sec 4
WH306 [REDACTED]

DAS4A(SEC)

From: DI ISEC SEC4
Sent: 03 July 2001 15:35
To: DAS4A(SEC)
Cc: DAO ADGE1; AD DI 55; DISSY
Subject: Dr Clarke - search for files in DIS archives

Importance: Low



dr d clarke - ufo - fm2
to DAS...

40

PSA to advise that we have no files in the DIS archives.

40

21

16 val's then 60
↓**DAS4A(SEC)****From:** Info(Exp)-Records1**Sent:** 24 July 2001 08:37**To:** DAS4A(SEC)**Subject:** RE: 'UFO' AND RELATED QUESTIONSDr. Clarke.

Question 1:

Q: 5

Question relates to reporting of sightings by Service personnel.

You will not be surprised to learn that questions have previously been asked by researchers about AI 5 papers (in fact Dr Clarke raised such a question recently - May 2001 - about DDI Tech and AI5b files that he suggested might be held by AHB. AHB replied that they held not such papers). (See memo to p. 6 also)

I am not surprised that DI had no luck finding these files as on previous occasions when asked I received the same reply. As it is DI is no different than any other branch in the MOD in that they should comply with departmental regulations re the review of their files ie files should be processed at a relatively early age and no later than the 30 years point. Retention beyond that date requires the Lord Chancellor's approval.

To enquirers our response has been that if any papers from AI survive older than 30 years (DI was created in 1964) papers will be identifiable from the PRO catalogue.

A quick search on the PRO catalogue against the words "Air Intelligence" identified some 150 files. As Dr Clarke seems well researched on this subject I suspect that he has already discovered the PRO search facility and presumably determined that none are relevant to his research (an outcome discovered by other researchers on this subject).

Question 2:

Q: 9

As with DI I would have been very surprised if Air Ops had records (for the same reasons as DI).

Where? I can only suggest that Dr Clarke try, if he has not already, the ORBs RAF Waterbeach AIR 28/1439 and for RAF Neatishead AIR 29/1369, 2631. But as with his earlier research I am sure that he has investigated these records.

Where? As for S4(Air) records, AIR 20 has 5 files covering the early to mid 1970s: AIR 20/7390 (1950-54), AIR 20/9320 to 9322 (1977) and AIR 20/994 (1953-57). I am again sure that Dr Clarke is aware of these records.

No Neatishead files held back.

I can though confirm that Defence Records (Hayes and the OWO archive) holds no cache of out of time records covering the subject of UFOs. Generally our review programme is comfortably examining surviving files from the mid-1970s.

-----Original Message-----

From: DAS4A(SEC)**Sent:** 23 July 2001 11:17**To:** Info(Exp)-Records1**Subject:** 'UFO' AND RELATED QUESTIONS

h 40

I wonder if you might be able to help us. It's a Dr Clarke query; he has asked quite a range of questions to which we have most of the answers. As always, however, there are a few

24/07/01

glitches!

QUESTION 1: Queries have been raised concerning the metamorphosis of a branch named Air Intelligence 5b (AI 5b) and some of the responsibilities of that area.

DI have done a search and have discovered no files with the following in the title:

Air Intelligence 5b

AI 5b

AI(Tech)5b.

Do you have a record of any file heading corresponding with that title? The likely period is 1950-1967



QUESTION 2: Dr Clarke has asked about material on incident alleged to have happened in 1956 on the night of 13/14 August. He mentions that the 'UFO' was tracked by CRC RAF Neatishead/or satellite radar stations and there was an attempted interception by Venom aircraft from RAF Waterbeach.

Air Ops have traced no records. There is a chance that something reached our side (in the DS8 days perhaps) but I would have thought that should be in the PRO. What do you think - any advice?

[REDACTED]



From: [REDACTED] Directorate Air Staff 4a
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Room 8243, Main Building, Whitehall, London, SW1A 2HB

20

Telephone (Direct dial) [REDACTED]
(Switchboard) 020 7216 9000
(Fax) [REDACTED]

Dr David Clarke



Your Reference

Our Reference
D/DAS/64/11
Date
12 July 2001

Dear Dr Clarke,

I refer to our earlier correspondence concerning the questions you raised on the subject of 'UFOs'.

We have now had the opportunity to either search for or examine most of the material that we believe might be relevant to the range of questions raised by you. I shall assemble the answers in the early part of next week in order to give you a substantive reply. I apologise for the time spent in dealing with your queries.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
This came in on Thursday (7th)
I understand from [REDACTED]
that he had nothing on
this incident.

I wonder if this has been
with-held from the PRO
on one of DI's files as
Dr C. refers to DDI (Tech).
Maybe we should check with
[REDACTED] / DI Sec!

[REDACTED]

19
Dr David Clarke


Ministry of Defence
Room 8243 Main Building
Whitehall
London SW1A 2HB

6 June 2001

Your ref: D/DAS(Sec)64/3/11

Dear 

Many thanks for your letter of 31 May relating to my list of 13 questions on the topic of "Unidentified Flying Objects." I understand that to answer these questions will entail an amount of research on behalf of your staff and that as a result a charge may be made. I wish to confirm that I am happy to meet any reasonable charge incurred from the work that is necessary to assemble the information I require.

Whilst your research is on-going I would draw your attention specifically to **Question 9(a)** on my list dated 8 May 2001, with regards to the tracking of unidentified flying objects by UK ground defence radar on the evening of 13/14 August, 1956. Out of all the questions on my list, my research has identified this event as being of particular interest.

You may be aware that the 1956 incident was referred to by the late Ralph Noyes, a former head of DS8, as having been the subject of a considerable amount of attention by the Air Ministry at the time. The report was also investigated by the US Air Force sponsored University of Colorado UFO project in 1968-9 who received a detailed statement from the USAF Watch Supervisor at RAF Lakenheath who was involved in the tracking of a UFO above East Anglia on the night in question.

In 1978, the retired RAF Chief Controller on duty at RAF Neatishead G.C.I. station stated in *The Sunday Times* that he had personally supervised the interception of this UFO, tracked earlier by the USAF at Lakenheath and Bentwaters and had ordered the scrambling of two Venom aircraft from the Battle Flight. He also stated that his Interception team were debriefed by a senior officer from Fighter Command and a report prepared for Air Ministry.

I have subsequently traced the aircrew involved and obtained copies of their personal flying logs that confirm the Chief Controller's statements. I have also established from Squadron Records that *three or more* aircraft were actually scrambled during protracted

attempts by both the RAF and USAF to intercept these aerial phenomena during a six hour period between 2130 GMT on 13th August and 0330 GMT on 14th August 1956.

Despite these established facts the original Air Ministry/DDI (Tech) reports relating to these incidents have never been located or released. A brief mention of the incident has been identified in a briefing prepared by DDI (Tech) to a Minister prior to a Parliamentary Question in 1957 (PRO ref AIR 20/9320)

It appears inconceivable that an incident of this magnitude, involving targets tracked by up to three separate radars and the scrambling of Quick Readiness aircraft to intercept a potentially hostile object above a highly-sensitive airbase during a six-hour period would not have produced a "paper trail" or at least a technical report of some description. I suspect that much like many other similar incidents, the 1956 report from Lakenheath/Neatishead will have a prosaic explanation. However, I would appreciate any information you are able to provide relating to this particular question.

Finally, I wish to thank you and your staff for locating the **DSI/JTIC Report No 7 "Unidentified Flying Objects"** from 1950/1. I was pleased to receive this after spending a considerable amount of time searching for a record of the DSI report. I have written separately to [REDACTED] congratulating him for his assistance in locating this historically important document. This discovery underlines my belief that documents relating to the 1956 incident outlined above *do* exist in MoD archive, but are likely to be filed in an obscure place!

Yours Sincerely

[REDACTED]
D.W.Clarke

DAS4A(SEC)

18

From: DAS4A(SEC)
Sent: 11 June 2001 13:03
To: DI ISEC SEC4
Subject: INTERVIEW BETWEEN AVM WHITE & DR DAVID CLARKE

 I refer to your fax sent over to us on 8 June. I spoke with you on the telephone; as I mentioned, Dr Clarke has no special status as a researcher and DAS4 is in correspondence with him as any other member of the public.

You may find it helpful to know that Dr Clarke had originally asked to speak with someone in DAS concerning a number of 'UFO' matters but had been advised to submit a list of questions instead. In view of the wealth of information there is in the MOD archives, and which cannot be scrutinised in detail by this Directorate (as currently resourced), we considered that it was not advisable to invite conversation.

We think it likely that MOD Sy will have relevant advice to offer (I note you have contacted them). We are happy to speak with them if they wish to consult. As you know, our Lines to Take are unclassified and designed to answer members of the public. Our 'line' on the subject, used over the last 20 years at least is:

"MOD's only interest in reports of 'unexplained' aerial sightings is to establish whether there is anything which might be of defence concern such as unauthorised air activity in UK airspace. . . MOD does not have any expertise or role in respect of 'UFO' matters or to the question of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms, about which it remains totally open-minded. To date, MOD knows of no evidence which substantiates the existence of these alleged phenomena."

We would certainly find it helpful to have some knowledge of what AVM White might have to offer Dr Clarke - in the very unlikely event that his comment might conflict with anything (usually rather general) we have said in correspondence to Dr Clarke, or our other correspondents.



Classification

Caveat

Covering

F Sigs 927

(int.9/92)

10/8/3

Facsimile Transmission Cover Sheet

17

Transmission Details		Document Details
Serial Number:	Date and time of transmission: 8 June 01	Reference(s): DI SEC/10/8/3
From: [REDACTED] DI Sec 4	Fax Number: [REDACTED]	Tel no. [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED] DAS4a	Fax Number: [REDACTED]	Subject: DI55 advice on interview between AVM White & Dr David Clarke
Total Number of pages including this cover sheet		2

Authorising Officer	Transmit Operators
Rank, Name and Appointment: [REDACTED] DI Sec 4	Rank/grade and Name:
Signature:	Signature:
Message/Remarks: [REDACTED] 40 I attach the DI 55 advice about the interview. If there is anything more you wish me to do, please let me know. Meanwhile we are undertaking a search in our archives for AI5b files. And will let you know the results asap. [REDACTED]	

Covering
Caveat
Classification

DISEC4, Teresa Andrews

From: DI55B [/g=di/i=di/s=55b/o=dis/ou=jaguar/ou=owob/p=hmg+mod/a=/c=gb/tfn=DI55B]
Sent: 08 June 2001 08:35
To: DISEC4, [REDACTED]
Subject: Disclosure of information - AVM Terry White

PR-MSP-SEC-POLICY: NATO

PR-PER-RECIPIENT-INFO: /g=di/i=di/s=sec4/o=dis/ou=jensen/ou=owob/p=hmg+mod/a=/c=gb/tfn=DISEC4, Teresa Andrews|000|

[REDACTED] passed your Chots note on the above dated 7 June 01. We have both looked at it and would make the following comments.

1. The AVM is correct to obtain the appropriate clearances. However, although the matter may be concerned with DIS we, DI55, are not the security authority. MoD Sy must be involved and give him the authority to talk to Dr Clarke, not DIS. We do fully expect that MoD Sy would consult with us but it is important that they are involved from the beginning of this matter.

2. In order to ascertain what information the AVM could potentially disclose, we suggest that MoD Sy to interview Terry White before any contact with Dr David Clarke is made. That way the MoD and DIS can determine what extent of Terry White's duties in AI(Tech) 5b and therefore what he could potentially release to Dr Clarke.

Regards

[REDACTED]
DI55b

[REDACTED] WH268a

DAS4A(SEC)

From: DI ISEC SEC4
Sent: 07 June 2001 12:31
To: DAS4A(SEC)
Cc: DAO ADGE1
Subject: FW:DR CLARKE - REQUEST FOR INTERVIEW WITH AVM Terry White

Importance: Low

[REDACTED] 40

Please see the email below from RAF Waddington. Our Dr Clarke has identified AVM White, an ex-member of AI (Tech)5b, from PRO records and has asked to interview him. AVM White has sought permission from Waddington. I have asked DI 55 to see whether we have any difficulty with this - but I would think the final decision should be one for DAS.

-----Original Message-----

From: DI ISEC SECT AD
Sent: 07 June 2001 10:15
To: DI ISEC SEC4; DI ISEC SEC7
Subject: FW: DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION - AVM Terry White
Importance: Low

Can we look at this and get back to [REDACTED] 40 as very quick reading I can't see a problem - especially in light of FOI.

[REDACTED] 40

-----Original Message-----

From: CDI/PS
Sent: 06 June 2001 10:33
To: DI ISEC SECT AD
Subject: FW: DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION - AVM Terry White
Importance: Low

[REDACTED] 40 link this sits in the Secretariat. Could you please advise/discuss with me?

-----Original Message-----

From: STC-WAD-OC-PF+PS
Sent: 06 June 2001 09:42
To: CDI/PS
Subject: DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION - AVM Terry White
Importance: Low

We spoke.

AVM Terry White is retired but living near Waddington and is the Honorary Air Commodore for No. 2503 Sqn R Aux AF Regt which is based at Waddington.

He has been approached by Dr David Clark, [REDACTED] to provide additional information on his work whilst working as a Flt Lt in AI(Tech)5b in the Directorate of Technical Intelligence, part of the Joint Intelligence Bureau, based in Metropole Building during the period 1960-1962. - files in PRO.

The AVM says that one of his secondary roles was to investigate the reported phenomena of UFO's. Dr Clark is researching a paper into the Formation and Development of Rumour and has focussed part of his study on the treatment of UFO phenomena during the period 1950-1975. He has identified, from papers released by the PRO, that AVM White was involved with this work and he would now like to interview the AVM about it.

The AVM does not wish to proceed without appropriate clearance from MOD. I have already sought advice from Air Historical Branch (Release of Publications) who have referred me to you as they believe that it is an intelligence matter.

I should be grateful for an early response.

Sqn L...



DAS4A(SEC)

From: DAO ADGE1
Sent: 07 June 2001 11:08
To: DAS4A(SEC)
Cc: AD DI 55; DI ISEC SEC4
Subject: REQUEST FOR INFO - DR CLARKE

[REDACTED]

Please see attached response to your request of 15 May 01.

[REDACTED]



Dr Clarke.doc

DAO/1/13

7 Jun 01

DAS4A

Copy to:

DI ISec Sec 4
AD DI 55

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION – DR D CLARKE

Reference:

A. D/DAS/64/11 dated 15 May 01.

1. At Reference, you asked if we could provide answers to a number of questions related to “UFO” matters that had been raised by Dr David Clarke. Dr Clarke makes frequent reference to the investigation of unidentified tracks, implying that in some way these tracks should be considered as “UFOs”. It is important to draw the distinction between our interpretation of an unidentified track and that of Dr Clarke. In air defence terms, an unidentified track is the track of an aircraft detected by radar that cannot be positively identified against a variety of criteria. In all cases, radar tracks are considered to be air vehicles of man-made origin. Therefore, the fact that an air track may remain unidentified is not necessarily considered unusual or sinister. The following paragraphs provide the best available information against each of the questions falling within my sphere of responsibility, given the dates of some of the events referred to.

2. ~~Question 1.~~ The posts within DAO and other operational HQ where staff have a direct or subsidiary responsibility for the investigation of UFO reports, purely from the perspective of whether they raise any issues of air defence significance, are:

- a. MOD DAO ADGE 1.
- b. HQ STC SO1 ATC Area.
- c. HQ 2.Gp SO2 ASACS Ops 1.

✓ ~~Very~~ approximate figures for the percentage of staff time each desk spends on UFO-related duties are as follows:

- a. DAO ADGE 1 – approx 3%.
- b. ATC Area and ASACS Ops 1 – less than 1%.

✓ 3. Question 7. The MOD does not maintain a record of radar tracks recorded within the UK ADR that have remained unidentified following investigation, other than possible reference in operational log books. Electronic recordings of the air picture are retained for a period of 30 days to assist primarily in the investigation of flight safety incidents, should the need arise. The overall recordings are graded NATO SECRET because of the operational content; however, sub-sets of information may be selected and these may attract a lower security grading.

4. Question 8.

✓ a. Records of incidents when air defence aircraft were scrambled to investigate unidentified air tracks do not exist for the full period covering 1990–2000. Details of such sorties are recorded in operational logbooks that are destroyed after 5 years (the destruction certificates for those log books are retained for a further 7 years before destruction). Strictly speaking, no aircraft were scrambled to intercept targets that remained unidentified following MOD investigation, as the scramble forms a part of that investigation. If a scramble is unsuccessful, the identity of the track can usually be determined by other means.

b. ✓ RAF Fylingdales may be called upon by MOD to correlate a “UFO” sighting with a known event, such as the re-entry of a satellite.

UNUS paper -
work needed. → 5. ✓ Question 9. The MOD has no records of any “UFOs” tracked by CRC Neatishead (unless there are any held by DAS4).

6. ✓ Question 10. RAF stations have a pre-formatted form (MOD Form 953) which duty personnel complete whenever a call is taken from anybody wishing to report a sighting. The form is then forwarded to DAS4, as well as a number of other addressees. The instructions for submitting sighting reports would probably have been contained within a DCI. However, as DCIs are automatically cancelled after a year and there is no index available to check back more than 2 or 3 years (according to the MOD Library and the DCI section at Keynsham), I have not been able to establish how MOD Form 953 was disseminated to units. It is likely that DAS(Sec) initially sponsored the form some time ago and, therefore, the complete answer might lie deep within your files.

7. Question 12. We do not have a file relating to the police investigation of an unidentified helicopter reported over Derbyshire between Sep 73 and Jan 74. The only likely remaining source of any such information would be in the DAS(Sec) archives, assuming the incident had been linked to a “UFO” report at the time.

8. Question 13. There is no written definition of the term “of no defence significance”. It is a term used to describe the fact that an event is not considered to have constituted a direct military threat against sovereign territory. The means by which reports are categorised as being of “no defence significance” include an assessment of the location, time and nature of a report and any likely explanation of its cause (planetary objects, areas of high density air traffic, atmospherics, space objects, etc). A check of operational logs may be included to determine whether any related air activity was detected at the time by the UK Air Defence system.

Signed on CHOtS

[REDACTED]
Wg Cdr
DAO ADGE 1
MB4227 [REDACTED]
CHOtS: DAO ADGE 1

DAO/1/13

7 Jun 01

DAS4A

Copy to:

DI ISec Sec 4
AD DI 55

- 7 JUN 2001

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION - DR D CLARKE

Reference:

A. D/DAS/64/11 dated 15 May 01.

1. At Reference, you asked if we could provide answers to a number of questions related to "UFO" matters that had been raised by Dr David Clarke. Dr Clarke makes frequent reference to the investigation of unidentified tracks, implying that in some way these tracks should be considered as "UFOs". It is important to draw the distinction between our interpretation of an unidentified track and that of Dr Clarke. In air defence terms, an unidentified track is the track of an aircraft detected by radar that cannot be positively identified against a variety of criteria. In all cases, radar tracks are considered to be air vehicles of man-made origin. Therefore, the fact that an air track may remain unidentified is not necessarily considered unusual or sinister. The following paragraphs provide the best available information against each of the questions falling within my sphere of responsibility, given the dates of some of the events referred to.

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- b. HQ STC SO1 ATC Area.
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- b. ATC Area and ASACS Ops 1 - less than 1%.

Operational Log Books

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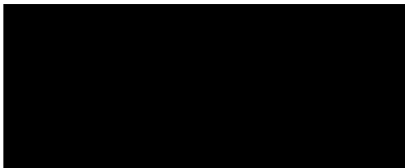
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Wg Cdr
DAO ADGE 1
MB4227 
CHOtS: DAO ADGE1

DAS4A(SEC)

From: DI ISEC SEC4
Sent: 05 June 2001 09:51
To: DAS4A(SEC)
Cc: AD DI 55; DAO ADGE1
Subject: dr clarke's questions

Importance: High



dr d clarke - ufo - fm to
DAS....

40

I attach a response to your request of 15 May. Please ring if you need to discuss.

AD DI 55

40

Please could you pass to [redacted] Thanks very much.

40

LOOSE MINUTE

D/DI SEC/10/8/3

5 June 2001

DAS 4A

Copy to:
DAO – ADGE 1
AD DI 55

OFFICIAL ACTION LETTER FROM DR D CLARKE – UFO QUESTIONS

1. Thank you for your minute of 15 May attaching a letter from Dr D Clarke containing questions about MOD policy towards UFOs.
2. Questions 1, 4a, 5 and 11 were annotated for the DIS to answer. Responses to Questions 1 and 4a are as follows:
 - a) Q1 – There are no current posts within the DIS where staff have a direct or subsidiary responsibility for the investigation of UFO reports. Neither do we have staff allocated to the handling of public enquiries specifically relating to the subject.
 - b) Q4a - The DIS have never called upon the expertise of psychologists (external or Service personnel) in respect of individual investigation or analysis and advice on any aspect of UFO issues.
3. The branch to which Dr Clarke refers in Q5 and 11a, (Air Intelligence 5b) was part of the Air Ministry in pre-MOD days. DIS was established in 1964 and included the amalgamation of the three single-Service intelligence organisations. We need to ascertain whether AI5b evolved into an MOD(Air) branch in 1964 or a DIS branch. Perhaps the RAF Historical Branch could help? Meanwhile DI 55b is asking for a search to be undertaken in our archives to see whether we hold any AI5b files. DAS may need to do the same.
4. Our responses to Q11b and Q11c are as follows:
 - a) Q11b – Director Intelligence Scientific and Technical (DIST) used to receive reports from the public reporting on unexplained aerial phenomena. However, the branch responsible decided that these reports were of no defence interest and requested that no further reports be forwarded. The branch still retains files containing these reports up to 4 December 2000.
 - b) Q11c – DIST undertook a search of their records to identify all of their file holdings. This search would have included any files reporting unexplained aerial phenomena; it established that files prior to 1961 had not been retained.

3. I hope this will help in your interim reply to Dr Clarke. We will let you know the answer to Q11a as soon as possible. Meanwhile, any further information you can provide on Air Intelligence 5b would be most helpful.

[REDACTED]

DI ISEC Sec 4

WH306 [REDACTED]



From: [REDACTED] Directorate Air Staff 4a
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Room 8243, Main Building, Whitehall, London, SW1A 2HB

13

Telephone	(Direct dial)	020 7218 2140
	(Switchboard)	020 7218 9000
	(Fax)	[REDACTED]

Dr D Clarke



Your Reference

Our Reference
D/DAS/64/3/11
Date
31 May 2001



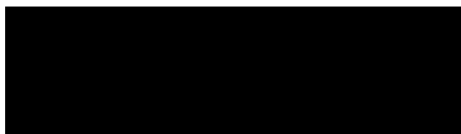
Dear Dr Clarke

Thank you for your letter of 8 May to which you attached a list of 13 questions on the topic of 'Unidentified Flying Objects'.

I am currently in the process of looking at material available within this Directorate as well as calling for information to enable us to answer your questions. This research will take more than twenty days and is necessary to enable us to identify information that may be made available to you within the Department's reasonable resources, for which there may be a charge. As I have mentioned previously, the Ministry of Defence is bound by the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information. This means that we are committed to providing you with the information you require, as long as it is not exempted under the Code. However, to ensure this does not create an extra burden on the taxpayer, we have a charging regime for more complicated requests. If a request is likely to require more than four hours' work, each hour's work over four hours (or part thereof) is charged at £15.00 per hour. As soon as I have an indication of the amount of work that has been done and remains to be done I shall estimate the charge and contact you once more. I am not able at present to comment on whether an exemption under the Code will be sought in respect of any of the material that is identified.

Finally I understand from [REDACTED] Records 1, that in the course of a routine review of files a surviving copy of DSI/JTIC Report No 7 has been found. That Report was the subject of earlier correspondence between you and this Directorate, as well as you and [REDACTED] I am told that a photocopy was sent to you on 29 May and should be with you shortly.

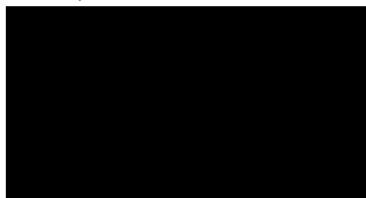
Yours sincerely,

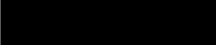


No further action

12

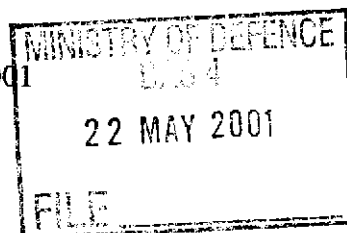
Dr David Clarke




Ministry of Defence
Room 8243 Main Building
Whitehall
London SW1A 2HB

Your ref: D/DAS(Sec)64/3/11

21 May 2001



Dear 

This is to acknowledge receipt of the file D/Sec(AS)12/2/1 and additional material relating to the alleged incident in Rendlesham Forest, Suffolk.

Thank you for assembling and copying the file, plus the additional documents located during your search, on my behalf. As I suspected, the story they tell is predictable and falls very much within my area of study in respect of the creation of myths and perceived 'conspiracies' from the most innocent of circumstances. It was refreshing to read the original, contemporary source materials relating to this 'incident' removed from the sensational accounts that have appeared in newspapers and books in more recent years.

The files you have supplied, in addition to my research at the PRO, has confirmed my hypothesis that it is those who report and promote sightings of UFOs who are more worthy of study than any alleged 'phenomena' themselves. This is a conclusion that is unlikely to be very popular amongst the 'UFO industry' but nevertheless, as I'm sure you appreciate, it is where the evidence appears to lead.

[As the file suggests that no unidentified objects *were* recorded by radars at Neatishead or Watton during the period 26-29 December 1980, question 9(c) on the list I sent to you on 8 May has now been answered. I note that this conclusion also appears in Hansard.

I remain grateful for your assistance,

Yours sincerely



D.W.Clarke



Royal Mail
Sheffield
Mail Centre
21.05.01
05:18 pm
23406957

Please
use the
Postcode



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE,
Room 8243
MAIN BUILDING
WHITEHALL
LONDON SW1A 2HB

LOOSE MINUTE

FILE

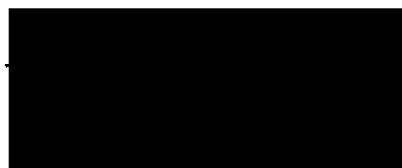
11

D/DAS/64/11

15 May 01

DI ISec Sec 3 - faxed 16/05
DAO - ADGE 1 - sent 16/05

(Sec 4 -



copy to:
DI 55 - faxed 16/05

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION - DR D CLARKE

1. I attach a recent letter and list of questions from Dr David Clarke, an academic researcher into 'UFO' matters. He has corresponded with DAS since the autumn of 2000 and has now approached us with thirteen individual questions to which he is seeking answers. This latest letter indicates that this may be his last request.

2. I have marked against each question the likely area of responsibility for the material. I should be grateful if you would look through the list giving me an early indication of when and whether you consider you might be able to provide answers. You might find it helpful to consult MOD Web regarding Open Government in view of the fact that, given the likely volume of work and nature of some of the information requested, it may not be possible to give Dr Clarke full replies. I would be very happy to discuss those issues if that would be helpful.



DAS4A

MB8243



Dr David Clarke



**Ministry of Defence
Room 8243 Main Building
Whitehall
London SW1A 2HB**

8 May 2001

Your ref: D/DAS(Sec)64/3/11

Dear 

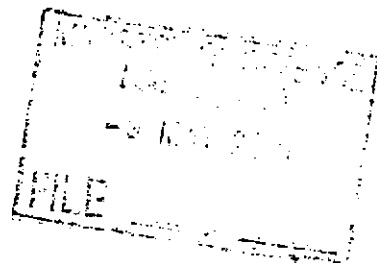
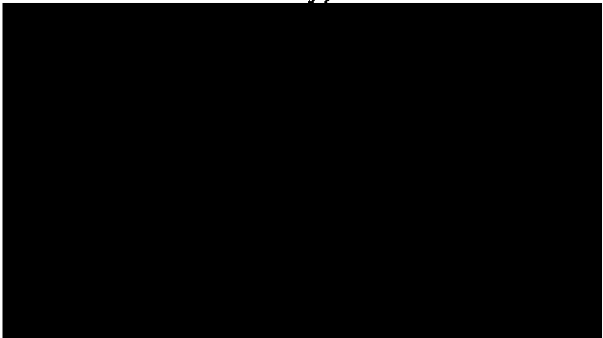
With reference to matters discussed in your letter of 22 March I enclose a list of questions relating to MoD policy on the subject of aerial phenomena/UFOs.

I appreciated your offer to answer questions as far as you were able given your limited staff and resources. The list contains 13 questions that I have carefully assembled at the completion of more than two years research at the Public Record Office as my project draws to a close. All relate to issues that I felt were unresolved or unclear within the context of the documents relating to this subject currently within the public domain.

I don't expect that you will be able to fully answer some of the questions, given the fact that so much documentation appears either not to have survived or is 'missing' but I would appreciate any information you could offer that may be relevant.

Finally, with reference to the file containing papers relating to the Rendlesham Forest incident dating from 1981-83 I note in your letter of 22 March you say this material would be processed and sent shortly. This file has not arrived so far, but I wish to thank you in advance for making these papers available.

Yours sincerely,



Unidentified Flying Objects – questions to Ministry of Defence/DAS (Sec)

1. Can the MoD list the current posts within the Air Staff and in Operations where staff have a direct or subsidiary responsibility for the investigation of UFO reports and/or the handling of public inquiries relating to the subject. Of the posts identified, can a percentage of staff time allocated to UFO-related duties be specified? 1- All
2. Does DAS (Sec) maintain figures/statistics relating to the number of enquiries received from a) the public and b) the media relating to UFO issues dealt with on a year by year basis - and if so are these available? 2- DAS
3. Can MoD specify the extent of liaison that has taken place with a) the Royal Australian Air Force and b) United States Air Force with respect to the investigation of UFO reports, from records that are available. 3- DAS
4. Has the MOD ever called upon the expertise of psychologists (external or service personnel) in respect of 4-
a) individual investigation and - DAO - D Sec.
b) analysis or advice on any aspect of UFO issues; if so is this material available for research purposes? 4b- DAS
5. HQ Fighter Command Air Staff Instruction F/1 dating from 1960, Public Record Office (DEFE 31/118), instructs Operations staff that UFO reports received from service sources and radar stations should be reported to Air Intelligence 5b (circa 1959-64) at Air Ministry DDI (Tech). Reports received from the public should be directed to department S6 (the forerunner of AS (Sec) 2a. Could the MOD confirm that the reporting division between Air Intelligence (as the destination for service and radar reports) and DAS(Sec) for reports received from the general public, continues to exist today. 5- DAR / D Sec
6. Can the MoD outline the precise role of RAF Rudloe Manor, Wiltshire, in reporting, collection and investigation of UFO reports from service sources prior to 1992. 6- DAS
7. Does the MOD maintain a paper or electronic record of radar tracks or reports of radar tracks recorded within the UK Air Defence Region that have remained unidentified following investigation? If that is the case, for how long are records preserved, what is their security classification and after what period of time will records be available at the PRO? 7- DAO
8. In 1996 in the House of Commons, Defence Minister Nicholas Soames stated that RAF aircraft were scrambled on two occasions "in the past five years" to intercept unidentified targets detected by UK Air Defence Radar. Could MOD specify:
a) details of incidents recorded between 1990-2000 when aircraft were scrambled to intercept targets that have remained 'unidentified' following MoD investigation. 8- DAO

- b) the role of RAF Fylingdales in the investigation of UFO reports (for example, what category of report would be checked with this facility).

9. Does MOD have records of unidentified flying object/s tracked by the CRC station RAF Neatishead or satellite radar stations 9-DAO

- a) on the evening of 13/14 August, 1956 resulting in an attempted interception by Venom aircraft from RAF Waterbeach.
b) on an evening between September and November 1980, during which aircraft involved in a night-flying exercise were diverted to intercept an unknown target?
c) during the period 26-30 December 1980.

10. What are the current standing instructions to RAF stations/ radar facilities with regards to the reporting and action taken to investigate a) reports of b) radar trackings of unidentified flying objects. Are copies of current instructions available for public inspection? 10-DAO

11. Can the MoD confirm:

- a) the existence and current location of reports describing aerial phenomena originating from RAF and other service sources sent to AI 5b at DDI Tech, Air Ministry, dating from 1950-67.
b) Whether the Department of Scientific and Technical Intelligence (DSTI) maintains records or files relating to investigation/consultation with Air Staff on the subject of aerial phenomena/UFOs.
c) Have DSTI undertaken at any time a search of their records for UFO-related files, reports or analysis from the period dating from 1950-80? If no search has taken place how is it possible to claim that files before 1961 have not been retained? 11-DA Sec

12. Documents released by the Metropolitan Police under the Code of Practice in 2001 indicate that the MoD acted in an advisory capacity to a Police Special Branch investigation of an unidentified helicopter reported over Derbyshire between September 1973-January 1974. Does an MoD file exist relating to these incidents and if so what does this contain and what conclusions were reached? 12-DAO

13. What is the current definition of the term "of no defence significance" used by the MoD in the context of UFOs reported in the UK Air Defence Region. What is the precise methodology employed to determine whether a report can be categorised as of "no defence significance." 13-DAO

D.W.Clarke
8 May 2001

MODE = TRANSMISSION

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END=16-MAY 09:28

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-SECRETARIAT (AIR STAFF) -

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- ***** - [REDACTED] *****

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-SECRETARIAT (AIR STAFF) -

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- ***** -

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1.13 referred to
Records

We spoke. I think that we
Need to await Lord H.N's response to P.E.
No problem with you/AS sending it to other

Ref: Recent PG answers concerning grading of
UFO material

Attached is a memo from (Info(Exp)) (Defence
Records) along with a sanitised, downgraded copy of
Report no. 7.

Upon reflection - opening/sending a copy of the Report,
and possibly also the Rendlesham papers, might
be welcomed by Lord H.N. However, receipt of the
material is almost certain to trigger a list of
questions which we shall almost certainly be unable
to answer. Summarising the conclusions and
recommendations of Rpt. No 7 for Lord H.N might
be an acceptable compromise but even that, I believe,
is unnecessary as I do not believe any ^(CPG) Tanway answers is
compromised.

14.5.01.

Loose Minute

D INFO(EXP)R/3/7/8

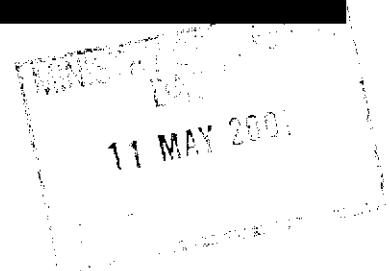
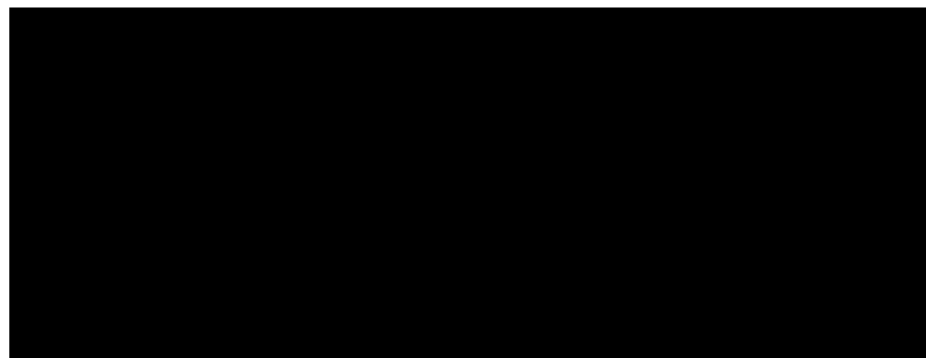
11 May 2001

DAS4a(SEC)

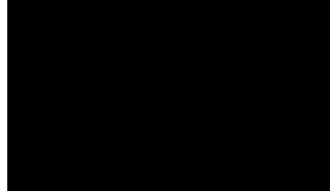
ENQUIRY FROM DR DAVID CLARKE AND DSI/JTIC REPORT NO 7

Reference: our recent email exchanges 9 & 10 May 2001 respectively

1. As per our recent exchanges of email I forward copies of:
 - a. Dr Clarke's recent letter to this office, dated 8 May 2001
 - b. A sanitised copy of DSI/JTIC Report No 7 "Unidentified Flying Objects"
2. I again confirm that no action will be taken in respect of Dr Clarke's letter pending the outcome of your parliamentary deliberations. But you should note that as Dr Clarke specifically asks about the Air Historical Branch holdings in two of his three questions I propose to pass the letter to AHB at Pentley Priory. As to the third question, I believe AHB will be able to provide an authorised line.
3. So far as the report is concerned, arrangements are in hand to effect transfer to the Public Record Office. Administrative arrangements, though, can take some time. I would therefore not expect public access for at least 2/3 months. Once the sanitised version has been released there will no doubt be pressure to release the deleted text. I plan to write to the relevant overseas authority next week. But my experience leads me to believe that any response is likely to take many months if not years!



Dr David Clarke



8 May 2001

cc DAS (sec)

Your ref: D INFO(EXP)R/3/7/8

Dear 

Thank you for your letter of 4 April in answer to my questions concerning records relating to the Neatishead GCI station for 1956 and files created by DDI (Tech) post 1945.

I note that your statement "if, as a result of your own research, you have failed to identify surviving papers in the PRO...it must be concluded that, regrettably, these records have not survived the passage of time." This does not, however, conclusively establish that such records do not exist, only that they are *not available* at the PRO!

I do of course understand that the Air Historical Branch of the MoD is not a public archive, but I wish to ask the following specific questions which might help to establish the fate of certain files:

1. Air 29/2481 HQ Southern Sector (Public Record Office) contains Form 540 ORBs for RAF Neatishead GCI station dating from 1955-July 1956. AIR 28/3582 contains the Form 540s for Neatishead from September/October 1956 onwards. The single Form 540 missing from this sequence is that for August, 1956. This appears to be a significant anomaly in the surviving records, particularly as it can be established that the base was operating as normal during this particular month. For what reason would a Form 540 not be deposited with the PRO, given that such ORBs are the very basic monthly record of events at service establishments? Are you able to account for the absence of this record and suggest where it may reside today?
2. With reference to the survival of records created by Air Ministry DDI Tech. I understand that a number of records created by DDI Tech in respect of aerial phenomena are filed under the minute reference Air Ministry S290 series. In particular I am seeking a file created by DDI Tech as a briefing to a Parliamentary Question, and dated 29 April 1955 (DDI Tech minute reference S290/32) which lists and describes "some eighty reported incidents up to the end of 1954." As a briefing for a PQ on 4 May 1955 this file should have been preserved and yet is not available at the PRO. Do any briefings or minutes created by DDI Tech or AI 5b from the series S290 survive in the records of the Air Historical Branch?

3. Do the Air Historical Branch archives contain records relating to an incident/s which occurred in January, 1947 and are referred to as "Operation Charlie" in the ORBs of Trimley Heath GCI station (AIR 29/1597). This operation involved the tracking of an unidentified aircraft on radar over the North Sea by a number of Chain Home stations on the East Coast. Does the Branch files contain any references or records relating to these events?

I apologise in advance for asking further detailed questions and I do appreciate the assistance you have provided in the past.

I'm enclosing an SAE and would appreciate any help you can offer in my attempts to trace the records referred to in this letter.

Yours Sincerely,



DISCREET
SECRET

Copy No. 17

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

DIRECTORATE OF
SCIENTIFIC INTELLIGENCE



AND
JOINT TECHNICAL INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

June 1951

DISCREET REPORT No. 7

SECRET

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UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

Report by the "Flying Saucer" Working Party

Introduction: Historical

1. Unidentified flying objects were first reported after the war from Sweden in the summer of 1946, and for some months there was a considerable number of alleged sightings, mostly in Sweden, but a few also in Norway, Finland and Germany. The descriptions given were usually of some sort of wingless missile travelling at very high speed, cigar-shaped or circular, sometimes emitting bright lights, and occasionally sound. The reports attracted considerable attention in the press, where the objects became known as "ghost rockets" or "spook bombs." The reports died away after the summer of 1946, and very few have appeared since the end of that year.

2. The first report of a "flying saucer" came from the United States in June 1947; the name arose because the observer (Mr. K. Arnold, of Boise, Idaho) described what he had seen as a "saucer-like disc." The report received much publicity, and was quickly followed by a great many more. Since then reports of sightings have been made at intervals in large numbers, mostly from the United States, but some from other parts of the world, including Great Britain, where there was a notable outbreak during the summer and autumn of 1950. The objects reported have become popularly known by the generic title "flying saucers," but the descriptions given have included not only flying disc-like objects of the original "saucer" type, but also wingless torpedo or cigar-shaped bodies, spherical or balloon-shaped objects, and luminous phenomena of various types.

3. The reported observations have been almost exclusively visual; reports of any associated sound have been rare. In no case has any tangible, material, or objective evidence, been submitted. It is therefore extremely difficult, if not impossible, to arrive at anything like scientific proof of the nature of the phenomena.

Review of previous evidence

4. A systematic and extensive investigation of all the reported incidents in the United States was carried out between 1948 and 1950 by the U.S.A.F., in conjunction with the Rand Corporation, Dr. Hynek, a well-known astronomer from Ohio State University, and other specialist consultants.

we have been enabled to study two reports (Project "Sign" and Project "Grudge") covering the investigation of incidents up to the beginning of 1949.

Deletion

RETAINED UNDER
SECTION 3(4)

5. On the Scandinavian sightings in 1946, Project "Grudge" reports as follows:

"The Swedish Defence Staff conducted a comprehensive study of the early incidents. Several thousand reports were thoroughly investigated and plotted, with resultant conclusions that all evidence obtained of sightings was explicable in terms of astronomical phenomena."

6. Dealing with reports from the United States, Project "Grudge" quotes the opinion of the Rand Corporation after an examination of 172 incidents: "to date, we have found nothing which would seriously controvert simple rational explanations of the various phenomena in terms of balloons, conventional aircraft, planets, meteors, bits of paper, optical illusions, practical jokes, psychopathological reports, and the like."

Dr. Hynek investigated 228 incidents and concluded that approximately 33 per cent. were astronomical with varying degrees of probability; 37 per cent. were not astronomical but suggestive of other explanations, such as birds, rockets, balloons, ordinary aircraft, &c.; the remaining 30 per cent. either lacked sufficient evidence or the evidence offered suggested no explanation, though some of these might conceivably be astronomical.

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Summing up their own conclusions and those of their consultants, the authors of the "Grudge" report finally concluded that, of the 228 incidents considered, thirty must be disregarded for lack of workable evidence, while 164 can be satisfactorily explained. For the balance of thirty-four, containing some evidence, there is no apparent ready explanation, if the evidence is accepted as accurate and reliable. When psychological and physiological factors are taken into consideration, the opinion is expressed that all these incidents can also be rationally explained.

7. All the more spectacular incidents, of which much has been made recently in the British press and publications, have been fully explained. Two examples may be quoted.

The incident at Fort Knox, Kentucky, in January 1948, which caused the death of Lieutenant Mantell, U.S.A.F., is fully analysed, and all the evidence collated in the "Grudge" report. The conclusion is reached that without any doubt whatever Lieutenant Mantell met his death while pursuing the planet Venus, which was of unusual brightness on the night in question.

We have been informed, in conversation with a member of the United States investigating team, that the even more sensational report of the discovery of a crashed "flying saucer," full of the remains of very small beings, was ultimately admitted by its author to have been a complete fabrication.

8. The "Grudge" report includes a "frequency distribution" curve of the reports of incidents received between May 1947 and December 1948. This shows a marked tendency towards peaks in the few weeks immediately following an incident which received wide publicity, and is of interest in indicating the extent to which sightings may be psychological in origin.

9. The final conclusion reached by the Americans is that all reports of unidentified flying objects may be categorical as either—

- (1) misinterpretation of various conventional objects (e.g., aircraft, balloons, meteors or meteorites, stars, fireballs);
- (2) a form of mass hysteria; or
- (3) deliberate hoaxes.

Investigation of incidents in the United Kingdom

10. During the summer and autumn of 1950 the British press gave considerable publicity to reports of alleged sightings of luminous bodies travelling at high speed, usually after dark, but occasionally in daylight. The Air Ministry also received a number of letters from members of the public with similar reports. One of these, from a locomotive fireman at Derby, who was clearly a careful and accurate observer, gave an excellent description of what was undoubtedly a meteorite. We have not attempted any systematic investigation of all the evidence presented, but can find no reason for supposing that any of the phenomena reported cannot be similarly explained; in certain cases, when observations were reported at approximately the same time from widely separated localities, this was undoubtedly the explanation.

11. Three incidents were reported officially by experienced officers from R.A.F. Stations. These have been investigated in as much detail as is possible with reports of visual observations.

12. On 1st June, 1950, the pilot of a Meteor reported on landing at Tangmere that at 1430, while flying at 20,000 feet on an easterly course over the Portsmouth area, he had sighted an object travelling at very high speed on a reciprocal course, 1,000–2,000 feet above him and roughly 1,200 yards to starboard. He described the object as circular, and of bright metallic appearance. He could not give any real estimate of its speed, but thought it might be about 800 knots. He had observed it for about 15 seconds, during which period he had looked away to port and back, having no difficulty in picking up the object again.

Tangmere made enquiries of the radar station at Wartling, and were informed that, at about the same time as the pilot's report, the Duty Controller and three radar operators had observed an unusual response on the P.P.I. which appeared to be due to a target moving at 1,300–1,650 knots, first approaching and then receding from the station. The Controller stated that the response "looked to be very thick, leaving more afterglow than a usual response behind." The operator, observing on a separate display, said that it was "slim, short and weaker than

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aircraft," and that a series of "shadows" appeared in the space between successive points.

As the receding course of the radar target could have tallied with the course of the object reported by the Meteor pilot, all the people concerned were interviewed by a member of Research Branch, Fighter Command, from whose report the above data have been taken. It was established that there was in fact a discrepancy of ten minutes between the times of the two reports, which were estimated as individually accurate to ± 1 minute. It must therefore be concluded that there was no connection between the unusual P.P.I. response and the pilot's visual observation.

We believe that the radar response can be very simply explained as due to interference from another transmitter, a phenomenon which has been frequently observed, and which is described in detail in Appendix A. It is impossible to be entirely definite about the pilot's report. Assuming that he was not merely the victim of an optical illusion, the most probable explanation, which is borne out by his description of the object as "circular," implying a spherical body, is that he saw a meteorological balloon and greatly over-estimated its speed. We can find no reason whatever for adopting any less simple hypothesis.

13. The remaining two incidents were reported from the Royal Aircraft Establishment, Farnborough, and the officers concerned were interviewed by members of this Working Party.

F/Lt. Hubbard, an experienced pilot, said that at 1127 on 14th August, 1950, he and two other officers on the airfield heard a subdued humming noise, like a model Diesel motor, which caused them to search the sky overhead. The weather was fine and visibility good. The other two officers saw nothing, but F/Lt. Hubbard, who alone was wearing sun-glasses, states that he saw, almost directly overhead at first sighting, an object which he describes as a flat disc, light pearl grey in colour, about 50 feet in diameter at an estimated height of 5,000 feet. He stated that he kept it under observation for 30 seconds, during which period it travelled, at a speed estimated at 800-1,000 m.p.h., on a heading of 100° , executing a series of S-turns, oscillating so that light reflection came from different segments as it moved.

We have no reason to doubt that F/Lt. Hubbard honestly described his own impression of what he saw, but we find it impossible to believe that a most unconventional aircraft, of exceptional speed, could have travelled at no great altitude, in the middle of a fine summer morning, over a populous and air-minded district like Farnborough, without attracting the attention of more than one observer. We conclude, either that F/Lt. Hubbard was the victim of an optical illusion, or that he observed some quite normal type of aircraft and deceived himself about its shape and speed.

14. F/Lt. Hubbard was also concerned in the other incident, when, at 1609 on 5th September, 1950, he was standing on the watch-tower with five other officers, looking south in anticipation of the display by the Hawker 1081. The sky was about $3/8$ obscured, with a stratocumulus cloud base at 4,000 feet. At about the same moment they all saw, at an estimated range of 10-15 miles, an object which they described as being a flat disc, light pearl grey in colour, and "about the size of a shirt button." They all observed it to follow a rectangular flight path, consisting in succession of a "falling leaf," horizontal flight "very fast," an upward "falling leaf," another horizontal stretch, and so on; finally it dived to the horizon at great speed. The pattern was estimated to be executed somewhere over the Guildford-Farnham area.

F/Lt. Hubbard was satisfied that the objects he saw on the two occasions were identical; the other observers agreed that the second object fitted the description they had been given of the first.

We have no doubt that all these officers did in fact see a flying object of some sort. We cannot, however regard the evidence of identification of this object, which was only seen at very long range, with the earlier one as of any value whatever. Further, we again find it impossible to believe that an unconventional aircraft, manœuvring for some time over a populous area, could have failed to attract the attention of other observers. We conclude that the officers in fact saw some quite normal aircraft, manœuvring at extreme visual range, and were led by the previous report to believe it to be something abnormal—an interesting example of one report inducing another. We are reinforced in this belief by an experience of one of our number (Wing Commander Formby, R.A.F.) which is recounted in Appendix B and illustrates the ease with which mistaken identifications may be made, even by experienced observers.

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Conclusions and Recommendations

15. When the only material available is a mass of purely subjective evidence, it is impossible to give anything like scientific proof that the phenomena observed are, or are not, caused by something entirely novel, such as an aircraft of extra-terrestrial origin, developed by beings unknown to us on lines more advanced than anything we have thought of. We are, however, satisfied that the bulk of the observations reported do not need such an explanation, and can be accounted for much more simply. There is a very old scientific principle, usually attributed to William of Occam, which states that the most probable hypothesis is the simplest necessary to explain the observations.

We believe that this principle should be applied to the present case, and accordingly conclude that all the observations reported were due to one or other of the following causes:—

- (1) Astronomical or meteorological phenomena of known types.
- (2) Mistaken identification of conventional aircraft, balloons, birds, or other normal or natural objects.
- (3) Optical illusions and psychological delusions.
- (4) Deliberate hoaxes.

We consider that no progress will be made by attempting further investigation of unco-ordinated and subjective evidence; and that positive results could only be obtained by organising throughout the country, or the world, continuous observation of the skies by a co-ordinated network of visual observers, equipped with photographic apparatus, and supplemented by a network of radar stations and sound locators. We should regard this, on the evidence so far available, as a singularly profitless enterprise. We accordingly recommend very strongly that no further investigation of reported mysterious aerial phenomena be undertaken, unless and until some material evidence becomes available.

Metropole Buildings, W.C.2.

APPENDIX A

A NOTE ON AN UNUSUAL RADAR RESPONSE BY MR. G. E. G. GRAHAM, D.S.I. 1

With reference to the unusual response observed at Wartling on 1st June, 1950, it is suggested that the signal observed was received directly from another radar transmitter, possibly ship-borne, in the Portsmouth-Isle of Wight area. This will be termed the "Western" transmitter.

Assuming the modulation pulses of the "Western" transmitter to be isochronous with those of the Wartling set, and that the pulse of the former was occurring anything up to, say, 1.2 milliseconds minus the transmission time later than that of the latter, the received signal would be visible on the P.P.I. display. Moreover, unless the "Western" transmitter were very far away it is probable that the received signal would be of large amplitude and would therefore, as stated in the report, "appear very thick leaving more afterglow than a usual response behind."

It is reasonable to suppose that the repetition rates mentioned above would not remain identical for more than a few seconds. A relatively small drift in the repetition rates will produce a considerable change in the time interval between the transmitter pulse and the firing instant of the receiver time base. This would result in a large displacement of the received signal along the scan, which would be interpreted as a high speed movement of the "target" in the radial direction. It will be appreciated that if at the instant of first sighting the repetition rate of the "Western" transmitter were above but slowly approaching that of the Wartling set, the "target" would appear to close range rapidly; as the repetition rates became equal the "target" would appear stationary, and as the "Western" repetition rate fell below that of the Wartling set, the "target" would appear to open range rapidly. It may further be noted that one would expect reflections from objects (hills, &c.) relatively close to the "Western" transmitter to be of sufficient amplitude to be displayed also on the P.P.I., which would give the impression of "shadows" between successive points as described in the report.

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APPENDIX B

AN OBSERVATION OF A "FLYING SAUCER" BY WING COMMANDER FORMBY, R.A.F.

While on the rifle range at Tipner, Portsmouth, an object having the appearance of a "Flying Saucer" was observed in the distance. Visibility was good, there being a cloudless sky and bright sunshine. The object was located and held by telescope ($\times 20$ magnification), and gave appearance of being a circular shining disc moving on a regular flight path. It was only after observation had been kept for several minutes, and the altitude of the object changed so that it did not reflect the sunlight to the observer's eye, that it was identified as being a perfectly normal aircraft.

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DISCREET



From: [REDACTED] Directorate Air Staff 4a
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Room 8243, Main Building, Whitehall, London, SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 020 7218 2140
(Switchboard) 020 7218 9000
(Fax) [REDACTED]

Dr David Clarke

Your Reference

Our Reference
D/DAS/64/3/11
Date
11 May 2001

Dear Dr Clarke,

Further to my letter of 22 March I am now pleased to be able to send you copies of documents on the alleged incident at Rendlesham forest.

The majority of the papers that have been photocopied come from one file, D/Sec(AS)12/2/1 that, as I have said before, was assembled some time after the alleged event. However, the initial correspondence appeared incomplete and we have made an effort to identify any other papers that there might be by looking at other 'UFO' files from the period. That has enabled us to identify a few additional internal letters and these are now placed on top of the photocopies of the documents on the main file. I am, however, unable to confirm that these papers are the only ones that have ever existed on Rendlesham Forest. We have attempted to identify all relevant material but, bearing in mind the resources available to us, we have necessarily narrowed our search to those files most likely to contain documents from the period.

Five documents have been withheld; three under Exemption 2 of the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information which relates to "internal opinion advice, recommendation, consultation and deliberation" and two under Exemption 1 relating to "defence, security and international relations". The material withheld under Exemption 2 comprises briefing to Ministers less than thirty years old and the material withheld under Exemption 1 is classified documentation. However, details of the outcome of the enquiries made at the time of the alleged incident that are on file D/Sec(AS)12/2/1, or have been traced subsequently, are included among the material I am now able to send to you. If you are unhappy with the decision to withhold documentation and wish to appeal against this decision, you should write in the first instance to Ministry of Defence, D Info Exp, Room 8338, Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

DAS4A(SEC)

From: DAS4A(SEC)
Sent: 10 May 2001 15:31
To: Info(Exp)-Records1
Subject: RE: RESTRICTED: DSI/JTIC REPORT NO 7: UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS
Importance: High

40

I shall probably call you on Monday concerning possible release of a copy of Rpt No 7 to Lord Hill-Norton. I would certainly wish us to wait to send it to anyone else pending a decision on any further communication with Lord Hill-Norton.

For further info - I am in correspondence with Dr Clarke again. He has asked a great number of questions. I would be grateful for sight of his letter to you. (Incidentally - DAS wrote to him at one stage saying there was no trace of Rpt No 7, so when you do supply it to him, would you copy us also please.)

40

-----Original Message-----

From: Info(Exp)-Records1
Sent: 09 May 2001 14:33
To: DAS4A(SEC)
Cc: Hd of AHB(RAF)
Subject: RESTRICTED: DSI/JTIC REPORT NO 7: UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

40

One of my reviewers has recently provided input to DIS following a request from you (?) relating to a Parliamentary enquiry (not clear whether a PQ or PE) concerning ufos.

If you have received the DIS reply you will be aware that the JSTI Report NO 7, the subject of correspondence between this office and Messrs Clarke and [REDACTED] 40 recently been discovered (very recently - 26 April). The discovery came about during the routine rereview of an ex-DIS file - PRO reference DEFE 19/9 - covering the period 1948-1960. The file originated from the then Chief Scientific Adviser's Office (TIZARD) and is described as "Scientific Intelligence".

Although the file is still the subject of rereview we have ascertained that Report No 7 is releasable. We have extracted the Report (Copy No 17) and replaced it with a photocopy. Arrangements are now being made to transfer the Report - assigned to DEFE 44, a dedicated Class for JIB technical reports - to the PRO (after some sensitive data is deleted: references to a relationship with a foreign intelligence service).

Be aware that transfer arrangements will take some time, probably a couple of months, rather than weeks.

DEFE 19/9 also contains three "ufo" associated papers - two relating to the setting up of the Working Party and one other attached to the Report - that have not been removed. But a decision on release of the whole file will be taken after consulting DIS.

After the advice that I have previously given to Dr Clarke and [REDACTED] I am obliged to write to both about the find, and as the Report consists of just three

pages propose to provide a photocopy to each.

In any case a letter to Dr Clarke, at least, is required as he has just written to me about records that might be held by the Air Historical Branch. I believe that it would be inappropriate to advise him of the transfer of his latest enquiry to AHB (and the probability of a disappointing response to his questions) and just a short while after that we have just found the elusive Report No 7!

How would you like me to proceed?

[REDACTED] 0

cc [REDACTED] n 40

Advance warning of my proposed transfer of this enquiry. Papers will follow in due course.

STC OpsSpt - ATC-Terminal-

asked about reference to
NATO on page 2. They suggested
that this was more likely
a reference to NATO -
Mil Air Traffic Org.

10/20/79

8

7 suggest a minor amendment to the defensive line,
otherwise fine. Pl. go ahead [redacted] 40

IMCE

E66

News of the World Article on UFOs.

We spoke yesterday about the attached article. I have since instituted investigations and attach a press line and Q&A brief which I propose sending to the DPO. This will hopefully put them on the right track should there be further inquiries.

The News of the World story appears to be one fabrication after another. Lt. Col. Halt has not spoken to anyone from the News of the World nor has he been told his career would be in jeopardy if he talked about the incident. The report has not been classified top secret by the USAF - the only report prepared by the USAF is that contained on our files and which is unclassified!

The alleged interview with Sqn. Ldr. Moreland is also a fabrication. He stated that "to the best of my knowledge Lt. Col. Halt is a very genuine person" but gave no details of any conversation he had had with Halt nor did he say "whatever it was, it was able to perform feats in the air which no known aircraft is capable of doing."

As regards the information allegedly provided by the former security policeman this is completely untrue. The personnel who went into the forest to investigate the lights went on foot - not in a jeep. Only three patrolmen entered the forest, contrary to the report of more than 200 RAF and USAF personnel being present. There was never any question of alien beings.

Nor is there any truth in the statement that

by the CIA and told to keep quiet. The US authorities did not carry out any such investigations but left MOD to carry out its own investigations.

Ops (GR) has checked the question of radar traces with NATO who have informally stated that nothing was seen on any radar recordings although they did receive a report of a sighting from a civil aircraft.

The unfortunate point about the article is the fact that MOD refused to comment on the grounds that it was a matter for the USAF while USAF were saying it was a matter for MOD - an ideal support to the theory of a MOD cover up!

0

3/10

DAS4A(SEC)

7

From: Info(Exp)-Records1**Sent:** 09 May 2001 14:33**To:** DAS4A(SEC)**Cc:** Hd of AHB(RAF)**Subject:** RESTRICTED: DSI/JTIC REPORT NO 7: UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

One of my reviewers has recently provided input to DIS following a request from you (?) relating to a Parliamentary enquiry (not clear whether a PQ or PE) concerning ufos.

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Action Be aware that transfer arrangements will take some time, probably a couple of months, rather than weeks.

Action DEFE 19/9 also contains three "ufo" associated papers - two relating to the setting up of the Working Party and one other attached to the Report - that have not been removed. But a decision on release of the whole file will be taken after consulting DIS.

Action - DAR? After the advice that I have previously given to Dr Clarke and [REDACTED] I am obliged to write to both about the find, and as the Report consists of just three pages propose to provide a photocopy to each.

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How would you like me to proceed?

cc [REDACTED] n 40

Advance warning of my proposed transfer of this enquiry. Papers will follow in due course.

- Treated as a stand alone report -
- Can let us have a copy

09/05/01

UNCLASSIFIED

LOOSE MINUTE

DI ISEC SEC 10/9/4

8 May 01

DAS 4A (SEC)

Copy to:

DI 54 A1

HD DI 55

ADI Sect

9 May.

They considered
it likely that had the
report been identified
earlier, it would have
been released at that time.

DISCOVERY OF UFO REPORT



1. As discussed last week, I can confirm that copy number 17 of a report entitled "Unidentified Flying Objects" (DSI/JTIC Report No 7 dated June 1951) was found about two weeks ago in the MOD archives during a routine review. As you know, I first became aware of this on 3 May and informed you the same day. The report was found in a file containing documents primarily about the establishment of the Directorate of Scientific Intelligence, rather than UFOs. It was for this reason that the report was not found during the search conducted in January 01 in response to PQ 0351L.

2. The MOD archive managers have now decided that the report will be released to the PRO, with minor amendments to paragraph four. It should be available to the public in the near future.

3. In my view, the discovery does not invalidate the answer given to PQ 0351L, or (if interpreted narrowly) PQ 1432L. However, I believe that both Min(DP) and Lord Hill-Norton should be informed of the full circumstances of the discovery of the report as soon as possible, because

a. it was found *before* the answer to PQ 1432L was given

b. Lord Hill-Norton will no doubt become aware of the report once it reaches the PRO

4. Please contact me if I can be of further assistance

DI SEC 3

WH 306

How quickly could we
get hold of the doc - preferably
advised + declassified.

DAS4A(SEC)

From: DI ISEC SEC3
Sent: 08 May 2001 16:17
To: DAS4A(SEC)
Cc: AD DI 55; 1 DIV-RMP(1DIVPRO)-AO; DAS4A1(SEC)
Subject: UFO PQs

Importance: High



20010508 Letter to
DAS Sec.doc...

5
Dr David Clarke


Ministry of Defence
Room 8243 Main Building
Whitehall
London SW1A 2HB

8 May 2001

Your ref: D/DAS(Sec)64/3/11

Dear 

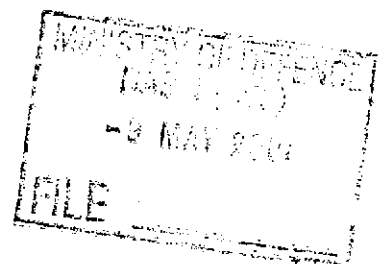
With reference to matters discussed in your letter of 22 March I enclose a list of questions relating to MoD policy on the subject of aerial phenomena/UFOs.

I appreciated your offer to answer questions as far as you were able given your limited staff and resources. The list contains 13 questions that I have carefully assembled at the completion of more than two years research at the Public Record Office as my project draws to a close. All relate to issues that I felt were unresolved or unclear within the context of the documents relating to this subject currently within the public domain.

I don't expect that you will be able to fully answer some of the questions, given the fact that so much documentation appears either not to have survived or is 'missing' but I would appreciate any information you could offer that may be relevant.

Finally, with reference to the file containing papers relating to the Rendlesham Forest incident dating from 1981-83 I note in your letter of 22 March you say this material would be processed and sent shortly. This file has not arrived so far, but I wish to thank you in advance for making these papers available.

Yours sincerely,



Unidentified Flying Objects – questions to Ministry of Defence/DAS (Sec)

1. Can the MoD list the current posts within the Air Staff and in Operations where staff have a direct or subsidiary responsibility for the investigation of UFO reports and/or the handling of public inquiries relating to the subject. Of the posts identified, can a percentage of staff time allocated to UFO-related duties be specified? ✓
2. Does DAS (Sec) maintain figures/statistics relating to the number of enquiries received from a) the public and b) the media relating to UFO issues dealt with on a year by year basis - and if so are these available? ✓
3. Can MoD specify the extent of liaison that has taken place with a) the Royal Australian Air Force and b) United States Air Force with respect to the investigation of UFO reports, from records that are available.
4. Has the MOD ever called upon the expertise of psychologists (external or service personnel) in respect of
 - a) individual investigation and
 - b) analysis or advice on any aspect of UFO issues; if so is this material available for research purposes?

- last 4 yrs' files
DAO/DL
- last 4 years files
5. HQ Fighter Command Air Staff Instruction F/1 dating from 1960, Public Record Office (DEFE 31/118), instructs Operations staff that UFO reports received from service sources and radar stations should be reported to Air Intelligence 5b (circa 1959-64) at Air Ministry DDI (Tech). Reports received from the public should be directed to department S6 (the forerunner of AS (Sec) 2a. Could the MOD confirm that the reporting division between Air Intelligence (as the destination for service and radar reports) and DAS(Sec) for reports received from the general public, continues to exist today. - DT
6. Can the MoD outline the precise role of RAF Rudloe Manor, Wiltshire, in reporting, collection and investigation of UFO reports from service sources prior to 1992. ✓ lines
7. Does the MOD maintain a *paper or electronic record* of radar tracks or reports of radar tracks recorded within the UK Air Defence Region that have remained unidentified following investigation? If that is the case, for how long are records preserved, what is their security classification and after what period of time will records be available at the PRO? DAO.
8. In 1996 in the House of Commons, Defence Minister Nicholas Soames stated that RAF aircraft were scrambled on two occasions "in the past five years" to intercept unidentified targets detected by UK Air Defence Radar. Could MOD specify:
 - a) details of incidents recorded between 1990-2000 when aircraft were scrambled to intercept targets *that have remained 'unidentified'* following MoD investigation.

DAO (give copies of Pp and so?)
- A+B.

b) the role of RAF Fylingdales in the investigation of UFO reports (for example, what category of report would be checked with this facility).

9. Does MOD have records of unidentified flying object/s tracked by the CRC station DAO
RAF Neatishead or satellite radar stations

a) on the evening of 13/14 August, 1956 resulting in an attempted interception by Venom aircraft from RAF Waterbeach.

b) on an evening between September and November 1980, during which aircraft involved in a night-flying exercise were diverted to intercept an unknown target?

c) during the period 26-30 December 1980.

10. What are the current standing instructions to RAF stations/
radar facilities with regards to the reporting and action taken
to investigate a) reports of b) radar trackings of unidentified
flying objects. Are copies of current instructions available
for public inspection? DAO

- remember the Code

11. Can the MoD confirm:

a) the existence and current location of reports describing aerial phenomena originating from RAF and other service sources sent to AI 5b at DDI Tech, Air Ministry, dating from 1950-67. DI | Records

b) Whether the Department of Scientific and Technical Intelligence (DSTI) maintains records or files relating to investigation/consultation with Air Staff on the subject of aerial phenomena/UFOs. DI

c) Have DSTI undertaken at any time a search of their records for UFO-related files, reports or analysis from the period dating from 1950-80? If no search has taken place how is it possible to claim that files before 1961 have not been retained? DI

12. Documents released by the Metropolitan Police under the Code of Practice in 2001 indicate that the MoD acted in an advisory capacity to a Police Special Branch investigation of an unidentified helicopter reported over Derbyshire between September 1973-January 1974. Does an MoD file exist relating to these incidents and if so what does this contain and what conclusions were reached? US/DAO - please send new P docs.

13. What is the current definition of the term "of no defence significance" used by the MoD in the context of UFOs reported in the UK Air Defence Region. What is the precise methodology employed to determine whether a report can be categorised as of "no defence significance." DAO - DI-US

D.W. Clarke
8 May 2001

4
Dr David Clarke


Ministry of Defence
Room 8243 Main Building
Whitehall
London SW1A 2HB

8 May 2001

Your ref: D/DAS(Sec)64/3/11

Dear 

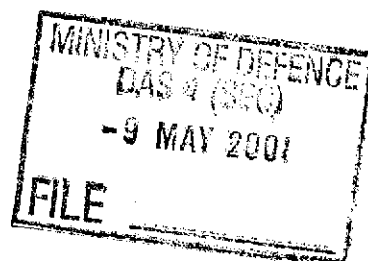
With reference to matters discussed in your letter of 22 March I enclose a list of questions relating to MoD policy on the subject of aerial phenomena/UFOs.

I appreciated your offer to answer questions as far as you were able given your limited staff and resources. The list contains 13 questions that I have carefully assembled at the completion of more than two years research at the Public Record Office as my project draws to a close. All relate to issues that I felt were unresolved or unclear within the context of the documents relating to this subject currently within the public domain.

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 - a) individual investigation and
 - b) analysis or advice on any aspect of UFO issues; if so is this material available for research purposes?
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D.W.Clarke
8 May 2001



Royal Mail
08.05.01
04:35 pm
23301257

Please
use the
Postcode



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
ROOM 8243
MAIN BUILDING
WHITEHALL
LONDON SW1A 2HB

3
Dr David Clarke


Ministry of Defence
Room 8241, Main Building
Whitehall
London SW1A 2HB

29 March 2001

Your ref: D/DAS(Sec)64/3/11

Dear 

Thank you for your letter of 22 March and for your detailed response to my question with regard to the preservation of 'UFO'-related files.

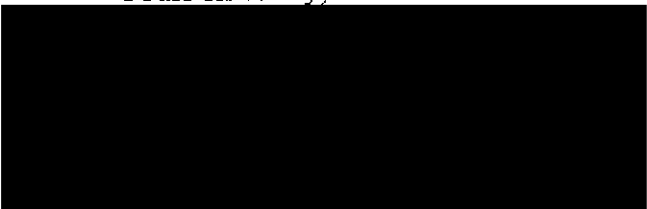
Many thanks also for copying the three 'policy' files which arrived at my address on March 24, and for the explanation regards the removal of the enclosure. The explanation for the decision to withhold briefing material from this file and that relating to the Rendlesham incident is perfectly understandable and I do not wish to appeal against it.

I would, however, most certainly like to take up your offer to copy the 'original' file containing the internal minute and correspondence relating to the Rendlesham Forest incident dating from 1981-83. From your description this file appears to relate to the period of time that is of direct interest to my study – and specifically the basis upon which the MoD concluded that the 'incident' was of no defence significance. I hope the material contained within the file may go at least some way towards answering this controversial question. I look forward to receiving the file and wish to thank you again for reviewing and copying this material on my behalf.

With regards to my request for a short interview to answer questions on present MoD policy relating to UFOs, I'm grateful for your offer to answer these as far as you are able using the information available to your staff. I will now draw up a list of 10 questions that I hope to send to you within the next two weeks. I would imagine only a small number of the questions would relate to specific 'sightings.' My areas of interest relate more to the level of co-operation between the MoD and foreign Governments pertaining to this topic, the role of the 'specialist' sources of information utilised by the MoD as part of the investigation of reports and issues related to the 'public relations' aspects of your Secretariat's role in the MoD structure.

In the meantime, thank you again for your valued assistance,

Yours sincerely,



AS4A

2

Loose Minute

D/DAS/9/3/2/2

4 April 2001

Acs(C+BS)2C

PAYMENT FOR MOD SUPPLIED MATERIAL

The enclosed Cheque for £20 payable to the MOD Accounting Officer covers the MOD's cost in supplying photocopied material to a member of the General Public. This should be credited to the Directorate of Air Staff UIN F6208A, RAC Code RCA051 Receipts for Sundry Supplies & Services (old IAC 1LZ 9003).



DAS2f2

Attachments:

Lloyds Cheque No 000174, Account No  for £20
Letter from Dr Clarke



Lloyds TSB

Church Street Sheffield Branch
14 Church Street Sheffield South Yorkshire S1 1HP

30-97-51

Date 12 March 2001

Pay ACCOUNTING OFFICER MOD

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Payee

2NOV99 Lloyds TSB Bank plc

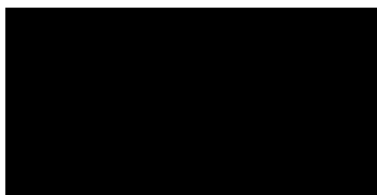
Cheque No.

Branch No.

Account No.

⑈000174⑈ 309751⑈

Dr David Clarke



**Ministry of Defence
Room 8243
Main Building
Whitehall
London SW1A 2HB**

12 March 2001

Your reference: D/DAS(Sec)/64/3/11

Dear 

Thank you for your letter of 9 March 2001 and for the information relating to the three UFO policy files.

Once again I am grateful that you have been able to locate and review these files on my behalf. Accordingly, I am enclosing with this letter a crossed cheque for £20 made out to 'MOD Accounting Officer' in advance payment for photocopying and postage as agreed. If the cost of the work exceeds this amount please let me know.

In the meantime, I look forward to hearing from you with regards to the issues raised in my letter of 7 February.

Yours sincerely,



Dr David Clarke


Ministry of Defence
Room 8243
Main Building
Whitehall
London SW1A 2HB

12 March 2001

Your reference: D/DAS(Sec)/64/3/11

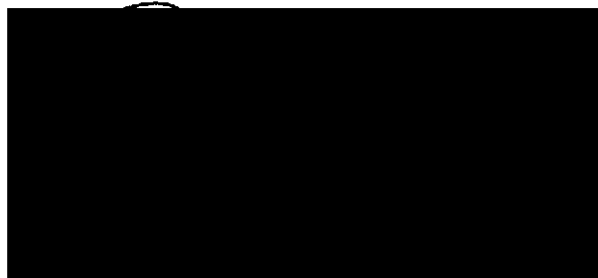
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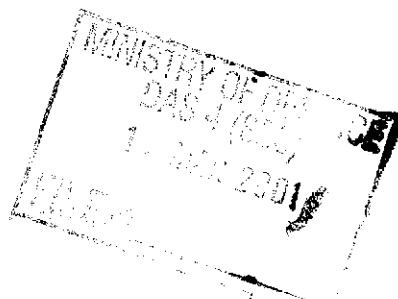
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In the meantime, I look forward to hearing from you with regards to the issues raised in my letter of 7 February.

Yours sincerely,



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for processing
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25 March 2004
Royal Mail International



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Room 8243
MAIN BUILDING
WHITEHALL
LONDON SW1A 2HB.

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Bentley 9506

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⑈000174⑈ 30⑈9751⑈



From: [REDACTED]
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Room 8243, Main Building, Whitehall, London, SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 020 7218 2140
(Switchboard) 020 7218 9000
(Fax) [REDACTED]

Dr D Clarke

Your Reference

Our Reference
D/DAS(Sec)64/3/11

22 March 2001

Dear Dr Clarke,

Further to my letter of 9 March and in reply to yours of 7 February, I would like to reassure you that our policy has not changed with regard to the preservation of documents on the subject of 'UFOs'. Records indicate that many files have been created over the years and then, in due course, closed and archived. Calling for a number of those files recently we have discovered that some do not appear to have 'survived the passage of time' but those that have been traced are marked for permanent preservation and that instruction is being applied now as files are closed in this Directorate.

You ask about papers on the alleged incident at Rendlesham Forest in 1980/81. There are, in fact, a number of papers that were generated between 1981 and 1983 and later assembled on one file, along with correspondence received after 1983 from members of the public. Briefings to Ministers in respect of PQs asked on the subject since 1983 are placed on another file. I am withholding that briefing material in accordance with Exemption 2 of the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information, which relates to "internal opinion, advice, recommendation, consultation and deliberation". If you are unhappy with this decision and wish to appeal against it, you should write in the first instance to Ministry of Defence, DOMD, Room 619 Northumberland House, Northumberland Avenue, London WC2N 5BP. If, following the internal review you remain dissatisfied, you can ask your MP to take up the case with the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration (the Ombudsman) who can investigate on your behalf. The Ombudsman will not investigate until the internal review process has been completed.

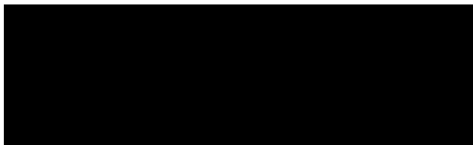
However, on the file containing papers on the alleged incident at Rendlesham Forest, there is an internal minute that appears to summarise the extent of MOD investigation and draws the conclusion that has been used in all subsequent briefings. We are content to photocopy the documents from that file, which consists of somewhere in the region of 70 enclosures. This, along with some sanitising - for example of individuals' identities - and review, is likely to take up to three hours and will therefore be undertaken free of charge under the Code of Practice. I should perhaps add that a substantial number of the papers on the file are letters from members of the public and the reply to those letters. The material will be processed and sent to you shortly.

You raise the possibility of a short interview to answer questions on the subject of our policy as it stands today. As a small section we have only limited resources available to conduct a comprehensive review of documentation in order to meet your request. Some of the papers

produced in recent years are classified and relate to discussions concerning the handling of correspondence and administrative arrangements, rather than reports of individual sightings, and are likely to be withheld under Exemption 2 of the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information. However, if you were to draw up a list of questions and forward this to us, we would be happy to provide answers in so far as we are able. The fact remains however that the Ministry of Defence looks at any correspondence on 'UFO' sightings it receives solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance; namely is there any evidence that the UK's airspace might have been compromised by unauthorized air activity. The Ministry does not question the existence, or otherwise, of extraterrestrial lifeforms, about which it remains open minded. To date we are, however, unaware of any evidence which proves that these phenomena exist.

Finally I should like to acknowledge receipt of, and thank you for, your cheque for £20.00 for the work photocopying the three files listed in my letter of 9 March. This work has been completed taking only some ten minutes more than originally estimated. The material is now being sent to you, separate from this letter. You will note the removal of one enclosure (Enclosure 9) and editing of another (Enclosure 6). This was to remove briefing to a Minister (Enclosure 9) and record of a Minister's opinion (Enclosure 6), both less than thirty years old. That information is being withheld in accordance with Exemption 2 of the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information, which relates to "internal opinion, advice, recommendation, consultation and deliberation". I have explained your right of appeal earlier in this letter.

Yours sincerely,



RESTRICTED OR
UNCLASSIFIED

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

BRANCH FOLDER

NUMBER 419 ADP DATE OPENED 6/12/71	DIVISION/DIRECTORATE/BRANCH: SLF(AIR)
	REGISTERED FILE NUMBER:
SUBJECT: BBC 2  MAN ALIVE PROGRAMME - UFOs.	

Referred to	Date
	MOD CS(RM)1 - 8 JAN 1999 SECOND REVIEW 1997 SLU

NOTES

1. The contents of a Branch Folder should be restricted to copies of items on a Registered File, and minor internal branch items.
2. Branch Folders are for use only within the originating division directorate, or branch. They are not to be sent to other divisions or directorates. Their movements are NOT recorded by the Registry.



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Main Building Whitehall London SW1A 2HB

Telephone 01-930 7022 ext

[REDACTED]

Your reference

Our reference

AF/419/S4f(Air)

Date

19 October 1972

Dear Sir

I am writing with reference to your letter of 2 October about the television programme on UFOs filmed at Banbury at the beginning of the year.

This Department has no knowledge of the person you mention and I can only suggest that the staff of the BBC "Man Alive" programme, who were responsible for the production of the film, may be able to assist you.

I am sorry I cannot be more helpful.

Yours faithfully

MISS G J JAMIESON

● S4 FAIS
Janson 7035

PR 4.

~~REDACTED~~ (14)

October 2, 1972

The Ministry of Defence
Whitehall
London, S.W.1.

Dear Sirs:

The BBC's recent announcement of another important new book by Patrick Moore ("Do You Speak Venusian?") prompts me to write to you on the following matter.

It is generally conceded by all who have any knowledge of these questions that the Ministry's television programme from Banbury Town Hall on the subject of UFOs on January 25 last was not only epoch-making for its treatment of the subject but that the star-performer of the evening was a gentleman who, if my memory is not at fault, holds a government certificate of proficiency in the more exotic branches of xenoglossy and speaks fluent Uranian or Plutonian.

In the eight months since the programme went out there has continued to be a tremendous amount of interest in this gentleman. I myself have received no less than nine enquiries as to whether his services would be available elsewhere as a guest-speaker for clubs and groups of UFO fans, and it is clear that his success at Banbury was nothing less than sensational.

I have made several unsuccessful attempts to locate him, and am now writing to enquire whether you could be so good as to put me in touch with him or indicate how he may be contacted?

At the same time I would be most grateful if you could kindly inform me regarding the terms on which he is available. Is he, for example, a civil servant, in which case presumably the fee for his services as a lecturer would presumably be payable to the Ministry concerned? Or, alternatively, is he perhaps attached - either temporarily or permanently - to some medical institution located in the British countryside, in which event the fee might perhaps be payable to them, or split with them?

Also, is he freely available to appear as the speaker at meetings, or would some sort of chit or exit permit be required beforehand from the Ministry or institution concerned?

Yours faithfully,
~~REDACTED~~

BBC

13

BRITISH BROADCASTING CORPORATION
KENSINGTON HOUSE RICHMOND WAY LONDON W14 0AX
TELEPHONE 01-743 1272 CABLES: BROADCASTS LONDON PS4
TELEGRAMS: BROADCASTS LONDON TELEX TELEX: 22182

28th January 1972

Anthony Davis Esq.,
Ministry of Defence
Main Building,
Whitehall,
S.W.1.

Dear Tony,

Thank you very much for coming along to Banbury last Tuesday to take part on Man Alive's debate on U.F.O's.

We were very pleased with the way things went, and judging from the interest that has been raised among people working on the programme, I think that it will get a large audience when it transmits on February 2nd, and provoke a lot of interesting discussion on the subject.

Thank you once again for all your help.

Yours sincerely,

A large black rectangular redaction mark covers the signature of the sender.

smb

From: [REDACTED]

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE S4 (Mr)
Main Building, Whitehall, London S.W.1
Telephone: 01-930 7022, ext. 7065

(12)

Our reference:
Your reference:

28th January, 1972.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

This is just to thank you very much for your distinguished chairmanship of our UFO discussion on 25th January, and for all your hospitality afterwards. If the discussion itself was rather tamer than I had expected the table-talk at dinner was certainly lively; but I am sure you will manage to put together as interesting a feature as ever, and I look forward to seeing it on 2nd February - on my neighbour's colour set.

It was a great pleasure to meet you and your team, and to get away from the office for a while.

US of 3(RAF)/4/21/1

(11)

PS to DUC(Air)

Copy to: DPR(RAF)
S4(Air) (Mr Davis)

BBC 2 "MAN ALIVE" PROGRAMME - 1:00'E

US of 3(RAF) has considered DUC(Air)'s
minute reference 177/ 254 dated 18th
January 1972 and is content for this matter
to be left to Mr Davis's discretion.

(F.J. ALLEN)
IT to US of 3(RAF)

24th January 1972

S.4(Air)

7065

(10)

[REDACTED]
19 January 1972

Thank you for your further letter of 13 January about the object filmed at Enstone on 26 October 1971.

I regret that I cannot provide you with a copy of ^{the} specific record which you request (which is not kept here), but I can confirm that the aircraft which dumped fuel over Oxfordshire on that day was a F-111 based at RAF Upper Heyford. Having said this, I do not believe you would wish me to comment further on the assumptions in paras 2 and 3 of your letter. The point is, surely, that the fact of an aircraft having dumped fuel in the area does not prove that that was the event recorded on the film. You and I have both seen the film many times, and I think you will agree that the sequence is "consistent with an aircraft emitting a condensation trail or dumping fuel". Whether it was the one or the other, or both in turn, would be dependent partly on the height of the aircraft, which could not be determined from the taped copy of the film which I saw.

Although I know you are an ardent investigator, I really believe that there is nothing to be gained from further analysis of this incident.

ENCLOSURE 9 - ADVICE DUS(Air) to US of S (RAF) dated 18 January 1972

From: [REDACTED]

⑧

WTM/917/8/P1

Royal Air Force
Wattisham, Ipswich, Suffolk IP7 7RA
Telephone Needham Market 631, Ext 201

Air Commodore A N Davis DSO DFC BA RAF (Retd)
Ministry of Defence (S4 (Air))
Main Building
Whitehall
London SW 1

10 January 1972

Dear Air Commodore Davis,

[REDACTED] showed me the letter you wrote him after the 'Man Alive' team visited last week and I should like to thank you very much for your cheque for £8 which will duly be paid to my Benevolent Fund.

I am sorry that I was unable to meet you during your short stay here, but as I expect Peter explained to you, I was preparing for another visit the following morning.

I am glad to hear that your visit seemed to go well; if they need any more material let us know!

Thank you again.

Yours sincerely -

[REDACTED]

7/1

Thank you letters sent
on 6th January to [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] at Wattisham
and [REDACTED] at BBC TV
Centre, Wood Lane W.12.

Cheque for £8 included
to Wattisham for CO's
Benevolent Fund.

Red 2/1/72

file 57

LOOSE MINUTE

AF/419

DUS(Air) [through Head of S4(Air)]

Copy to: DPR(RAF)

BBC2 "MAN ALIVE" PROGRAMME - UFOs



1. You may wish to know how the TV programme on UFOs is developing.
2. The BBC team, Mr Lappin of DPR(RAF) and I met at RAF Wattisham on 4 January and completed what the BBC team hope and expect will be some very satisfactory filming. Despite low cloud and rain the Wattisham lightnings and a USAF Phantom from Bentwaters cooperated splendidly and good colour film taken at dusk should show the fire-cones of their jet effluxes in re-heat apparently hovering and then moving sharply away, as often described in UFO sightings. Film was also taken head-on of long straight-in approaches using landing lights, which also give an impression of a bright hovering light, as described in some UFO reports. Both these effects were just what the BBC producer wanted, following a suggestion I made at our earlier meeting.
3. There followed a longish filmed interview of myself, which will presumably be edited down to one of a few minutes. In discussion afterwards the BBC producer and interviewer both gave "unsolicited testimonials" to the way in which the MOD were almost invariably most helpful in any of their production problems, unlike many other Ministries. It may be of interest that the Home Office was singled out by them as the most difficult Ministry with which to cooperate - not so much because of its Ulster responsibilities but mainly attributed to its other rather delicate responsibilities for police, prisons, remand homes and the like. On UFOs I found both the producer and interviewer apparently fully in sympathy with the MOD point of view; they have probably had their fill of the [redacted] ufologists, whom they have already interviewed at length.
4. I learned that the 'studio debate' on UFOs, which will complete the programme, is planned to take place in Banbury Town Hall on 25th January. It will be filmed and edited and, barring unforeseen contingencies, the programme will be shown on BBC 2 'Man Alive' at 8.10 pm on 2 February. The producer had not yet been informed that I could take part in the debate, and was glad to learn that approval had been given. His present plans are to have a panel of 4 or 5 answering questions from the floor, which would consist mainly of the UFO enthusiasts of Banbury whose numerous "sightings" really originated BBC interest.
5. The panel will probably consist of [redacted] (editor of the Flying Saucer Review), [redacted] (a psychologist), one or two ufologist spokesmen and myself. [redacted], of whom I had not previously heard, has already given his 'evidence', which the producer found very sensible. It is on the lines of the need felt by many people for a new mythology and hence of their willingness to believe that natural things or events may have mysterious or extra-terrestrial origins. He should therefore be a friendly witness.

The fact that the debate will be taped and edited raises the only question of policy - para 3 of your minute to DPR of 22 December refers. In the light of the 'Ulster tribunal' affair I believe that insistence on a preview of the edited programme would be taken as another attempt at interference by a Government Department and would be resented and resisted. It might be counter-productive and lead the BBC producer, who now shows every sign of balance, to slant the programme against the MOD. I think therefore that it might be better to rely on the judgement of the producer. Perhaps you would reconsider this question with DPR(RAF).

7. US of S(RAF) asked me to inform him of the date the programme would be shown. I have not yet done so but will let his PS know unless you prefer to mention it yourself.

6 January 1972

A N DAVIS
S4(Air)

Mr. Davis

On 29/12/71 at 11-45am a Mr Blund PR3(RAF) called to ask if you were free to attend an interview on Tuesday 4th January 1971 at RAF Wattisham, BBC Television were going to film A/C flying at 2-30pm, but he did not know what time they would want to interview you. Would you please telephone Mr Blund on Monday Morning on X 792 in the Main building, as I looked in your diary and told him I thought you may be free.

Mrs E.

29/12/71

316.28

12

3795.00

before 7.30pm
after 9pm.

868 - 4292

- - examined in MOD to see if any def implies.

We cannot undertake to pursue our research, other than for def implies, to a pt where pos^{ve} correlation with a 1 object is estab, nor to advise you of ~~findings~~ prob ideas. You will no doubt wish to know that simple ex are found for the great majority of UFO reports, - - - most can

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Liaison with local communities

F11(C) / Davenport

N. Bevan.

research or health

Bd mtg.

COS mtg.

US 48

Mon.

✓ $23\frac{1}{2}$

DPR(RAF)

copy to:

PS/US of S(RAF)

CPR

Head of S4 (Air)

Mr A N Davis (S4(Air))

BBC2 "MAN ALIVE" PROGRAMME - UFOs

1. Thank you for your minute of 17 December about the proposed BBC 2 programme on Unidentified Flying Objects. [REDACTED] in addition to the filmed interview, Mr Davis should participate in a debate in front of a live audience. Mr Davis is prepared to take this on [REDACTED] on balance it would be better to do this and face up the possible difficulties of dealing with a hostile audience of rather than the alternative risk of leaving the field to the . . . and giving the impression that we are afraid to stand up to questions.

2. [REDACTED]

3. It will be important to establish whether the debate in front of a live audience is to be broadcast "live" or merely recorded for subsequent transmission. In the latter event we ought to insist on seeing and hearing the recording as well as the filmed interview before the programme is broadcast so as to guard against the possibility of unfavourable editing. I should be glad if you would look into this point and keep me in touch with the progress of events.

22 Dec 71

DUS(Air)

Mr. Cliffe to see

Mr. Davis

7 DEC 1971
Form 31

MOD SIGNAL MESSAGE FORM

Instructions on completing this form are in Office Instructions--MOD Manual 2

PRECEDENCE-- ACTION <i>ROUTINE</i>		PRECEDENCE-- INFO ROUTINE		DATE--TIME GROUP <i>17 11.40 Z DEC</i>		MESSAGE INSTRUCTIONS <i>110</i>	
FOR COMMEN USE				FROM <i>MOD UK AIR</i>		SECURITY CLASSIFICATION *(Messages referring to a classified message must be classified Restricted or above)	
				TO (One addressee to a line)			
PRIMARY ROUTING	<i>T/14</i>			<i>HQ STC</i>		<i>UNCLAS</i>	
TIME	<i>1220</i>						
OPERATOR	<i>83</i>						
COPIES <i>14</i>	<i>2 (14)</i>			INFO <i>HQ 11 GP</i>			
DESPATCH TIME				<i>RAF WATTISHAM</i>		DIG	SERIAL No. (Inserted by COMMEN)
OPERATOR						<i>LIT</i>	
CHECK							

FOR CPRO FROM PR3(RAF) O BBC-2 MAY
ALIVE PROGRAMME PREPARING PROGRAMME
ON UFO'S O HAVE ASKED FOR MOD SPOKESMAN
FOR FILMED INTERVIEW O THIS HAS BEEN
AGREED O AS JET TAIL PIPES SEEN THROUGH CLOUD
AT NIGHT OR IN BAD WEATHER CONDITIONS
FREQUENTLY REPORTED AS UFO'S BBC WANTS TO
FILM AT NIGHT AT WATTISHAM (OR AT DUSK) O
FILM TO ILLUSTRATE MOD SPOKESMAN'S PIECE O
FILMING TO BE GROUND/IR ONLY AND TO BE
COMPLETED BY 8 JAN O MAY THIS BE
APPROVED PLEASE AND ADVISE DATE(S) TO
SUIT YOUR CONVENIENCE O

DISTRIBUTION (to include originator)

CIN (3)

FILE NUMBER

DPR 1307/3/3

DRAFTER'S NAME
IN BLOCK LETTERS

R.S. LAPPIN

DIV. DIR. BRANCH

PR3(RAF)

TELEPHONE NUMBER

BUILDING:

MB

EXTENSION:

6209

RELEASING OFFICER'S SIGNATURE

R.S. Lappin

NAME IN BLOCK LETTERS

R.S. LAPPIN

RANK

1.0.

Page 1 of 1 Pages

* refers to a classified message ☐

This message (Tick appropriate box)

* does not refer to a classified message ☒

DATE

17/12/71

Note: Messages comprising two or more pages must be collated
* These sections must be completed

B & S Ltd 51 7909

BUS(AIR)

Copy to:- S4(Air)

Mr. Cliffe
Mr. Davis
21/12

BBC-2 "MAN ALIVE " PROGRAMME - UFO's

I refer to my minute of even reference dated 13 December.

As arranged on Tuesday 14th December Mr. Davis of S4(Air) and a member of my PR3(RAF) had a meeting with the producer of the programme and discussed details of the BBC's requirements.

In addition to wanting Mr. Davis to appear in a filmed interview, the producer would also like Mr. Davis to appear and participate in a subsequent debate in front of a live audience who would be invited to pose questions.

The producer has been advised that authority has been given for Mr. Davis to appear in a filmed interview. He has also been told that authority for Mr. Davis to take part in the debate is not however likely to be forthcoming. We do not know who will be in the audience and feel that Mr. Davis could well be the target for [REDACTED] and other who profess to believe in "little men from outer space".

Unless you have any other thoughts on the matter we propose to tell the BBC that we are only prepared for Mr. Davis to take part in a filmed interview as already agreed.

[Signature]

(P.M. BROTHERS)
AIR COMMODORE

4/65/5TC
2
17.12.71

63

BBC-2 "MAN ALIVE" PROGRAMME - UFO'S

1. We have been approached by a producer of the BBC-2 "Man Alive" programme requesting our assistance in a programme which will deal with unidentified flying objects.
2. We understand the programme will contain a number of interviews with members of the public who claim to have sighted UFO's, and the producer has asked if we would agree to nominate a spokesman, also to appear in the programme, who could explain the department's involvement and procedures in dealing with UFO reports. Our spokesman would be required to explain why many of the sightings are over MOD establishments, if such an explanation can be given, to explain our method of dealing with reports, and to discuss inexplicable cases.
3. We have discussed the BBC's request with S4(Air), and it is proposed that Mr Davis of S4, together with Dr Walton of the Defence Scientific Intelligence Staff, and a representative from my PR3(RAF) branch should visit the BBC tomorrow, Tuesday, to discuss the producer's requirements.
4. Subject to this meeting being satisfactory from our point of view the producer would like to film an interview later this week preferably on Wednesday or Thursday. Mr Davis has indicated his willingness to take part in an interview on the lines mentioned above and I would be grateful for your agreement to this proposed course of action.

P M BROTHERS
AIR COMMODORE
DPR(RAF)

Reference... DPR 307/1/2/1

Brief Details of Enclosures

M 1

Clas.

Enc No

Reference 307/1/2/1S4 (A12)

1. Enclosure 1 has been received from the BBC requesting our assistance in making a programme on UFOs.
2. DPR feels in principle that we should assist and sees no objection to a suitable spokesman appearing in front of a camera as necessary to describe the department's involvement with UFOs and the course of action we follow when reports are received.
3. As will be seen from the letter however the BBC would appear to regard their own film as material which might itself be examined and it would appear to be an original proposition that someone should go along to see it and comment as necessary. Perhaps we should discuss the matter further as soon as possible. The BBC have indicated there is a fair degree of urgency.

7 Dec 71

7967

[Signature]
 (T. Downes)
 PR3(RAF)

M 2ste of Action

Spoke Mr. Downes, who will arrange the Miss Farrow for Dr. Walton DLS8 & myself to view BBC material and discuss further MOD involvement on 14 Dec.

Dec 71

[Signature]
 S. 4 (A12)

8 DEC 1971

BRITISH BROADCASTING CORPORATION
KENSINGTON HOUSE RICHMOND WAY LONDON W14
TELEPHONE 31-743 1272 CABLES: BROADCASTS LONDON PS4
TELEGRAMS: BROADCASTS LONDON TELEX TELEX: 22182

BBC 1971

E1

CF/js1

6 December, 1971

Dear Mr. Downes,

Further to our telephone conversation of Friday afternoon, following on the large number of sightings of UFO's in the Banbury area within the last three months, we are making a fifty minute documentary film for BBC-2 on the history and interest in this sort of phenomena. Having assimilated quite a lot of witnesses, film evidence (though this is of course, extremely difficult to come by) and interviews, we feel we need to add to the programme an authoritative opinion, or possible explanation, for some of the phenomena.

There seems to be such a plethora of evidence, obviously much of it explicable, that we feel it would be a good idea to have someone come in, look at it, and possibly account for some of the material we have.

Perhaps you could call me at the above number on extension 6305 when you have decided who the best person would be to do this.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

T. Downes, Esq.,
R.A.F., P.R.O.,
Room 0332,
Ministry of Defence,
Whitehall, S.W.1.

DUS(Air)/E254

Copy: DPR(RAF)
S4 (Air) (Mr. Davis)US of S (RAF)BBC2 "MAN ALIVE" PROGRAMME - UFOS

I think you will wish to see the attached minute by Mr. Davis about the television programme on UFOs in which he is taking part. I think you will agree that this is shaping up very well. You will note that the studio debate which will complete the programme is to take place on 25 January and that it is intended to show the programme on BBC2 at 8.10p.m. on 2 February.

You will note also what Mr. Davis says in his paragraph 6 about the possibility of a preview of the edited programme. I have discussed this question with him and DPR(RAF) and we are all agreed that we should not try to insist upon such a preview. In view of the generally helpful attitude of the producer it seems unlikely that our position will be prejudiced by unfavourable editing. We did agree, however, that if after the debate had taken place [REDACTED] felt that anything he had said might be misinterpreted in a way unfavourable to us, he might, if he thought fit, approach the producer informally to see whether anything could be done to correct the matter.

If you approve, I will ask Mr. Davis to proceed as indicated in his minute subject to the points mentioned above.

Hugh

18 January 1972

DUS(Air)

164/jtc

RESTRICTED OR
UNCLASSIFIED

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

BRANCH FOLDER

NUMBER D/AF/54F(a)/422 DATE OPENED <u>11/2/72.</u>	<u>DIVISION/DIRECTORATE/BRANCH:</u> 54F(a). <u>REGISTERED</u> <u>FILE NUMBER:</u>
SUBJECT: UFOs. BBC RADIO OXFORD PROGRAMME.	

Referred to	Date
	MOD CS(RM)1 - 8 JAN 1999 SECOND REVIEW 1998

NOTES

1. The contents of a Branch Folder should be restricted to copies of items on a Registered File, and minor internal branch items.
2. Branch Folders are for use only within the originating division directorate, or branch. They are not to be sent to other divisions or directorates. Their movements are NOT recorded by the Registry.

1. UFO reports are received in the MOD from a variety of sources, mostly from members of the public, but also from the police and service units. ^{Written to S4; tel to S4 or AFOR Duty Officer.} The reports are examined in the MOD by experienced staff who have access to all information available to the ^{Ministry} ~~staff~~. They call on the full scientific ^{and} professional resources of the MOD and may call in expert advice as necessary from other bodies such as the Royal Observatory and the Met office.
2. These reports have remained unexplained because insufficient information was given in the report. Although positive identification cannot be made in these cases there was nothing in the reports to suggest that the incidents to which they referred were any different in kind from the incidents mentioned in reports which were identified.
3. No! Certainly not to our knowledge.
4. MOD interest is limited to the possible defence implications to the UK. ^{No continuous liaison with other countries.} Of course, we studied the ~~Comdon~~ Report (made by Colorado University into the scientific study of UFOs) with great interest and found that their conclusions accorded very closely with our own experience.
5. I am sorry but I cannot really help here as our detailed records go back only to 1959. But I can say that a number of Met Balloons were released in the Antarctic regions during the IGY. 57 stations were involved, spread round the Antarctic coastline and nearby islands. The balloons were of various shapes and were released daily in blocks of ten days from each of the stations. But in the ^{absence} ~~passage~~ of ^{individual} ~~government~~ correlations, which I do not possess, I cannot say that ^{any or all} ~~the~~ the UFOs reported were in fact balloons.
6. I am not sure if you mean UFOs seen from other aircraft or from the ground? If you are referring to sightings from other aircraft then I would mention three types of sighting which are fairly well known to

experienced aircrew but not always to their passengers.

These are:-

- a. The Corona affect of the shadow of the aircraft on a cloud layer below.
- b. Lights from inside the aircraft reflecting on the cabin windows.
- c. The ~~DAB~~ ^{Aurora Borealis} or northern lights which can give quite dramatic effects in norther ~~altitudes~~.

7. The film sequence was consistent with an aircraft emitting a condensation trail or dumping fuel.

8. I have done what develling I could into RAF and army records including checking the personal file of Lieutenant-colonel Sir Horryace Beecham^{an} who was commanding the 5th Bn of the Norfolk regiment on the day the disappeared. Incidentally the Bn concerned was the ~~first~~ 1/5 Norfolks and not the first 1/4 as mentioned in the question. I would like to read you an extract from the history of the Norfolk regiment by

[redacted] which I think explains the incident but I have been a to find no trace of any Affidavit that they disappeared into what might have been UFOs.

I had not seen Contact until you sent me these 3 copies - which seem to
9. MOD interest is ~~purely limited~~ to defence implications and expenditure of public funds on investigations for scientific purposes which go beyond our defence interest would not be justified.

10. No, we have not sponsored any scientific programme and again there would be no justification for expending public money in duplicating studies which had already been carried out elsewhere - for example the Colorado University report to which I referred.

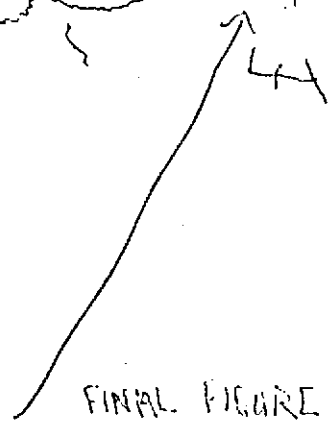
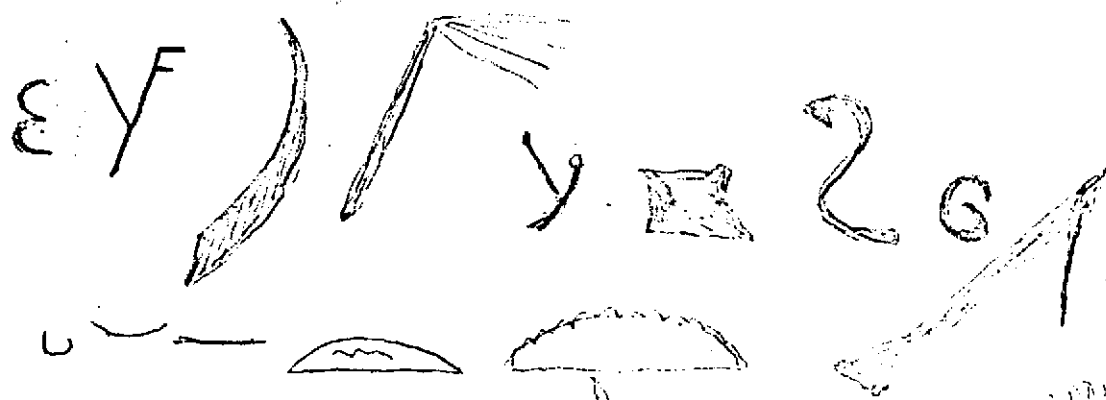
11. All UFO reports ^{made in sufficient detail} received in the MOD are investigated ^{seriously} by appropriate experts who approach the problem with open minds and without preconceived ideas.

the objective statistically well based and interesting - esp analysis of early historical sightings dating back to Roman times & the dark ages.

As for liaison off encourage not our job

12. I have seen the reports from Mrs X - many of them ^{at} emanating in these very carefully drawn Heir^gaphics seen in a ^{beam} cloud of light coming from a UFO at, I think, about 3 o' clock one morning ^{last Sept.} I would just comment on their similarity with astronomical symbols in normal use - for example that ^{one & that one} looks very much like ^{the symbol for} Neptune and this one like the symbol for Jupiter. Perhaps Mrs X was quite subconsciously allowing her ^{genuine} general astronomical interest to suggest images to her inner vision. ~~I think UFO's like beauty are often in the eye of the beholder. I hesitate to suggest this but she may have been dreaming. Dreams can be very clear and realistic as we all know.~~
13. I ^{would} not say that we accept it as a probability. We do accept the possibility to quote Condor^h - We ^{again have} received no evidence ^{as yet} to suggest that there has been any extra-terrestrial activity so far.
14. ~~That~~ That is a Hypothetical question. The policy would be ^{decided} tested in the light of facts obtaining at the time of such an ^{occurrence} action, if it did arise. And policy is decided by Ministers, not by Civil Servants or Scientists in the Ministry.

1st 4-5



FINAL FIGURE

Introduction - Not an expert

- Civil servant - ~~head of all work~~ ^{fact. of all trades (M. of home)}
resp for coord action on UFO reports
- Also been described as interface between
'operators' of AFD and 'great Br. public'

Origins of UFOs - Montgolfier Bros. 1783

- Icarus - of Wax heat-resistant
Greeks word for it - Eng. ll. falling
- UFO societies (since 1945?)

Dealing with reports - Circ. to ops & int centres.
examined by specialist staff.
Sometimes to Met. Off. & R. Obscn.
up to stage of no defence implicⁿ

Blue Book (+ Colorado) -

1. No UFO report indicates threat
2. No indication of depths beyond present Science
knowledge,
3. No indication that incidents are
extra-terrestrial.

- We agree.

Own involvement - Attacked by cancer over G. in 1944
Ventured on to UFO in 1956.

Mr. Crother.

UFOs. - BBC Radio Oxford.

The attached folder contains the papers connected with Mr. Davis' recording for Radio Oxford.

The Suva question is No 8. & E.1 & the information we obtained on the subject is at Es 8 and 9. I do not know whether the incident was, in fact, mentioned at the recording. Nor do I know whether Mr. Davis suggested the BBC do their own research. We did not pursue it with RKO

Johnnie —
15/2.



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building Whitehall London SW1A 2HB

Telephone 01-930 7022 ext 7035

Your reference

Our reference AF/7464/72

Date 16 April 1973

Dear [REDACTED]

— F-96 on AF/7464/72

Thank you for your letter of 17 March and for the copy of the UFO Register.

With regard to your enquiry about an incident which occurred on 11 January, we receive one report of the incident a few days after it occurred. As you know, the Ministry of Defence investigates UFO reports solely because of their possible defence implications. Our investigations into the report revealed no unauthorised air activity.

However, the description we received was consistent with that of an aircraft flying with the use of its afterburners which were switched off as the observer watched it. I am afraid, however, that we could not justify the expenditure of time and effort which would be required to check with all the military establishments whose activities could have prompted the report.

Mr Crowther has perused the UFO Register and has commented that it tends to confirm that a considerable number of people think they have seen unusual objects in the sky, but it does not take us much closer to knowing what they are.

Yours sincerely

MISS G J JAMIESON

61
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Nob Building WILLOW ROAD SW1A 2LS

104-1 101 020 7622 00

[REDACTED]
Your reference

Our reference AF/422/SAC (info)
(Copy in file AF/7464/72)
Date 17 November 1972

Dear [REDACTED]

Mr Davis has asked me to reply to your letter of 9 November about the Suvla Bay "incidents"; as you know, Mr Davis has now left this branch.

I understand from the Army Department that reports covering the 1914-18 War are now lodged with the Public Record Office, Chancery Lane, London WC2 with whom you should pursue your enquiries.

If, after consulting the Public Record Office, you require any further assistance the Historical Section of the Ministry of Defence Library (Central and Army) would be pleased to give what help they can.

Yours sincerely

MISS G J JAMIESON

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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AWARENESS

A MAGAZINE DEVOTED
TO THE MYSTERIES OF
TIME AND SPACE, OLD AND NEW

New Series
Vol. 1 no. 2

September 1972

C O N T E N T S

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Pages 2-4.	Peripheral Ufology: No.3. "Some Thoughts on the so-called Yaddlethorpe Meteorite," by J.B. Delair.
Pages 4-6.	"That Was The Programme - That Was," by R. Roebuck.
Pages 6-9	"You and Me," by B. Le Poer Trench.
Pages 10-11.	"Mysteries From Forgotten Worlds," by Charles - (a review by J.B. Delair) Berlitz.
Page 11.	"UFOs Over the Southern Hemisphere," by Michael (a review by J.B. Delair) Hervey.
Pages 11-12.	"News From Data Research," by J.L. Howse.
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Pages 15-16.	Satellite Re-Entry and Decay Dates.

A WIND OF CHANGE

What are UFOs? Where do they come from? Why do they visit us? Are they hostile? These are some of the questions now being asked about UFOs.

The old fundamental question "Do UFOs exist?" is now seldom heard, thereby suggesting that at long last the reality of UFOs is becoming much more widely accepted than hitherto.

Ufological investigations are now more concerned with finding out about what propels these aerial visitants, what entities operate them, what those entities are really like, why are they visiting Earth, and why are they usually secretive about their activities. And so the questions go on.

Magazines of various UFO organisations are beginning to publish more articles of a scientific nature, and newspapers are adopting a more serious approach, the Daily Mail recently serializing the subject of UFOs in considerable detail. Such developments, of course, cannot prevent the continued formulation of unusual or bizarre theories about UFOs, such as the latest one advocating that, when certain and carefully unspecified human beings are making love, a telepathic beam is transmitted, which UFOs use as a homing beam! Such purile nonsense has bedevilled ufology for far too long. The appearance recently of many more scientifically oriented articles in the UFO literature is, however, a most welcome trend and one to be encouraged and developed as widely as possible. It is a refreshing "Wind of Change."

The Editor.

PERIPHERAL UFOLOGY: No.3.

SOME THOUGHTS ON THE SO-CALLED YADDLETHORPE METEORITE.

by

J.B. Delair.

On 8th June, 1963, a stone fell with a faint swishing sound outside 7 Cresta Drive, Yaddlethorpe, near Scunthorpe, Lincolnshire (national grid reference SE.8843-761), an event witnessed by the tenants, Mr. P. Wood, and by Mr. D. Wood. A sulphurous smell was noticed by both observers immediately after the stone struck the ground.

Although the local press carried short accounts of this fall, a proper report on the stone did not appear until September, 1971, when R.D. Morton and W.A.S. Sarjeant published the results of a detailed examination of the stone in The Mercian Geologist, vol. 4, No. 1, 1971, pp.37-40 (see "Two Supposed East Midlands Meteorites: I, The Yaddlethorpe (Lincolnshire) Stone"). The findings of these eminent geologists are most interesting, and, so far as ufologists are concerned, deserve very special consideration, and give rise to all kinds of speculation. This paper summarizes their conclusions and suggests possible explanations for this particular cosmic visitor.

Laboratory tests of the Yaddlethorpe stone conducted in the geological department of Nottingham University, and the subsequent sectioning of the specimen, disclosed that, as well as being free of nickel-iron content (normally common in meteorites), it consisted largely of graphite, geothite, gehlenite, and glass, being also devoid of sulphur. Under a low-power microscope the stone showed numerous irregular rounded bodies and graphite plates set in a finer matrix. Its surface was finely porous and, unusual for a meteorite, extensively cracked. Indeed, so extraordinary was this stone that the geologists named above felt obliged to note that the lack of magnesium-bearing minerals in the stone was noteworthy and "difficult to explain" (ibid.).

Dr. M.H. Hey, of the British Museum (Natural History), who was also consulted during the course of the investigation of this specimen, concluded that it was a small fragment, originally of graphite-rich cast iron with glassy inclusions of slag, which had undergone a long period of terrestrial weathering, in which the iron had been totally oxidised (ibid.). He added that similar material is not uncommon in glassy blast-furnace slags. Finally, Morton and Sarjeant concluded:

"Whilst it is recognised that to assume any meteorite must necessarily possess characters in common with previously accepted

60
meteorites has its inherent dangers as a circular argument, mineralogical evidence is certainly heavily against the Yaddlethorpe stone being a meteorite. The observed circumstances of its arrival, so exactly correct for a meteorite, remain to be explained" (op.cit., p.39).

So much for the recorded facts and the results of detailed studies.

In the Yaddlethorpe stone, therefore, we have an object which, although falling exactly like a meteorite, seems on mineralogical investigation to be quite unlike any previously recorded meteorite and to be composed of matter originally resembling graphite-rich cast iron. One authority also thought it had undergone weathering, which, to his mind, must have been terrestrial. Confronted with these facts the enquirer may readily admit to bafflement. It is, however, possible to speculate along certain lines which, although perhaps not universally acceptable in orthodox scientific circles, may not be altogether unfamiliar to ufologists. Some of these are briefly developed as follows.

The first fact is that this object fell from the sky. Being essentially of stony composition, the logical inference is that it is a meteorite, such as fall quite regularly upon the Earth, otherwise it has to be interpreted as a stone hurled into the air by some volcanic upheaval many miles distant and which just happened to descend at Yaddlethorpe, or it was dropped by some passing aircraft or by a bird which, for reasons best known to itself, was carrying it while flying over Yaddlethorpe on 8th June, 1963.

In our contention this last possibility is so remote, considering the appreciable size of the stone, as to be untenable, while the jettisoning from an airplane explanation is scarcely less convincing. With regard to the volcanic eruption hypothesis, it is comparatively simple to calculate how far such an eruption would have to be in order for an object the size and weight of the Yaddlethorpe stone to be flung skywards and still fall in northwestern Lincolnshire. In short, the eruption would have to be no further away from Yaddlethorpe than 100 miles. There was no volcanic eruption that close to Yaddlethorpe on the date in question, or even on the preceding day, or week, or month, or year, or century! We are, therefore, obliged to agree with Morton and Sarjeant that, so far as the circumstances of its arrival are concerned, the Yaddlethorpe stone behaved exactly like a meteorite.

But we are informed that its compositional characters were

disturbingly non-meteorlike, and that some of the evidence suggested that the stone had been subjected to a long period of weathering. If, as discussed above, the stone was not dropped by a bird or from a passing airplane, and could not have been hurled into the sky by volcanic activity (demonstrably non-existent in or near Britain on the relevant date), then the Yaddlethorpe stone can only have had an extraterrestrial origin. If the apparent weathering discerned by Dr. Hey really did occur, then the process must have taken place on another world, presumably long ago in view of the great amount of time it must have taken the stone to reach Earth from its as yet unknown place or origin.

Opinion has also been cited that originally the specimen was composed of graphite-rich cast iron. If it really was cast iron then it was produced artificially by some form of intelligence! On another world where weathering seemingly took place after the object had been produced and, seemingly, discarded. Its apparent resemblance to furnace slag can only mean that, even if the present object was not deliberately manufactured for its own sake, it was at least a by-product of a process utilized for manufacturing something else. Such activities are the prerogative of intelligent life.

The Yaddlethorpe stone, therefore, may well be a most important item of evidence for those contending that we are not alone in the universe, and that some forms of extraterrestrial life are at least as advanced technologically as ourselves. Most ufologists have been arguing along such lines from other evidence for years. Outstanding questions now confronting us are, should the geologists' conclusions be regarded as reliable (and there is no evidence suggesting that they are not), and if so, is the Yaddlethorpe stone a genuine artifact indicative of intelligent endeavour on another world? The only really certain point is that it is highly unlikely that any of the geologists concerned fully realized the massive implications of the conclusions they reached.

"THAT WAS THE PROGRAMME - THAT WAS"

by

Richard Roebuck

B.B.C. RADIO OXFORD

10th August, 1972 - "In the Eye of the Beholder" (repeated 14th August

17th August, 1972 - "The Delusion and Dilemma" (repeated 21st August

As producer and editor of the above two programmes, I have

been asked by the Editor of Awareness to write an article on the broadcasts. The question is what can I say about them now? In any case doesn't the man realise that nine months research for such productions is quite enough without having to consider a post-mortem? But why think in terms of a post-mortem? There must be one or two points of interest which might appeal to the readers. Yes..... Now take that day, 26th October, last year. There I was firmly embedded in the carpet at B.B.C. Radio Oxford discussing the possibility of a documentary type programme on UFOs with the Programme Organiser. Just at the very moment I was saying something like "..... there's plenty of material to make it interesting," THAT ATV camera crew were excitedly filming THAT high flying mystery at Enstone, just fifteen miles north-west of our studios. Only something as unpredictable as UFOs could 'go commercial' at a time like that! and I swear on the Radio Times that it was no publicity stunt!

What else ?

No. Forget the whole idea. I'm a radio freelance, not a magazine writer. I mean, who is likely to be interested in how it all came about? Do you think that anyone would want to know that my initial interest stemmed from idle curiosity in those things that people keep seeing in the sky? (Alright, alright - and on the ground too). True enough, there appeared to me to be serious implications in some of the UFO reports that have come to light, once I began to go into the subject more deeply. That is what made me think that it was about time that an objective documentary was presented on radio. Fortunately - thanks to the policy of Local Radio Broadcasting, and more specifically the open-mindedness of Owen Bentley, Radio Oxford's Programme Organiser - I was able to do something about that. But which UFO magazine reader wants to know all that?

Of course, I could mention that the first programme was more or less a general summary of the UFO controversy - involving interviews with witnesses to UFO occurrences, the Ministry of Defence, Professor J. Allen Hynek, and Brinsley Le Poer Trench, amongst others. The second, I would go on to say, consisted in the main of an interview with Derek Mansell, John Howse and Fred Passey of the Data Research Division, discussing problems associated with UFO research and appropriate examples of UFO incidents. The original idea was for one half-hour programme, but because of the enormous amount of relevant material collected the second additional programme was sanctioned.

There must be more that an experienced journalist or critic could add to that, but I'm in the position of being neither. So that exhausts that idea!

Perhaps this is a good opportunity, however, for me to comment on the assistance given me, during the preparation for the programme, by CONTACT and the Data Research Division at Oxford. Although my research was carried out independently their help and the information they provided was invaluable. Perhaps it is ironic that the programmes were not really designed to satisfy people such as these who are already dedicated to serious objective study of the phenomenon, but more as an informative feature for the non-involved listener. In fact "In the eye of the beholder" might have been retitled 'UFOs for beginners!' As it happens I believe, according to my 'spies,' that the programmes were approved of by UFO researchers, if only because they attempted not to convince anyone of any beliefs concerning UFOs, but offered the listeners a balanced picture and informed views, so that they might draw their own conclusions from the facts and opinions presented. I hope we succeeded.

Having done my homework fairly thoroughly, I would agree with those who feel that the whole UFO thing has been treated carelessly by the press and television in the past. Generally speaking, it seems to have been good for a few sensational and entertaining items, with little regard for serious speculation. That is not to say that I - or anyone with common sense - think that UFOs should be sanctified or be the subject of undue reverence; that would be a ghastly mistake. Humour is after all an interpretation of reflected reality. No. It is merely that, like any other mystery of creation, the flying saucer is due its fair share of objective consideration. Hence the Radio Oxford programmes.

Through the courtesy of your magazine, I would like to acknowledge the advice and assistance received not only from CONTACT personnel, but also Mr. Anthony Davis and PR3 at the Ministry of Defence; The Novosti Press Agency; BUFORA; Anthony Pace; APRO; Prof. J. Allen Hynek; Dr. Berthold Schwartz; The Hon. Brinsley Le Poer Trench; and BBC producers David Filkin, Peter Goodchild and Chris Blount, without whom this article would have been a whole lot shorter!

"YOU AND ME"

by

Brinsley Le Poer Trench

Your Editor has invited me to contribute a regular column to 'Awareness.'

In this column I am going to put down my thoughts. You, the readers, may or may not agree with them. I would be happy to have your views. Let us make this part of the magazine a kind of forum for the exchange of ideas. In short, let us put Contact into action. It takes more than one person to make contact. Write to me and in succeeding contributions I will try and bring out your ideas. Please do not expect me to answer letters, as I am already swamped with mail. I will deal with your points in my articles. This should be most stimulating.

In the 1950s and early 1960s the general view among the ufologists of those years was that the UFOs came from extra-terrestrial sources. That is, if not from our own Solar System, then from somewhere else in our Galaxy. This was the E.T. Theory.

Now, the pendulum has swung the other way round and the popular view seems to be that the UFOs come from invisible parallel universes.

Frankly, looking back in retrospect, we really know very little. However, I would like to throw out some thoughts for your consideration.

First of all, though I think that there is a lot to be said for the Parallel Universe Concept, I do not think that the E.T. Theory should be entirely discarded. It seems to me that ufology is getting in-to a similar position to women's dress fashions. Mini skirts one year and Maxis the next.

Let us take another look at this somewhat discounted E.T. Theory. The first point that comes to our attention is that leading astronomers, both sides of the Atlantic, including Dr. Harlow Shapley, the doyen of American astronomers; Sir Bernard Lovell, director of the Jodrell Bank Radio Telescope; Professor Fred Hoyle (Plumian Professor of Astronomy at Cambridge University); and Dr. Carl Sagan of Cornell University, have all postulated that millions of planets in our Galaxy - the Milky Way - and indeed, in other Galaxies, may well be inhabited.

Furthermore, our own Fred Hoyle, has hinted that there might be a Galactic civilisation and that we should get our name into what he terms the 'Galactic telephone directory.'

Of course, there must be intelligent life on millions of planets in our physical universe. You just could not have a lot of empty mudballs floating around in space, devoid of life. That would be a mockery of Creation! It wouldn't make any sense at all.

Now, we here on Earth have only had our present technology for some two hundred years, and we are just an average third-rate planet. On the basis of the Law of Averages, there must be planets in the Galaxy far more developed in every field, possibly thousands of years or even millions, in advance of us. Just imagine what they could do!

The great argument that the anti-E.T. Ufologists and scientists generally, produce against the E.T. Theory are the distances involved for the UFOs to come here. They quote the number of Light Years involved. I agree that the distances are astronomical and awesome! One Light Year is approximately six million million miles, and when you think that the nearest star system, outside our own solar system, is Proxima Centauri, 26 million miles away, then you may get my message.

The anti-E.T. critics stated that it would take an awful lot of years for UFOs to come from even the nearest star system to us, and many scientists have added that it was impossible for us to travel faster than the speed of Light, that is, about 180,000 miles per second, and so it would be impossible for us to reach the stars, and presumably for UFOs to come to us. They said that the late Albert Einstein had stated that it was a fact that we couldn't travel faster than the speed of Light and that this was the final word on the matter!

Well, of course, it now transpires that this is not true. We are indebted to Ivan T. Sanderson, the well-known biologist, a member of our Royal Society, a former member of the British Naval Intelligence, now resident in the United States and author of two very interesting UFO books, for telling us that Einstein meant no such thing.

Sanderson was a personal friend of Einstein, and shortly before the great man's death, had an interview with him. All Einstein envisaged was that when an object was travelling at the speed of Light it would turn into infinite mass.

Now, Professor John A. Wheeler, Professor of physics at Princeton University, for better or worse, was co-discoverer of the Hydrogen Bomb. He has done some in depth research into Einstein's theories and has come up with the idea that we can definitely reach the stars one fine day. An article about his work edited by Adrian Berry was published in the 7th May, 1971 issue of the Daily Telegraph Colour Magazine. Although this article was not discussing UFOs but the possibility of us reaching the stars, and Professor Wheeler thinks it is more than possible that we will be able to do so, as a result of his conclusions, it is my considered opinion that this article should be standard reading for every ufologist.

It is the most important article that has ever appeared in print concerning the work of an eminent scientist on space travel.

I have not the space here available to go into all the technical details in this article. Do try and get hold of a copy if you can from the Daily Telegraph. Briefly, Professor Wheeler, as a result of his work considers that it is possible for us to reach the stars almost instantaneously when we have the know-how. In short, this trip would not involve all the many years envisaged by the anti-E.T. group.

The whole trouble is that as so often happens most people look at a problem based on their present knowledge, and this quite frankly, is a ridiculous thing to do with Ufology. We are probably dealing with people thousands, possibly millions, of years beyond us in every field.

Now, let us take a look at the Parallel Universe concept. First of all, I must make it clear that Professor Wheeler states that in order to reach the stars we have to go into an area where Time and Space do not exist, rather similar to the Hyper space that the Science Fiction writers have been talking about in their stories. Wheeler terms it Superspace. When I read the article about his work it thrilled me, because in my book 'FORGOTTEN HERITAGE,' published in 1965 by Neville Spearman, I had written about something akin. Wheeler states that the shape of the physical universe is like a doughnut and that all the stars and galaxies of the universe are on the curved surface of the doughnut. The hole inside represents the mysterious region of Superspace, in which Time and Space do not exist. All journeys through it are therefore instantaneous.

In my book I postulated that the physical universe and mankind were originally made by some of the 'Sons of God,' and that this physical universe in which we have our being was a bastard one, deriving from four original Cosmic Ones. Professor Wheeler stated that this physical universe was an addition to something created before, bearing out my own conclusions.

However, what I want to put over in this article is that it is more than possible that people from other planets in this universe, that is, from various galaxies, may be capable of visiting us. Professor Wheeler has shown us in the article edited by Adrian Berry that it is possible for us to visit the stars. So, the corollary must also be true, that the UFOs can visit us! Especially, if they are so much more advanced than us, which many planets in the universe must obviously be.

It seems that the answer as to the point of origin of the UFOs is a mixture of both the E.T. Theory and the Parallel Universe one. Both may play their part in this Cosmic conundrum. In my next article, I will give a contrary view backed up with some startling evidence.

"MYSTERIES FROM FORGOTTEN WORLDS"

by

Charles Berlitz.

(A review by J.B. Delair)

It is always a pleasure to encounter a book discussing controversial material in an objective, dispassionate manner, and such a book is MYSTERIES FROM FORGOTTEN WORLDS by Charles Berlitz. Indeed, the author of this splendid book, is to be congratulated not only for sustaining this desirable approach throughout but also for presenting such a vast array of facts so lucidly and in such eminently readable form.

In addition to discussing anew such well-worn topics as the Great Pyramid of Egypt, lost continents, cyclopean stone-work in the Pacific and Andean South America, and the evidence of advanced prehistoric cartography, Mr. Berlitz introduces us to several less well known, and in some cases only recently discovered, aspects of prehistory, simultaneously showing them to be yet other pieces of a gigantic jigsaw puzzle concerned with the origins of civilization on this planet. Re-inforced by a series of remarkable and truly excellent photographs, ancient ruined cities, prehistoric sunken walls, immensely ancient statues in caves, gold models of mechanical objects (such as an apparent aeroplane dating from pre-Columbian times in Peru) and a great deal of recently accumulated field evidence are discussed as pointers to a remotely ancient time when a powerful worldwide cultural or civilizing force existed in a world topographically different from that we now inhabit. The enormous tectonic upheavals responsible for these topographical changes are also discussed, not only in their relation to Earth structure but also in connection with their obliteration and scattering of the remnants of this former global culture. In short, Mr. Berlitz assembles all the above and much other diverse material and shows how each item constitutes a precious clue to what, in reality, is a colossal prehistoric riddle. His revolutionary answer to what happened to these early civilized peoples is both compelling and astonishing, and certainly turns on end Man's accepted view of his ancient past.

Ufologists will find this book of particular interest for its references and photographs respecting early flying machines, monuments and effigies of sizes so vast they can only be appreciated from airborne craft, and maps and charts that could only have been created by a people having knowledge of advanced navigation, mathematics, and, as suspected, powered airflight.

Mysteries from Forgotten Worlds is replete with a useful bibliography, but could have featured some system of cross-referencing specific facts in the text (which is thankfully free of typographical errors) with the works listed in the bibliography. Published by Souvenir Press at £2.50p. this is a book every ufologist should read or have in their library.

"UFOS OVER THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE"

by

Michael Hervey

(A review by J.B. Delair)

Very few books dealing exclusively with ufo sightings in the southern hemisphere have been published to date, thus it is both timely and a refreshing change to review one that does so. Ufologists everywhere should be extremely grateful to Mr. Hervey for bringing together such an amazing array of ufo cases recorded from Australia, Tasmania, New Zealand, and New Guinea. Especially important is the fact that nearly one half of these were unpublished until they were featured in Mr. Hervey's eminently readable book. These are frequently of the highest interest and, collectively, show that ufos are seen as commonly in the countries just mentioned as in other regions of the world. Several of the cases are also utterly absorbing.

Although the title of this book is strictly inaccurate, since no survey is provided for those parts of Africa and South America that lie south of the equator, the book itself will for long remain the best and most complete source of information for those wishing to study ufos over Australasia. Apparently free from typographical errors, and altogether free of theories and hypotheses, this book is a must for anyone wishing to unravel the ufo puzzle in its widest sense. Although only obtainable direct from Hampton Press, Henley, New South Wales, 2111, it is well worth the effort of sending 50p. for a copy.

"NEWS FROM DATA RESEARCH"

UFO sighting reports for the first half of 1972 from this country were notable for their absence, then as the year progressed it became obvious that many sightings had been made but for some unknown reason people have been very slow to send in report details. This is not good enough if we are to check out reports with the official sources - Ministry of Defence, Weather and Tracking Stations, local airfields and military establishments. We must get the information to them within one month of the date of sighting (at the latest), so please, wherever possible, report to us straight away.

Now, a few remarks on the Banbury 'Flap.' This 'Flap' set the UFO scene alight in the midlands in 1971, with hundreds of reports being received from people in all walks of life for about 4 months. Nearly every aspect of the UFO phenomena was reported during this period. UFO forms included saucers, dumbbells, crosses, bright lights, spiky balls and many other shapes; also white hairy monsters and other entities were reported. It really seemed that at last we had a large 'flap' on the doorstep of Data Research, but it was not to be, the so called 'flap' became, and still is, a thorn in our sides. Time after time sightings turned out to be hoaxes, witnesses could not be traced or were not known at the addresses given, and some of the addresses did not exist. One thing is becoming clear, this was not a big 'flap' but another case of a few genuine and very good sightings made and reported, then, owing to news coverage of various kinds, many people decided to jump onto the band-waggon and it snowballed from there-on. In one word 'UFOMANIA' - on a large scale.

While all this was going on, the 'in' tray was steadily filling up and it has since been found that many very good, well witnessed sightings were occurring in many other parts of this country, and also abroad in places such as Yugoslavia, Sweden and Norway.

The sorting, checking and evaluating of this vast amount of information is still proceeding, and the final analysis is expected to appear in a future issue of the "UFO Register."

J.L. Howse

"RECENT UFO REPORTS"

The following are brief accounts of some of the more interesting reports received. It must be pointed out, however that these have not yet been fully evaluated, so the objects reported are not necessarily proven UFOs.

JUNE 26th 1972. TIME: 9 AM APPROX. PLACE: FORT BEAUFORT, REP. OF SOUTH AFRICA.

A glowing red oval-shaped object, seen by several witnesses, including two policemen, in the "bush" near a reservoir. The object then turned dark green and then whitish yellow. It had a star-like protuberance at the right of the oval, something that seemed to grow in size as the white light it emitted grew in intensity. One witness fired at the object, and hit the star. After being hit, the object no longer changed colour and took off. The police also shot at the object. They said it was round, black and shiny.

JULY 28th 1972. TIME: 3-4 PM. PLACE: SCARBOROUGH, YORKSHIRE.
Witnesses: Mr. Sewell, plus several others. Object was round or spherical, silvery or transparent in colour. It was the size of a florin held at arm's length and was stationary for nearly an hour; it then moved off very slowly northeastwards.

JULY 1st 1972. TIME: 7.25 AM. PLACE: WELLINGTON, WESTERN CAPE, REP. OF SOUTH AFRICA.

For five minutes, several witnesses saw an object hovering over nearby mountains, before it disappeared. It shone with a whitish flickering light and made no sound.

JULY 5th 1972. TIME: 9.31 PM. PLACE: STOCKTON, TEESIDE.

Witnesses: Mr. G. Poole, plus some others. Object was first seen as a capsule, but then changed to an inverted boomerang shape. Witness then looked at the object through a telescope; it appeared to have little lights or windows down each arm. The object was silver grey in colour, was soundless and followed an erratic course. Its speed was slow at first, but afterwards became very fast prior to disappearing.

JULY 20th 1972. TIME: 5 AM APPROX. PLACE: DURBAN, REP. OF SOUTH AFRICA.

Many witnesses, which included police at the Radio Police station, saw an object hovering some 200m above the surface of Durban harbour. The object was changing colour from red to green. It moved from the Chatsworth area of Wentworth and the "Bluff," before departing at incredible speed in a northerly direction. The object was the same size and shape as a robot light, and changed colours at one second intervals.

JULY 22nd 1972. TIME: UNKNOWN. PLACE: DURBAN, REP. OF SOUTH AFRICA.

Many witnesses, including four doctors and a former judge, saw two glowing pink objects, hovering over Durban harbour. These lights suddenly went out, as if switched off.

JULY 22nd 1972. TIME: 1 AM APPROX. PLACE: ASHBURTON, REP. OF SOUTH AFRICA.

Two motorists reported a giant dazzling white light on the Mpumali Bridge. Two policemen checked and saw a strange light 2 kilometres away, but it disappeared. The motorists drove their car towards the bridge, and flicked their headlights thinking the light was another car. They stopped, however, and put off their headlights, then saw the object was sitting on the bridge, blocking the entire road. It emitted a blinding white light - "like a huge neon light." The object then shot

straight up into the sky and vanished. According to the police, witnesses were very scared.

JULY 27th 1972. TIME: 10.30 PM. PLACE: CAMPOS, BRAZIL.

2000 witnesses at a football match saw eight unusual orange coloured, silent objects in the sky. They were at a great altitude, but it could easily be seen that seven of them were following a kind of "mother" craft. The radio announcers at the match started to describe the objects, and everyone, including the players, watched them.

AUGUST 3rd 1972. TIME: UNNOTED. PLACE: AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND.

A bus driver almost braked his bus to a screeching halt on the harbour bridge, when he saw a mysterious white light "explode into a glow like 10 million candles."

The object resembled a white cigar-shaped light and was hovering over the city. As the witness reached the top of the bridge, the light burst into a powerful glow, lighting up all the clouds around it. The bridge toll-collector also saw the object.

AUGUST 10th 1972. TIME: 3.30 AM APPROX. PLACE: HOUNSLOW, MIDDLESEX.

Witnesses: several Police Officers. The object was a diffuse bright white light, otherwise similar to a very large star. It was visible for 2½ hours and was stationary. The witness said the object was large and its height considerable. (NB. This could have been a star, but remember, witnesses were Police Officers, and presumably could differentiate between stars and objects).

AUGUST 15th 1972. TIME: UNNOTED. PLACE: LIVERPOOL, LANCASHIRE.

Several witnesses saw a number of objects rise vertically, grow in size and give off a brilliant fluorescent light. They were like red flickering lights. Sometimes three or four objects appeared together, on other occasions only one. The lights have been seen for one week by quite a few witnesses.

AUGUST 18th 1972. TIME: 3.25 PM. PLACE: NOTTINGHAM, NOTTS.

Witness was walking down the road, when a gleaming object in the sky, caught his eye. It looked like polished aluminium, and was ball-shaped, with one part chopped off; it was flying silently, with the chopped off part at the rear. At first, it moved horizontally and was extremely low, much lower than aircraft. It then started to go straight up when it seemed to be diamond-shaped. Witness unfortunately carried on walking and couldn't locate object again.

CATALOG NUMBER	SATELLITE	SOURCE	NAME	DECAYED
6008	72-29E	USSR	PROGNOZ-1 Debris	01 June 72
6033	72-37F	USSR	MOLNIYA 2-2 Debris	01
6037	72-39A	US	OPS 6371 Payload	04
6040	72-36D	USSR	COSMOS 490 Debris	06
6030	72-37D	USSR	MOLNIYA 2-2 Debris	06
0646	61-OMI-190	US	TRANSIT 4A Debris	07
5718	71-74J	USSR	COSMOS 436 Debris	07
6035	72-38A	USSR	COSMOS 491 Payload	08
6028	72-37B	USSR	MOLNIYA 2-2 Rocket	08
6029	72-37C	USSR	MOLNIYA 2-2 Platform	09
6046	72-38D	USSR	COSMOS 491 Debris	09
5250	71-50E	USSR	COSMOS 425 Debris	09
6048	72-38F	USSR	COSMOS 491 Debris	10
5908	72-20B	USSR	COSMOS 481 Rocket	11
6047	72-38E	USSR	COSMOS 491 Debris	11
5777	71-74L	USSR	COSMOS 436 Debris	11
5396	71-67F	US	SESP 70-2 Payload	11
3360	65-8sLX	US	TITAN 3C-4 Debris	11
5939	72-28B	USSR	COSMOS 485 Rocket	16
6050	72-40B	USSR	COSMOS 492 Rocket	18
3863	69-29N	USSR	'METEOR' Debris	18
6049	72-40A	USSR	COSMOS 492 Payload	22
6056	72-43C	USSR	COSMOS 493 Debris	23
6055	72-40C	USSR	COSMOS 492 Debris	24
5022	70-89Y	USSR	COSMOS 374 Debris	24
6054	72-42B	USSR	COSMOS 493 Rocket	25
2052	65-82JN	US	TITAN 3C-4 Debris	26
6064	72-40E	USSR	COSMOS 492 Debris	27
6057	72-40D	USSR	COSMOS 492 Debris	27
6062	72-44B	USSR	COSMOS 495 Rocket	29
6066	72-45A	USSR	COSMOS 496 Payload	02 July 72
6067	72-45B	USSR	COSMOS 496 Rocket	02
6053	72-42A	USSR	COSMOS 493 Payload	03
6007	72-33B	USSR	COSMOS 487 Rocket	03
6041	65-82UC	US	TITAN 3C-4 Debris	04
6074	72-46E	USSR	PROGNOZ-Z Debris	04
6083	72-45C	USSR	COSMOS 496 Debris	04
5780	71-74P	USSR	COSMOS 436 Debris	05
6060	72-44A	USSR	COSMOS 495 Payload	06
6088	72-44C	USSR	COSMOS 495 Debris	06
4702	70-35BQ	US	NIMBUS 4 Debris	07
6089	72-44D	USSR	COSMOS 495 Debris	08
6093	72-44E	USSR	COSMOS 495 Debris	09
6095	72-52B	US	OPS-7273 Rocket	09
6091	72-51B	USSR	COSMOS 499 Rocket	10
6092	72-51C	USSR	COSMOS 499 Debris	10

CATALOG NUMBER	SATELLITE	SOURCE	NAME	ESTIMATED DECAY DATE
4701	70-25BP	US	NIMBUS-D Debris	23 July 72
4090	72-51A	USSR	COSMOS 499 Payload	23
6089	72-46B	USSR	PROGNOZ-2 Rocket	30
5583	71-74G	USSR	COSMOS 436 Debris	01 Aug. 72
3721	65-82RC	US	TITAN 30-4 Debris	02
5796	70-89CM	USSR	COSMOS 374 Debris	05
4713	70-97A	USSR	COSMOS 378 Payload	06
1351	65-20W	USSR	COSMOS 61 Debris	07
6070	72-46C	USSR	PROGNOZ-2 Platform	11
5804	72-04A	USSR	COSMOS 472 Payload	12
2895	67-73A	US	OGO-D Payload	15
4740	70-25CP	US	NIMBUS-D Debris	20
4892	69-82HB	US	OPS 7613 Debris	26
6078	72-47B	USSR	INTERCOSMOS-7 Rocket	28
6087	72-50B	USSR	COSMOS 498 Rocket	28
5938	72-28A	USSR	COSMOS 485 Payload	29
3824	69-25B	USSR	OVI-18 Payload	01 Sept. 72
4714	70-97B	USSR	COSMOS 387 Rocket	01
6075	72-47A	USSR	INTERCOSMOS-7 Payload	04
5802	71-106X	USSR	COSMOS 462 Debris	07
5906	72-20A	USSR	COSMOS 481 Payload	11
4834	70-113C	USSR	COSMOS 389 Debris	13
5244	71-15AZ	USSR	COSMOS 397 Debris	13
6006	72-33A	USSR	COSMOS 487 Payload	19
5319	71-58C	US	SOLRAD-10 Debris	27
6081	72-47C	USSR	INTERCOSMOS-7 Debris	29
6135	72-60A	USSR	COSMOS 513 Payload	21 Aug. 72
5906	72-20A	USSR	COSMOS 481 Payload	25
6130	72-59A	USSR	COSMOS 512 Payload	27
3824	69-25B	USSR	OVI-18 Payload	30
5938	72-28A	USSR	COSMOS 485 Payload	30
6081	72-47C	USSR	INTERCOSMOS-7 Debris	01 Sept. 72
6006	72-33A	USSR	COSMOS 487 Payload	14
6075	72-47A	USSR	INTERCOSMOS-7 Payload	22
6137	72-60C	USSR	COSMOS 513 Debris	22
4714	70-97B	USSR	COSMOS 387 Rocket	25
5802	71-106X	USSR	COSMOS 462 Debris	29
5319	71-58C	US	SOLRAD-10 Debris	30
6087	72-50B	USSR	COSMOS 498 Rocket	30
6078	72-47B	USSR	INTERCOSMOS-7 Rocket	01 Oct. 72
3465	65-82PW	US	TITAN 3C-4 Debris	07
5480	71-79A	USSR	COSMOS 440 Payload	08
4834	70-113C	USSR	COSMOS 389 Debris	13
6086	72-50A	USSR	COSMOS 498 Payload	22
3712	68-97AP	USSR	COSMOS 252 Debris	04 Nov. 72
5856	72-13D	USSR	COSMOS 477 Debris	04

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PERCEPTION: a policy statement from the editor.

PERCEPTION newsletter, now entering its fourth year, remains an open forum for news, views and discussion on the UFO phenomenon in all its aspects.

I believe supporting one theory to the exclusion of others is unwise in our field of interest. The Extra Terrestrial Hypothesis is fine - providing one possesses undeniable evidence of its validity. As I do not possess such evidence, PERCEPTION reflects a variety of thought-provoking opinions on the origin and purposes of UFOs.

Send for a free copy of PERCEPTION. If you like what you see, a 45p P.O. or cheque brings you three further bi-monthly issues.

Graham Cowell, Editor, PERCEPTION, 14, Kingswood Close, Crofton Place, Orpington, BR6 8PA, Kent.



E14

28/3

44 62

Dear Mr. Davis,

My only regret is that in my haste to ensure that you were able to catch the return train I had to concentrate on the recording and technicalities, perhaps at the expense of some hospitality and informality; in fact I should have welcomed the opportunity for some less formal conversation and hope that may be possible some time in the future.

One or two points did arise during the interview which I would have liked to expand upon ~~as~~ ~~contest~~, if time had permitted, but should it be necessary to pursue further any particular aspect of our discussion I will contact you as arranged.

I understand that you would like to listen to a recording of the programmes and I will see if this can be arranged before the broadcast. In any case I will advise you of transmission times when production is completed.

Incidentally I was pleased to note your interest in Contact (U.K.) and hope that the dialogue between both this organisation and M.O.D. will be continued.

...../cont'd

- 2 -

I trust you experienced a satisfactory journey
to London - following the dash to Oxford station.

Yours most sincerely,

A large, dark, irregular redacted area covering the signature.A dark, horizontal redacted area.

Mr. A. Davis,
Ministry of Defence,
Main Building,
Whitehall,
London S.W.1.

Minute Sheet No.

Reference.....

Minutes and Brief Details of Enclosures

Clas.

Encl.
No.PS/US of S (RAF)

Copy to: DUS (Air)
 DSTI:
 D of Ops(A Def & O)(RAF)
 D of Ops(S)(RAF)
 ACSP (RAF)
 DPR (RAF)
 DR Met O

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS - REVIEW OF
POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Introduction

The review mentioned in M2 has been completed. It has been concluded that there should be no change in the procedures for dealing with UFO reports, that UFO reports should be retained indefinitely and that access to reports should be given to outside bodies only in exceptional circumstances.

2. As the review was prompted by a change in USAF policy on investigating UFOs, the US position is summarised first. Also mentioned is the little that is known of the USSR attitude.

United States

3. The United States Air Force had been studying reports of unidentified flying objects since 1947 (Project Blue Book). The objectives of Project Blue Book were to determine whether UFOs posed a threat to the security of the United States and whether UFOs exhibited any unique scientific information or advanced technology which could contribute to scientific or technical research. It had a permanent staff of three. From 1947 to 1965 inclusive the USAF received over 10,000 unidentified flying object reports and were unable to explain some of these. In April, 1966 the US department of Defense awarded to the University of Colorado a contract for a full scientific study of reports of unidentified flying objects.

4. The main findings of this scientific study, which were made public early in 1969, and were endorsed by a Panel of the National Academy of Sciences are:

/a.

a. that about 90% of all UFO reports prove to be quite plausibly related to ordinary phenomena;

b. that little, if anything, had come from the study of UFOs in the past 21 years that added to scientific knowledge;

c. that further extensive study of UFO sightings is not justified in the expectation that science will be advanced thereby;

d. no evidence came to light in the study that UFO sightings may represent a defence hazard;

e. the Department of Defense should continue to handle UFO reports in its normal surveillance operations without the need for special units such as Project Blue Book.

5. On 17th December, 1969 the Department of Defense announced the termination of Project Blue Book.

6. It is not clear how USAF and DOD will deal with reports they will undoubtedly receive in the future. The US Embassy has suggested that as a general rule reports would be dealt with in a very low key at the US base which received the report and any replies to the public would be given by that base. Exceptionally, e.g. if there was Congressional interest, the Department of Defense would answer. The Assistant Air Attache has offered to clarify the position with the Department of Defense and a reply is expected in due course. However, the answer to this question is not considered to be a crucial factor in the MOD review.

USSR

7. In 1967 Russian newspapers and TV reported that a Commission under a Major General had been set up to investigate UFOs. The Scientific Attache at the British Embassy in Moscow was subsequently told that there was insufficient material flowing in to the Commission to sustain it and it was disbanded after meeting twice. The Scientific Attache felt that the initial announcement was due to an oversight by the censor and that the Commission would continue to function

/under



~~SECRET~~
111

NOTES ON SUPPLEMENTARIES

Further investigation?

Unexplained reports contained nothing to suggest that the incidents were different in kind from those which had been identified. Manpower required to make further investigation (e.g. by interrogation of observers) is beyond present resources of the MOD and expenditure of public funds would not be justified in pursuing such will-o-the-wisps.

Defence threat?

No evidence found as yet to suggest UFOs represent any defence threat to the United Kingdom.

Unexplained UFO reports in 1971?

Analysis of the reports received in MOD in 1971 has not yet been completed.

Release of reports to outside agencies

Correspondence between MOD and members of public treated as confidential. Could not be released without observer's permission or editing to preserve anonymity. Also scrutiny would be necessary to ensure that no classified information was inadvertently disclosed. UFO records closed to public scrutiny until available in accordance with Public Record Acts at end of 30 years.



Release to scientific organisations

A request by a major scientific organisation of high standing with strong reasons for obtaining access to reports would be considered on its merits.

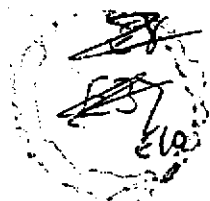
Destruction of reports pre-1962?

Not the practice of the Ministry of Defence to destroy important papers. Had any reports received before 1962 contained evidence which had any implications for the defence of the United Kingdom they would have been retained.

International effort to seek explanation of UFOs?

Our experience in the field of UFO investigation would not justify the UK in taking the initiative in such a project. Any proposal put forward by an international organisation such as the UN would be considered on its merits.

16704



REVIEW
OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO REPORT ON UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS
BY A
PANEL OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

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Review
of the
University of Colorado Report on Unidentified Flying Objects
by a
Panel of the National Academy of Sciences

The Panel was appointed in the latter part of October and early November 1968. The charge to the Panel was "to provide an independent assessment of the scope, methodology, and findings of the (University of Colorado) study as reflected in the (University's) Report." While the Panel largely restricted its review to this charge, it was thought both appropriate and necessary that the Panel become familiar with various scientific points of view as presented in other publications and reports by technically trained persons.

It was not the task of the Panel to conduct its own study of UFOs or to invite advocates, scientifically trained or not, of various points of view to hearings. The task was to study the University's Report and to assess: First, its scope; namely, did the Report, in the opinion of the Panel, cover those topics that a scientific study of UFO phenomena should have embraced? Second, its methodology; namely, did the Report, in the opinion of the Panel, reveal an acceptable scientific methodology and approach to the subject? Third, its findings; namely, were the conclusions and interpretations warranted by the evidence and analyses as presented in the Report and were they reasonable?

In the course of its review the Panel consulted papers on the same subject by technically trained persons (for example, William Markowitz, "The Physics and Metaphysics of Unidentified Flying Objects," Science, 157 (1967), pp. 1274-79. James E. McDonald, "Science, Technology, and UFOs," presented January 26, 1968, at a General Seminar of the United Aircraft Research Laboratories, East Hartford, Connecticut. James E. McDonald, "UFOs - An International Scientific Problem," presented March 12, 1968, at the Canadian Aeronautics and Space Institute Astronautics Symposium, Montreal, Canada. James E. McDonald, "Statement on International Scientific Aspects of the Problems of Unidentified Flying Objects," sent to the United Nations on June 7, 1967. Donald H. Menzel, Flying Saucers, Harvard University Press (Cambridge, 1952). Donald H. Menzel and Lyle C. Boyd, The World of Flying Saucers, Doubleday (New York, 1963). Report of Meetings of Scientific Advisory Panel on Unidentified Flying Objects, January 14-18, 1953. Special Report of the USAF Scientific Advisory Board ad hoc Committee to Review Project "Blue Book", March, 1966. Symposium on Unidentified Flying Objects, Hearings before the Committee on Science and Astronautics, U.S. House of Representatives, Ninetieth Congress, Second Session, July 29, 1968).

The Panel began its review immediately after the Report became available on November 15, 1968, by an initial reading of the Report by each member of the Panel during a two-week period. The Panel convened on December 2 for a discussion of members' initial assessments, for consideration of the Panel's charge (scope, methodology, and findings in the Report), and for delineation of further steps in its review. The latter included the study of other documents presenting views and findings of technically trained persons (e.g., the documents cited above), further examination of the Report's summary and findings, and further directed study of specialized chapters of the Report by appropriate members of the Panel. Extensive discussion, both by correspondence and by telephone, occurred during this period. The Panel met again on January 6, 1969, to conclude its deliberations and to prepare its findings, which are presented below.

I. SCOPE

The study by the University of Colorado commenced in October 1966 and continued for about two years. Case studies of 59 reports of UFOs are presented in detail, with 68 plates; of these, ten reports predated the project, but were so well documented that they were included. A chapter is devoted to UFOs in history, one to UFO study programs in foreign countries, and one to UFOs reported in the 20 years preceding the study. Ten chapters are devoted to perceptual problems, processes of perception and reporting, psychological aspects of UFO reports, optics, radar, sonic boom, atmospheric electricity and plasma interpretations, balloons, instrumentation for UFO searches, and statistical analyses. (Twenty-four appendixes add detailed technical background to the study. Volume 4 concludes with an index of 27 pages.)

In our opinion the scope of the study was adequate to its purpose: a scientific study of UFO phenomena.

II. METHODOLOGY

As a rule, field trips were made to investigate UFO reports only if they were less than a year old. The Report states that nearly all UFO sightings are of short duration, seldom lasting an hour and usually for a few minutes. Thus most investigations consisted of interviews with persons who made reports. Three teams, usually consisting of two persons each (a physical scientist and a psychologist), were employed in field investigations where telephonic communication with UFO-sighting individuals gave hope of gaining added information. The aim was to get a team to the site

as quickly as possible after a reported sighting. (It was found that nearly all cases could be classified in such categories as pranks, hoaxes, naive interpretations, and various types of misinterpretations. A few events, which did not fit these categories, are left unexplained.)

Materials and conditions amenable to laboratory approaches were investigated -- e.g., alleged UFO parts by chemical analysis, automobile ignition failure by simulation studies, and UFO photography by photogrammetric analyses. (Of 35 photographic cases investigated, nine are said to give evidence of probable fabrication, seven are classified as natural or man-made phenomena, twelve provided insufficient data for analysis, and seven were considered to be possible fabrications; none proved to be "real objects with high strangeness.")

Technically trained personnel were utilized by the University. The University group included a sub-group on field investigations of UFO reports; their narration and interpretations of cases are reasonable and adequate. Leading groups were engaged under contract for specialized work -- e.g., Stanford Research Institute on radar anomalies and a subsidiary of the Raytheon Corporation for photogrammetric analyses. Divergent views of those few scientists who have looked into UFOs were taken into account. The history of the subject was also surveyed, including the experiences in some other nations. Finally, extensive use was made of many specialists in various public and private laboratories.

The Report makes clear that with the best means at our disposal positive correlation of all UFO reports with identifiable, known phenomena is not possible. No study, past, current or future, can provide the basis for stating categorically that a familiar phenomenon will necessarily be linkable to every sighting. The Report is free of dogmatism on this matter. It is also clear, as one goes through the descriptions of UFO sightings, whether in the Report or in other literature, that while some incidents have no positive identification with familiar phenomena, they also have no positive identification with extraterrestrial visitors or artifacts.

We think the methodology and approach were well chosen, in accordance with accepted standards of scientific investigation.

III. FINDINGS

The study concludes (a) that about 90 percent of all UFO reports prove to be quite plausibly related to ordinary phenomena, (b) that little if anything has come from the study of UFOs in the past 21 years that has added to scientific knowledge, and (c) that further extensive study of UFO sightings is not justified in the

expectation that science will be advanced thereby. At the same time it is emphasized in the Report that (c) is an opinion based on evidence now available.

The Report's findings and evaluations -- essentially eight in number, presented in its first section -- are concerned with official secrecy on UFOs, UFOs as a possible defense hazard, the future governmental handling of UFO-sighting reports, and five of them relate to the question of what if any further investigations of UFOs appear warranted in the light of the study. We paraphrase and summarize these findings and evaluations below, appending our comments.

1. On secrecy. Is the subject "shrouded in official secrecy"? The study found no basis for this contention.

We accept this finding of the study.

2. On defense. (a) Is there evidence that UFO sightings may represent a defense hazard? No such evidence came to light in the study. This, however, was not an objective of the study and was properly construed as a Department of Defense matter. (b) The Report states: "...The history of the past 21 years has repeatedly led Air Force officers to the conclusion that none of the things seen, or thought to have been seen, which pass by the name of UFO reports, constituted any hazard or threat to national security."

We concur with the position described in (a). As to (b), we found no evidence in the Report or other literature to contradict the quoted statement.

3. On future UFO sightings. "The question remains as to anything, the federal government should do about the UFO reports it receives from the general public?" The Report found no basis for activity related to such sighting reports "in the expectation that they are going to contribute to the advance of science," but the Department of Defense should handle these in its normal surveillance operations without need for such special units as Project Blue Book.

We concur in this recommendation.

4-8. On further investigations. (4) Should the federal government "set up a major new agency, as some have suggested, for the scientific study of UFOs"? The study found no basis for recommendation of this kind. (5) Would further extensive study of UFO sightings contribute to science? "Our general conclusion is that nothing has come from the study of UFOs in the past 21 years that has added to scientific knowledge." The Report then notes that specific research topics may warrant consideration: (6) "there are important areas of atmospheric optics, including radio wave propagation, and of atmospheric electricity in which present knowledge is quite incomplete. These topics came to our

attention in connection with the interpretation of some UFO reports, but they are also of fundamental scientific interest, and they are relevant to practical problems related to the improvement of safety of military and civilian flying. Research efforts are being carried out in these areas by the Department of Defense, the Environmental Science Services Administration, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and by universities and nonprofit research organizations such as the National Center for Atmospheric Research, whose work is sponsored by the National Science Foundation."

The Report also observes (7) that UFO reports and beliefs are also of interest to "the social scientist and the communications specialist." In these areas particularly -- i.e., (6) and (7) -- the study suggests (8) that "scientists with adequate training and credentials who do come up with a clearly defined, specific proposal" should be supported, implying that normal competitive procedures and assessments of proposals should be followed here as is customary.

We concur with these evaluations and recommendations.

IV. PANEL CONCLUSION

The range of topics in the Report is extensive and its various chapters, dealing with many aspects of the subject, should prove of value to scholars in many fields. Its analyses and findings are pertinent and useful in any future assessment of activity in this field. We concur in the recommendation suggesting that no high priority in UFO investigations is warranted by data of the past two decades.

We are unanimous in the opinion that this has been a very creditable effort to apply objectively the relevant techniques of science to the solution of the UFO problem. The Report recognizes that there remain UFO sightings that are not easily explained. The Report does suggest, however, so many reasonable and possible directions in which an explanation may eventually be found, that there seems to be no reason to attribute them to an extraterrestrial source without evidence that is much more convincing. The Report also shows how difficult it is to apply scientific methods to the occasional transient sightings with any chance of success. While further study of particular aspects of the topic (e.g., atmospheric phenomena) may be useful, a study of UFOs in general is not a promising way to expand scientific understanding of the phenomena. On the basis of present knowledge the least likely explanation of UFOs is the hypothesis of extraterrestrial visitations by intelligent beings.

-- Gerald M. Clemence, chairman; H. R. Cranc, David M. Dennison, Wallace O. Fenn, H. Keffer Hartline, E. R. Hilgard, Mark Kac, Francis W. Reichelderfer, William W. Rubey, C. D. Shane, Oswald G. Villard, Jr.

Attachments:

- List of Panel Members
- Letter of Transmittal

MEMBERS OF THE REVIEW PANEL

Gerald M. Clemence, Chairman
Yale University

H. R. Crane
University of Michigan

David M. Dennison
University of Michigan

Wallace O. Fenn
University of Rochester

H. Keffer Harcline
The Rockefeller University

E. R. Hilgard
Stanford University

Mark Kac
The Rockefeller University

Francis W. Reichelderfer
Washington, D.C.

William W. Rubey
University of California
at Los Angeles

C. D. Shane
Santa Cruz, California

Oswald G. Villard, Jr.
Stanford University

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
2101 CONSTITUTION AVENUE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20418

January 8, 1969

The Honorable Alexander H. Flax
Assistant Secretary of the Air Force
Washington, D. C. 20330

Dear Dr. Flax:

Following your request of October 29, 1968, the Academy appointed a panel of its members to review the report of the University of Colorado study group on Unidentified Flying Objects.

As you know, a final draft of this report was made available to the panel on November 15, 1968. Under the chairmanship of Dr. Gerald Clemence the panel has devoted substantial time and effort to a careful review of the scope, methodology and findings of the Colorado study group and has prepared and unanimously approved the attached report, which I am pleased to transmit on behalf of the panel.

The Academy accepted this task because of its belief in the importance of making available to the government and the public a careful assessment of the scientific significance of UFO phenomena which have been variously interpreted both in this country and abroad.

Substantial questions have been raised as to the adequacy of our research and investigation programs to explain or to determine the nature of these sometimes puzzling reports of observed phenomena. It is my hope that the Colorado report, together with our panel review, will be helpful to you and other responsible officials in determining the nature and scope of any continuing research effort in this area.

The Honorable Alexander H. Flax
January 8, 1969
Page Two

Finally, may I add that the report of the reviewing panel was prepared and is being made available for the sole purpose of assisting the government in reaching a decision on its future course of action. Its use in whole or part for any other purpose would be incompatible with the purpose of the review and the conditions under which it was conducted.

Sincerely yours,


Frederick Scitz
President

Attachment---

Loose Minute

AHB(RAF)/351

S4f (Air)

ES ref.

169

BBC - RADIO OXFORD PROGRAMME

1. I can find nothing on the AHB(RAF) index to refer to the incident of the disappearance of men of the Norfolk Regiment in August 1915. This is hardly surprising since the matter is essentially one for the Army and not likely to be cross-referred to UFOs or any other aerial activity.
2. However, [REDACTED] has gone to considerable trouble to consult Army records including the personal file of Lt Col Sir Horace George Proctor Beauchamp, Bart, CB who was commanding the 5th Battalion The Norfolk Regiment on the fateful day of their disappearance.
3. Attached is an extract from the History of the Norfolk Regiment, 1685 - 1918, Vol II by F. Loraine Petre, Jarrold and Son. You will note that the place was SUVLA not as spelled in the BBC letter and the battalion concerned was the 1/5 Norfolks and not the 1/4 as stated in the BBC questionnaire.
4. OS8(AD) at Hayes think that a court of enquiry was probably convened on the loss of so many officers and men in one action but suggest that the BBC should do their own research on this subject. The papers would be under Class WO32 in the Public Record Office, Chancery Lane.

E.B. Haslam

3 Mar 72

E.B. HASLAM
Head of AHB(RAF).

and the 10th division on the left, and dig in for the night. Picks and shovels were issued before moving off.

Colonel Sir H. Beauchamp, commanding the 1/5th Norfolk, had been placed in local command of the brigade in the trenches occupied on the 11th and the early part of the 12th. The 1/4th Norfolk, who had been left on the beach to unload stores after the landing on the 10th, were presently moved up into the support trenches of the brigade, the front line of which, counting from right to left, consisted of the 5th Norfolk, 8th Hants, and 1/5th Suffolk Regiments. On the left of the 54th division was the 10th, the orders of the former being to link the latter up with the 53rd division, whose right flank rested on the Salt Lake and Azmak River. For this purpose the troops available were insufficient, with a front of only three battalions, and the same number in second line.

The advance on August 12th did not commence till 4.45 p.m., the naval bombardment covering it having started at 4 p.m. The order of the three leading battalions was as given above, the 4th Norfolk following in support behind the 5th Suffolk on the left. Directly the advance began the 1/5th Norfolk received an order to change direction half right, which they did. This order did not reach the 1/8th Hants, and consequently a gap was formed between the battalions, which continually increased as the advance proceeded.

As the brigade advanced it at once encountered serious resistance, and came under heavy machine-gun fire enfilading it from the left, and shrapnel on the right. The machine-gun fire was the more effective in stopping the British advance, and the 5th Norfolk battalion on the right began to get forward quicker than the left. Touch had been partially lost in the close country, and companies and battalions were much mixed up. What happened with the 5th Norfolk battalion is thus described in Sir Ian Hamilton's despatch of December 11, 1915, describing what he calls "a very mysterious thing."

"The 1/5th Norfolk were on the right of the line and found themselves for a moment less strongly opposed than the rest of the brigade. Against the yielding forces of the enemy Colonel Sir H.

Beauchamp, a bold, self-confident officer, eagerly pressed forward, followed by the best part of the battalion. The fighting grew hotter, and the ground became more wooded and broken. At this stage many men were wounded, or grew exhausted with thirst. These found their way back to camp during the night. But the Colonel, with sixteen officers and 250 men, still kept pushing on, driving the enemy before them. . . . Nothing more was ever seen or heard of any of them. They charged into the forest and were lost to sight or sound. Not one of them ever came back."¹

It was not till four years later that any trace was discovered of the fate of this body. Writing on September 23, 1919, the officer commanding the Graves Registration Unit in Gallipoli says :

" We have found the 5th Norfolks—there were 180 in all ; 122 Norfolk and a few Hants and Suffolks with 2/4th Cheshires. We could only identify two—Privates Barnaby and Cotter. They were scattered over an area of about one square mile, at a distance of at least 800 yards behind the Turkish front line. Many of them had evidently been killed in a farm, as a local Turk, who owns the place, told us that when he came back he found the farm covered with the decomposing bodies of British soldiers which he threw into a small ravine. The whole thing quite bears out the original theory that they did not go very far on, but got mopped up one by one, all except the ones who got into the farm."

The total casualties of the 5th Norfolk battalion are stated in their War Diary to have been twenty-two officers and about 350 men. The officers missing were—Colonel Sir Horace Proctor Beauchamp, C.B. ; Captain and Adjutant A. E. Ward ; Captains E. R. Cubitt, F. R. Beck (the King's estate agent commanding the Sandringham company), Patrick, Mason, A. C. Coxon, Woodwark ; Lieutenants E. A. Beck, Gay, V. M. Cubitt, T. Oliphant ; 2nd Lieutenants Burroughs, Proctor,

¹ Sir Horace Beauchamp, Bart., C.B., had served in the Sudan, Suakim, and South African Campaigns, retired in 1904, and returned to serve in the war in 1914.

Be. Lamp, Adams, Fawkes.¹ Major Purdy and 2nd Lieutenants M. Oliphant and A.R. Pelly were wounded but not missing.

The brigade had made some advance in face of very strong opposition, but was far from complete success. During the night the position gained was held in an irregular line, with three and a half battalions and two companies of the I/4th Norfolk on a spur.

¹Captain Coxon and 2nd Lieutenant Fawkes were both wounded and taken prisoners by the Turks. They were in captivity in Asia Minor till after the Armistice. The rest of the missing were all apparently killed.

(E7)

LOOSE MINUTE

Ref: D155/40/9/1

S4f (Air)

Attn: Miss G J Jamieson

UFOs - BBC RADIO PROGRAMME

Ref: S4f(Air)/422 dated 14 February 1972

1. You asked us for any information we might have relevant to Question 5 of Annex to the above reference. I regret that we cannot help here except to say that a number of meteorological balloons were released in Antarctic regions during the IGY. 57 stations were involved, spread around the Antarctic coastline and adjacent islands. Balloons were of various shapes, and released daily in blocks of ten days, from each of the stations. However, in the absence of individual correlations it cannot be said that the balloons were in fact the "UFOs" which were reported.

2. Mr Ling has suggested that Mr Davies might find an article called "UFO" of interest. This was written by a Leslie Peftier and published in a book called "The Coming of the Space Age". Mr Ling has a copy. A further point brought to my notice and which may be of use is in "Contact" 1971, page 32. The UFO statistics for 1970 are broken down according to occupation of observers. Of 570 "witnesses", 447 were school children, 51 were housewives and 18 were policemen. There were 49 other occupations, none of them providing more than 8 witnesses. I am sure that this breakdown tells its own story, but I am not sure how best to get it across in a BBC programme.

29 Feb 72


J WALTON

D 155b

Rm 4/24 Ext 5230

Mteropole Building

156
7 SE MINUTE

S4f(Air)/421

DI55(b) (Dr Walton)

UFOs - BBC RADIO OXFORD PROGRAMME

1. The Department has been approached in connection with a programme being prepared by BBC Radio Oxford which will "provide an objective view of aerial phenomena and the research undertaken into the subject", for which the participation of a MOD representative in a recorded interview has been requested. DUS(Air) has agreed that Mr Davis S4(Air) should take part.
2. The BBC has forwarded the attached list of questions on which the interview would be based. Will you please advise us whether you have any information in connection with the subject of Question 5 which could be used in the broadcast. Any assistance you can give with regard to any of the other questions would also be appreciated. AHB has been asked if they can throw any light on the subject of Question 8.
3. The BBC have also forwarded the enclosed Contact (UK) publications. Can you say whether these contain any items of which Mr Davis should be particularly aware.
4. Mr Davis will be out of the office from 14 February until 6 March. A provisional BBC studio booking has been, however, made for 9 March and I should be grateful, therefore, if any information you can let us have could be forwarded before 6 March.

14 February 1972

[REDACTED]
S4f(Air)

[REDACTED]
Main Building

LOOSE MINUTE

S4f(Air)/421

Head of AHB

UFOs - BBC RADIO OXFORD PROGRAMME

1. The Department has been approached in connection with a programme being prepared by BBC Radio Oxford, about unidentified flying objects, for which the participation of a MOD representative in a recorded interview has been requested. DUS(Air) has agreed that Mr Davis, S4(Air), should take part.
2. The BBC has forwarded the attached list of questions on which the interview would be based. Can you please advise us whether your branch holds any records which might assist us with Question 8.
3. A provisional BBC studio booking has been made for 9 March and I should therefore be grateful if any information which you may be able to let us have could be forwarded before 6 March.

14 February 1972

MISS G J JAMIESON
S4(Air)
Rm 8235 Ext 7035
Main Building

UNCLASSIFIED

~~RESTRICTED~~
Spoke DUS (Air)

shows booking
provisionally
for 7.30 pm
9 March

Mr. Davis.

who agreed that I
should take part.

hd 9/2/72

Ed
[64]

Reference attached. I have spoken to
Mr. Lohan, PR3, who told me that
BBC Radio Oxford telephoned him in
connection with their proposed programme about
UFOs & seeking the Dept's co-operation. He
said we were told to put their request in
writing & the attached letter is the result.
According to Mr. Lohan, nothing has been
agreed with BBC about possible participation.

PR3 have not approached DUS (air)
for his approval. They thought that the request
was so similar to that made by BBC 2
"Man alive" that DUS agreement would not

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~~RESTRICTED~~
UNCLASSIFIED

be necessary, the radio programme being local anyway & would thus not get wide publicity. M.L. did not realize that the "man alive" people had got onto the idea through the publicity created at Banbury. I indicated to PK3 that DUS might feel that no assistance to the BBC had gone far enough & M. Lohan suggested you might like to clear this application with DUS if you feel the Department should participate in this radio programme - the recording would be at the Radio Oxford studios.

I will defer my action on providing answers to the BBC questions until you decide whether we should co-operate in the programme.

~~RESTRICTED~~
UNCLASSIFIED

lgj
27/11

MOD 1

MEMORANDUM

To *S. d (AIR)*From *PR3(RTF)*Ref. *D/8PR305/1/22* Date *96/1/72*Tel. Main *866* Ext. *6209*Subject *UFO's*

*Please see the attached copy of
a letter and a list of questions we
have received from Radio Oxford.*

*May we have your views
and/or guidance please?*

Rank/
Appointment *1.0*Name in
block letters*R.S. LAPPIN*

Signature

R. S. Lappin

Complete this form in manuscript unless there are special reasons for typing.

[REDACTED]

⑥

RO/UFO/1/ SG

Mr Tim Downs
PR3 RAF
Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London SW1

$$16.42$$

besti doc
Σ 165

Dear Mr Downes,

Further to my recent telephone conversation with Keith Lohan, I write concerning the programme I am preparing for BBC Radio Oxford, which will provide an objective view of serial phenomena and the research undertaken into the subject.

The inclusion of the A.C.D. attitude to, and involvement with WFO reports is considered to be most important in order to maintain a factual and balanced programme. In respect of this I understand that you would be able to arrange for a recorded interview on the subject to be given by a senior spokesman. Therefore, as suggested by Mr Lohen, I am enclosing a list of questions for prior consideration by the Ministry. Any additional information or comment which you consider relevant or of interest would of course be most welcome.

With reference to question no. 12, the 'Mrs X' referred to is [REDACTED] For the purpose of the programme we are respecting the wishes of the lady concerned that her name should not be broadcast.

Can you please advise me if it is possible for the spokesman to visit NBC Radio Oxford studios for the recording of the interview and how long he would be prepared to answer the questions. The programme is expected to go into final production next month.

Thank you most sincerely for your kind attention and cooperation.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
D.P.R.

1. How and by whom are reports of UFO sightings received, processed and analysed?
2. With reference to reports analysed during the past 12 years, how would you account for the 139 cases which the H.O.D. say remain unexplained?
3. Is there any material evidence in the possession of any British or foreign organisation or government which could be construed as proof that our planet has been visited by extra-terrestrial beings or craft?
4. At what level is liason between Britain and other countries maintained in respect of study and investigation of UFO sighting reports and associated phenomena?
5. What conclusion has been drawn from the reports made by the Argentinian Navy and other witnesses that flying saucers were seen in the Antarctic during the International Geophysical Year of 1957?
6. Can you comment on the numerous reports of UFOs flying in close proximity to military and civil aircraft and earth launched space satellites?
7. What exactly was it that the RAF Wessex crew filmed flying high over Eastons in Oxfordshire on 26 October 1971?
8. Men of the 1/4 Norfolk Regiment were listed as missing, killed or captured during the First World War. Is it not true that 22 witnesses signed an affidavit testifying that the regiment disappeared en masse into what might have been a UFO at Salva, near Anzac Bay in August 1915? Was this fully investigated and what was the result?
9. Do you consider that the public and research on this subject primarily by such organisations as Contact (U.K.) and the National UFO Convention is of any importance? Could not more liaison and official encouragement and be extended to such organisations in an attempt to establish the truth behind aerial phenomena reports?
10. Apart from the study of reports received from the public, has the British Government ever sponsored any scientific research or other form of investigation of the UFO enigma? If not, is there any proposal to do so?
11. Just how seriously does the Ministry of Defence treat the UFO sighting reports which are received?
12. I have recently interviewed a 'Miss X' who purports to have seen a flying saucer emit certain symbols onto a cloud; an incident which she reported to you directly. In consequence, you replied that, after studying the report, which I have seen, insufficient information made it impossible for H.O.D. to draw any conclusions. Are you able to expand on this? Do you in fact believe her report?
13. Does the Ministry of Defence accept the probability that craft and beings which do not originate from our planet, or from our present time, do exist?
14. / over...

Di 55?

AHB

Sep 71

14. If the W.O.D. received undeniable evidence that alien beings or craft did exist and have been seen, would it not be true to say that the information would be kept secret for as long as possible, either for reasons of security or because you consider that such information could cause anxiety among members of the public?

**RESTRICTED OR
UNCLASSIFIED**

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

BRANCH FOLDER

NUMBER AF/S4f(Air) 4/506	<u>DIVISION/DIRECTORATE/BRANCH:</u>
DATE OPENED <u>5th October 1967</u>	<u>REGISTERED FILE NUMBER:</u>
<u>SUBJECT:</u> <i>Statistical Analysis of U. F. O's.</i>	

Referred to	Date
CLOSED No further action to be taken in this FILE PART Continued on: <u>DISY(AIR) 18/4</u> Last enclosure E	MOD CS(RM)1 - 8 JAN 1999 SECOND REVIEW 1998

NOTES

1. The contents of a Branch Folder should be restricted to copies of items on a Registered File, and minor internal branch items.
2. Branch Folders are for use only within the originating division directorate, or branch. They are not to be sent to other divisions or directorates. Their movements are NOT recorded by the Registry.



Date.

U.F.O Sightings by Air Pilots Etc from Aircraft

Jan - Dec. 1966.

4th. Dec. '66. 1st. Officer of GAOYL BEA Viscount en route London - Aberdeen, also seen by Faraby coast guard.

30th. Dec. '66. Sighting by Captain Comet Flight, Deol crew and Britannia Captain who was passenger in aircraft seated in aft. cabin. Flight BAHRAIN - NICOSIA

Jan - Dec. '67.

24th. March '67. Captain [REDACTED], Belfast Shyvan travelling at 150 KTS. at FL 100 to one side of airway on parallel course? - Preston.

18th. Sept. '67. Captain [REDACTED] - BEA Manchester - Aldergrange service East of Portaferry. - Silver rocket-like vehicle.

9th. July '67. Balloon reports all day - one thirty miles east of Dover
London Airways Supervisor - 3 Balloons over Belgium. (Aircraft reports)
no details of airmen reporting.

13th. July '67. Victor Aircraft. [REDACTED] King - Commanding Officer Home and Flying Officer [REDACTED] - Report to RAF. Warton.

25th. July '67. Panam Aircraft in Transit, sighted a satellite - Air Lingus Aircraft also reported seeing this.

10th. Sept. '67. Captain and four crew of DC6 Aircraft of Air Ferry 50 miles south of Pyrenees.

18th. Sept. '67. K.L.M. Royal Dutch Airline. Captain [REDACTED] pilot of KLM Flight 647 Amsterdam - New York. A white transparent object like big balloon

UFO STATISTICS - 1st JANUARY 1959 TO 31st DECEMBER 1968

Year	Satellites and Debris	Balloons	Celestial Objects	Meteprological and Natural Phenomena	Aircraft	Miscellaneous	Unexplained (Insufficient Information)	Total
1959 ...	1	3	1	7	4	2	4	22
1960 ...	-	8	2	7	10	1	3	31
1961 ...	16	11	8	20	9	5	2	71
1962 ...	11	6	5	8	9	4	3	46
1963 ...	18	6	4	4	10	7	2	51
1964 ...	43	3	6	-	10	7	5	74
1965 ...	27	3	3	2	7	-	14	56
1966 ...	38	10	5	5	17	15	5	95
1967 ...	57	42	26	19	150	22	46	362
1968 ...	65	10	36	3	114	30	22	280
Total ..	<u>276</u>	<u>102</u>	<u>96</u>	<u>75</u>	<u>340</u>	<u>93</u>	<u>106</u>	<u>1088</u>

Note: Miscellaneous reports include, for example, hoaxes, the reflection of lights on clouds, flares, fireworks, kites, lights on tall structures and photographic aberrations.

UFD REPORTS RECEIVED - 1st JAN - 31 DEC

	<u>1974</u>	<u>1975</u>	<u>1976</u>	<u>1977</u>
January	24	17	20	20
February	19	14	2	22
March	6	9	14	22
April	7	13	16	23
May	5	10	10	64
June	32	25	40	30
July	8	18	23	57
August	35	35	23	34
September	15	11	9	49
October	7	13	11	62
November	10	28	14	28
December	9	15	18	24
	<u>177</u>	<u>208</u>	<u>200</u>	<u>435</u>

UFO STATISTICS - 1st JANUARY 1959 to 31st DECEMBER 1972

Year	Satellites and Debris	Balloons	Celestial Objects	Meteorological and Natural Phenomena	Aircraft	Miscellaneous	Unexplained (Insufficient Information) % of total	Total
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1961	16	11	8	20	9	5	2 2.8	71
1962	11	6	5	8	9	4	3 6.5	46
1963	18	6	4	4	10	7	2 3.9	51
1964	43	3	6	-	10	7	5 6.9	74
1965	27	3	3	2	7	-	14 25.0	56
1966	38	10	5	5	17	15	5 5.3	95
1967	57	42	26	19	150	22	46 12.7	362
1968	65	10	36	3	114	30	22 7.9	280
1969	37	9	27	19	101	17	18 7.9	228
1970	9	8	31	16	97	5	15 8.2	181
1971	28	11	33	62	160	27	58 15.3	379
1972	7	28	17	2	128	5	14 7.0	201
Total	357	158	204	174	826	147	244 10.4	2077
1923	21	25	17	2	134	22	12 5.2	232
TOTAL	378	183	221	176	960	169	223 9.6	2310

NOTE: Miscellaneous reports include, for example, hoaxes, the reflection of lights on cloud, flares, fireworks, kites, lights on tall structures, photographic aberrations and bird flocks.

XXXXXXXXXX
01-930 7022 EXT 7035

File in UFO STATS
Folder 4506

S4f (Air)

AF/CX 38/67/S4f(Air)

29th July 1968

Dear [REDACTED]

You telephoned me a little while ago
about UFO statistics.

2. I enclose an analysis covering the period
1959 to 31st May 1968.

Yours faithfully,

(L. W. AZHURST)

[REDACTED]



From: Mr L. W. ARTHURST
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building, Whitehall, LONDON S.W.1
Telephone: ~~Whitehall 222222~~
01-930 7022

Our reference: AF/S4P(Air)/U506
Your reference:

13 November 1968

Dear [REDACTED]

You telephoned me the other day and I promised to let you have some UFO statistics. These I enclose.

Yours sincerely,

4
Ar

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

UFO STATISTICS - 1st JANUARY 1959 to 31st DECEMBER 1972

Year	Satellites and Debris	Balloons	Celestial Objects	Meteorological and Natural Phenomena	Aircraft	Miscellaneous	Unexplained (Insufficient Information) % of total	Total
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1972	7	28	17	2	128	5	14 7.0	201
Total	357	158	204	174	826	147	211 10.1	2077

NOTE: Miscellaneous reports include, for example, hoaxes, the reflection of lights on cloud, flares, fireworks, kites, lights on tall structures, photographic aberrations and bird flocks.

UFO STATISTICS - 1st JANUARY 1959 to 31st DECEMBER 1972

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Total	357	158	204	174	826	147	211 10.1	2077

NOTE: Miscellaneous reports include, for example, hoaxes, the reflection of lights on cloud, flares, fireworks, kites, lights on tall structures, photographic aberrations and bird flocks.

MON	SAT	B's	C.O.	MET	A/C	MISC	UNEX	%	TOTAL
JAN					13		1		14 ✓
FEB		1	1		8	1	1		12 ✓
MAR		2			7	3	1		13 ✓
APR		2			5	1	1		9 ✓
MAY	12	1	1		10	1	2		27 ✓
JUN	3	2	2		12	2			21 ✓
JUL	1	5	3	1	8	2	1		21 ✓
AUG	2	2	2		13	4			23 ✓
SEP	2	6	3	1	21	3	2		38 ✓
OCT	1	2	3 ✓		10	1 ✓	2		16
NOV		1	1		16	3			21 ✓
DEC		1	1		11	1	1		15 ✓
21	25	17	2	134	22	12	5 + 2		233 (1973)
357	158	204	174	826	147	211	10 + 1		2077 (Grand Tot. inc 1972)
378	183	221	176	960	169	223	9 + 6		2310 (Ditto. inc 1973)

UFO STATS - 1 JAN - 31 DEC 1973

UFO STATISTICS - 1st JANUARY 1959 to 31st DECEMBER 1972

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NOTE: Miscellaneous reports include, for example, hoaxes, the reflection of lights on cloud, flares, fireworks, kites, lights on tall structures, photographic aberrations and bird flocks.

Self +
Subject

	Sat + Debris	Balloons	Coldest Obj's.	Meteor Natural Phenomena	A/c	Misc	Unexp. Joints (Incl. in % of total)	TOTAL
JAN	3	-	2	-	6	-	2	15.5
FEB	0	-	5	1	12	1	3	13.6
MAR	1	1	5	-	14	2	4	8.0
APR	-	-	-	1	9	-	1	9.1
MAY	-	1	1	-	7	-	1	10.0
JUN	-	6	-	-	9	-	2	11.8
JUL	-	3	-	-	6	1	-	-
AUG	1	7	2	-	10	-	3	13.0
SEPT	-	5	1	-	12	1	-	-
OCT	-	1	1	-	10	-	-	-
NOV	1	3	-	-	21	-	-	-
DEC	1	1	-	-	12	-	-	-
TAL (1972)	7	28	17	2	128	5	14	7.0
not including 71 figures	350	130	187	172	698	142	197	10.5
not including 172 figures	357	158	204	174	826	147	211	10.1

of use of such containers. I am continuing to study this matter but am not yet in a position to make a further statement.

and policies of his Department at the instigation of the Standing G. on Public Purchasing and Industrial Efficiency.

TECHNOLOGY

Satellites

Sir R. Russell asked the Minister of Technology how many satellites or other objects of earthly origin are now permanently in orbit round the earth and the moon, respectively; and if he will publish a list of them in the OFFICIAL REPORT, stating which are still operational and which are discarded hardware.

Mr. Benn: On 24th July, 1,750 objects were in orbit round the earth. Of these 371 were satellites. On the same date six lunar probes were in orbit round the moon.

Of the 371 satellites, the numbers put into orbit by, or on behalf of, the various countries or organisations are as follows:

U.S.A.	...	...	...	...	291
U.S.S.R.	...	...	...	...	67
France	...	...	...	...	5
United Kingdom	...	...	...	...	2
Canada	...	...	...	...	3
E.S.R.O.	...	...	...	...	3

Of the six lunar probes, three were launched by the United States and three by U.S.S.R.

It is not possible to give all the details sought without a disproportionate effort.

Aircraft Noise

Mr. Onslow asked the Minister of Technology what has been the annual total of expenditure from public funds, during each of the past four years on measures designed to reduce aircraft noise; and what estimate he has formed of the corresponding expenditure by the aircraft manufacturing industry in the United Kingdom.

Mr. J. P. W. Mallalieu: In the year ending 31st March, 1966, expenditure was £283,000; in 1966-67 £395,000; in 1967-68 £484,000; and in 1968-69 £670,000. The industry spent about £1,100,000 over the same period.

Procurement

Mr. Marples asked the Minister of Technology what principal changes have been made in the procurement practices

Mr. Benn: The work of the group has been to co-ordinate and press forward the effort of the Department in implementing the policy described in the White Paper on Public Purchasing and Industrial Efficiency (Cmd. 3291). Measures taken by Mintech include action in following areas: encouragement of contractors to use modern management techniques such as value engineering; use of performance specifications to encourage innovation and economy in developing new equipment; standardisation and variety reduction of existing types of equipment; introduction of quality assurance schemes and technical advisory services to industry; and assistance to exports in the procurement of defence equipment.

Mr. Marples asked the Minister of Technology what plans he has for bringing non-civil servants with commercial experience of procurement on to the administrative staff on procurement function in his Department.

Mr. Benn: The subject of recruiting experienced people from outside the Service recommended by the Fulton Committee (Rec. 60) will be considered by all Government Departments when the main issues raised by that committee have been resolved. The Fulton Committee Management Consultancy Group investigated the Contracts Division in my Department and indicated that the quality of staff and the techniques they employ compare favourably with industry. This confirms our own extensive experience of procurement by commercial organisations. Although advantage will be taken of any general change in recruitment policies I have no evidence of a special problem which requires exceptional treatment.

Mr. Marples asked the Minister of Technology whether he will make available to suppliers and to the public in general the manuals of procurement instructions and regulations on procurement in view of the White Paper on Information and the Public Interest; and whether he will arrange for copies to be placed in the Library.

Frequency Distribution of Meteorite-Earth Collisions¹

DAVID E. FISHER AND MARY F. SWANSON

*Institute of Marine Sciences, University of Miami
Miami, Florida 33149*

We analyze the observed data on meteorite-earth collisions, on time scales of hours, days, and years, with particular reference to the problem of the influence of social factors on the observations. We conclude that the morning-afternoon anisotropy previously observed for chondrites must be reconsidered as a function of chondrite class and that it does not exist for bronzites and is of less magnitude and is more uncertain for hypersthones than had been thought. The summer-winter anisotropy previously observed is due entirely to social factors. The inclination to the plane of the ecliptic of meteoroid orbits is higher than is generally supposed.

INTRODUCTION

The determination of meteoritic orbits is an important line of evidence in considerations of meteorite origin. The frequency distribution of meteorite-earth impacts is one parameter that can be experimentally observed and that is available for use in orbital calculations. Such observations are, however, subject to large and ill-defined experimental errors introduced by uncontrollable social effects, which are, moreover, difficult to assess. An attempt at a quantitative evaluation of these complex social factors has been avoided by previous workers, but such an evaluation is necessary if conclusions about meteoritic orbits, founded on these data, are to be assigned reasonable limits of accuracy and some degree of validity.

In this paper we present some new data and thoughts on the frequency distribution of meteorite-earth collisions on time scales of hours, days, and years, with particular emphasis on the problem of social influences on the observations. First, we investigate the well-known morning-afternoon anisotropy of observed meteorite falls, in which we find evidence of significant social bias. Second, we review the data on meteorite falls as a function of days of the year, showing that the previously observed summer-winter anisotropy is due entirely to social factors and that the meteorite orbits are not coplanar with the ecliptic to a good approximation. Third, we review and bring up to date (1850-1965) the

data on meteorite falls per year and find no evidence of changes in yearly influx rates.

TIME OF DAY

Observations of meteoritic falls between local noon and midnight indicate a meteorite moving in the same direction as the earth and overtaking it. Meteorites observed falling between midnight and noon are either overtaken by the earth or are moving in a retrograde orbit. The recorded hours of fall show a pronounced morning-afternoon anisotropy: Twice as many chondrites have been seen falling during the afternoon hours 1200-1800 than during the comparable morning hours 0600-1200, although the achondrite time spectrum is evenly balanced around the noon hour. These observations have been used to determine a dominant direction of meteoritic arrivals, thus providing important but perhaps fallacious information on meteoritic orbits. Thus, Wood [1961] has shown that these observations are compatible with an asteroidal origin, but not a lunar origin, for the chondrites. Wetherill [1968] has taken the calculations further by Monte Carlo techniques and has shown that the observations are not compatible with either lunar or Apollo-asteroidal origins but require a presently unobserved source of objects of low inclination, with perihelia very near 1 AU and aphelia in the vicinity of Jupiter. The question we treat in this paper is whether this observed anisotropy actually corresponds to a real physical situation relating to relative meteorite-earth orbits, or whether social effects are the significant factors in these

¹ Contribution 958 from the Institute of Marine Sciences, University of Miami.

observations. There must be at least a strong a priori suspicion that the latter is the case since, as we show in the next section, social factors are entirely responsible for the previously noted [Heide, 1957; Mason, 1962; Brown, 1960] summer-winter anisotropy. The risk in accepting and working with astronomical data obtained from the general population has previously been well illustrated [Menzel and Boyd, 1963; Velikovsky, 1950].

We break the chondrite spectrum into bronzites, hypersthene, and others, since any positive information that we can glean from this study will be applicable to the study of meteoroid orbits and previous information (such as cosmic-ray ages) indicates the possibility of different origins and orbits for the different chondrite classes. For bronzites and hypersthene the number of observations is statistically significant. Next, we note that an obvious biasing social factor recognized by previous workers is the rarity of available observers in the night and early morning hours; we correct for this bias by following the convention of

limiting the discussion to the two daylight intervals, 0600-1200 versus 1200-1800. The data quoted by Wetherill [1968] show a ratio of afternoon to total falls of 0.66 for the chondrites as a whole. For the remainder of this paper the afternoon-to-total ratio will be indicated by A/T . Using the most recent compilation of meteoritic data [Hey, 1966], we count $(A/T)_c = 0.62$ for the bronzites and $(A/T)_h = 0.66$ for the hypersthene, with the other meteorite classes being dismissed for the present as having a statistically insignificant number of falls. The data are shown in Figure 1 and Table 1.

We now attempt to disentangle the social and astronomical factors. First, we note that in the original reports most time data are rounded off to the hour or half-hour, with occasional quarter-hour values. Very few reports claim to be more accurate. Further, it is obvious that in any data gathered from the general population there will be a certain error in time reporting. Thus a meteorite falling in the interval $X \pm \delta$ (where δ is probably of the order of 15 minutes) is listed in the records as X and is therefore

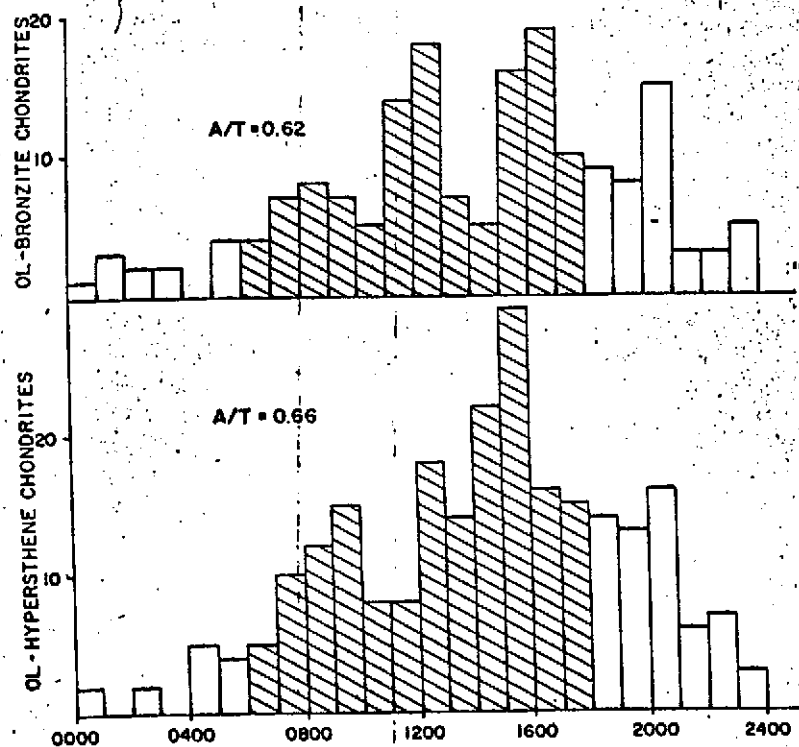


Fig. 1. Observed falls versus time of day for bronzites and hypersthene chondrites.

TABLE 1. Observed and Corrected A/T Values

A/T	Bronzites	Hypersthènes	Achondrites	Iron	Carbonaceous	Pigeonite	Enstatite	Stony-Iron	UFO
1. Observed	0.62	0.66	0.50	0.53	0.64	0.75	0.86	1.00	0.68
2. Corrected for δ effect	(75/120)	(114/172)	(18/36)	(8/15)	(9/14)	(6/8)	(6/7)	(4/4)	(83/137)
3. Average of 1 and 2	0.55	0.61							
4. 'Noise'	0.58	0.63							
	(44/81)	(80/126)							
'No noise'	0.54	0.63							
	(29/36)	(32/45)							
5. 'Noise' with δ correction	0.47	0.60							
	(30/76)	(88/113)							
'No noise' with δ correction	0.07	0.67							
	(28/43)	(38/57)							
6. 'Noise' average of 4 and 5	0.50	0.62							
'No noise,' average of 4 and 5	0.72	0.69							
7. 'Best estimate' (see text)	0.50	0.62							

counted in our compilation in the interval $(X)-(X+1)$. This has the (purely social) effect of transferring morning falls that occur in the interval 1200- δ to the afternoon interval 1200-1300, adding to the morning total the falls in the interval 0600- δ , and subtracting from the afternoon total the falls in the interval 1800- δ . We estimate the magnitude and direction of this effect by reworking the data into 0615-0715 intervals, etc. This system reverses the social effect (i.e., falls listed in the interval 1200-1215 are counted as morning falls), but does not affect the astronomical factors. As a result the A/T ratio for the bronzites is 0.55 and for the hypersthènes 0.61. It is clear that this very trivial social factor leads to large changes in the A/T anisotropy, strengthening the conviction that social effects are important factors in these data. It is not clear, however, how best to correct for this effect. We make a conservative correction by taking an average of the values before and after the ' δ ' recalculation, giving $(A/T)_s = 0.58$ and $(A/T)_n = 0.63$. These values are summarized in Table 1.

The important social factor under question is, however, whether or not people are more likely to see afternoon falls than morning falls. It is difficult to give even a qualitative answer to this question on anthropological or cultural grounds. Instead, we attack this problem by considering that such a social effect will be minimized by

meteoritic falls that are accompanied by excessive visual and audible phenomena, whereas it will be maximized by the falls that plop quietly and unobtrusively to the ground. Accordingly, we have retabulated the data, listing in Table 1 as 'noise' the falls for which statements are included in the records indicating that such phenomena as bolides and detonations were present and as 'no noise' the falls for which no such statement is recorded. Such a procedure should reflect somewhat quantitatively the degree of social influence. The data, also shown in Figure 2, show a definite tendency in both classes for the noisy fall distribution to be shifted toward isotropy. Conversely, it is the quiet falls that are most anisotropic. We conclude that there is a considerable social factor operating, which results in a greater probability for observation of a given fall if it occurs in the afternoon hours. Next, we retabulate the data as above to estimate the δ effect. (The results are shown in line 5 in Table 1.) Averaging out the δ effect, we arrive at a final best estimate of $(A/T)_s = 0.50$ and $(A/T)_n = 0.62$ for noisy falls. These latter values, we believe, are a best approximation to the true frequency distribution of meteorite-earth collisions on this time scale.

We conclude from these investigations that social factors are both complex and significant to these studies but that they are difficult to

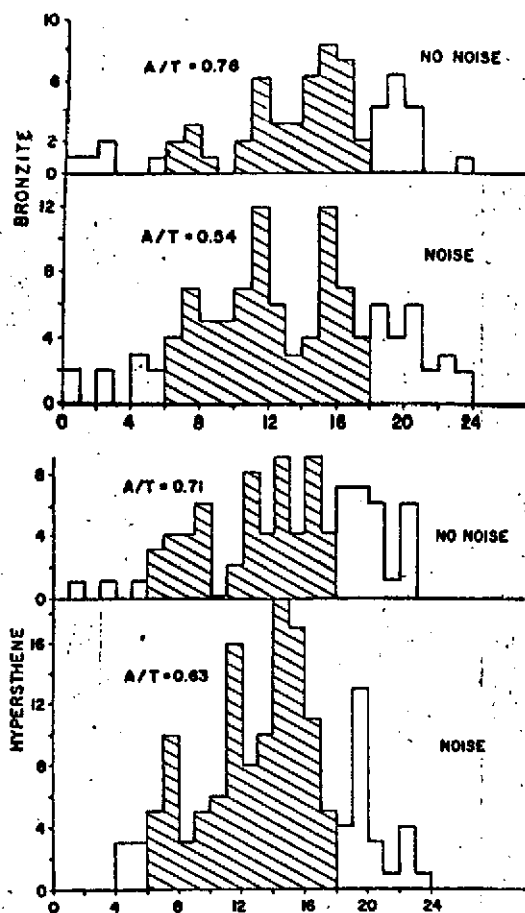


Fig. 2. Observed falls versus time of day, broken into 'noise' and 'no noise' categories for bronzites and hypersthene.

assess and almost impossible to evaluate quantitatively with the data available. Certainly, they markedly affect the observations, in a direction tending to overestimate any afternoon/total anisotropy. How satisfactorily our final best approximation corrects for these effects is an open question; but the direction of the necessary correction and an approximation of its magnitude is clear. The frequency distribution curve for the hypersthene maintains an anisotropy of 0.62 after these corrections; we believe that this probably indicates a true anisotropy somewhere in the range 0.55–0.66 (the lower end of this range being statistically insignificant from isotropy). The bronzite group exhibits an isotropic distribution in our best approximation; we believe that an assumption of anisotropy for

this group is not supported by our interpretation.

We offer next an independent line of investigation to bolster these conclusions. An experimental attack of the problem would be to conduct random displays of striking atmospheric disturbances over wide areas and to poll the public as to when these disturbance were observed. The true A/T would be controlled, and any deviation from the true value would be attributed to social factors. Such an experimental approach is clearly beyond the scope of this investigation, but an approximation to it has already been attempted. We refer to the reports of UFO sightings collected over the past few decades. The UFO phenomenon has not been resolved at this time, but it is clear that many of the reports refer to actual atmospheric phenomena of one type or another. First, we divide the data [Hall, 1954; Olsen, 1966] into two classes: hoaxes and lunacy, and true atmospheric phenomena of all kinds. In the first category we place all sightings that include accounts of people or things entering or leaving saucers, conversations with the occupants, and the voices of god; this category is dismissed from further consideration. In the second category we include all sightings due to such possibilities as reflection and refraction of light, aircraft, meteors, meteorites, smoke, clouds, planets, and BEMs. Regardless of what is the actual cause of these sightings, they represent unusual atmospheric phenomena that have drawn the attention of the general public and have been reported to the press or to local scientific institutions. In this sense they approximate meteorite sightings. In their time-of-day spectrum there are two main differences from meteorite sightings: there should be more UFO sightings at night, these being lights from helicopters or bright planets such as Venus, and there should be more UFO sighting at dawn and dusk, these being reflections from the low sun on the underside of clouds, bird's wings, etc. The difference in night sightings does not concern us, since we are comparing only daylight sightings. The dawn-dusk sightings will be discussed in detail below. Next, we remove from this category all sightings reported by pilots and air crews, since no meteorite has ever been recovered because of such a report and since sightings at altitude should not reflect the social factors

applicable to ground sightings. Radar reports are removed for the same reasons. The remainder of the sightings in this category should be analogous to meteorite sightings and should in effect constitute a good approximation to the experimental approach we first discussed. There is no physical reason obvious to us why these sightings should not be isotropic within the time interval under discussion; any social factor affecting the isotropy of sightings should be the same for these UFO sightings as for meteorite observations. The data are shown in Table 1 and Figure 3: An A/T anisotropy of 0.68 is observed.

There is a physically nonisotropic increase in UFO sightings at dusk, owing to the reflections mentioned above; this effect does not correspond to anything similar in meteorite observations. It should be balanced, however, by an increased number of dawn sightings, owing to the

same effect, but a dawn increase is not observed. This is clear evidence of a social effect: Many more people are available for dusk sightings of aerial phenomena than for dawn sightings, and this effect will apply to meteorite sightings as well as to UFOs. Further, if we correct the UFO A/T values for this sunset increase the corrected value is changed only to 0.63. Either of these values is so close to the A/T ratios observed for the chondrites that they seem to us to be substantial (if exotic) evidence that the meteorite anisotropy observed is due in large part to social factors.

These conclusions have, in our eyes, a debilitating effect on the strength of meteorite orbital calculations that assume as a starting point the observed A/T anisotropy as the true frequency distribution of meteorite-earth impacts for all chondrites. It would be interesting to see the effect on such calculations of A/T

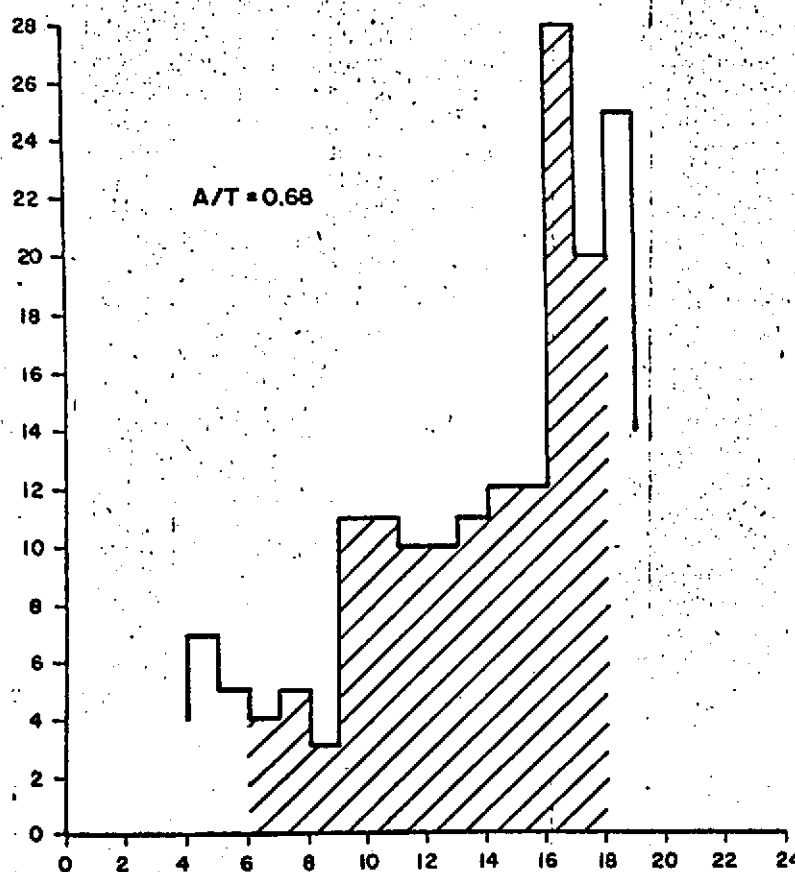


Fig. 3. Observed sightings versus time-of-day for UFO sightings.

values varying from 0.55 to 0.66 for the hypersthene and of an isotropic distribution for the bronzites.

Finally, we wish to reiterate the point made by *Heide* [1957] and *Urey* [1968] concerning a purely astronomical factor that also tends to increase the observed A/T anisotropy over the true value. Meteorites that fall in the afternoon are predominantly in direct orbits and overtake the earth; thus, they have a geocentric velocity equal to the difference between the earth's and the meteorite's heliocentric velocities. The meteorites that fall in the morning either are in direct orbits and are overtaken by the earth, or are in retrograde orbits. Thus, some meteorites falling in the morning hours have a geocentric velocity equal to the sum of these two components; the average geocentric velocity of the morning meteorites will tend to be greater than that of the afternoon meteorites, and they will have a greater tendency to burn up before reaching the surface of the earth. Therefore, the A/T values may be even lower than the estimate we finally accepted above. Of course, if we limit, a priori, our interest in possible meteoroid orbits to the ones that are direct, this last consideration does not apply. It is clear, however, that one should not apply any reasoning based on time-of-day observations to argue against retrograde orbits.

The other meteorite classes do not in any one case give a statistically significant number of falls, but the numbers are interesting. The achondrite and iron meteorites show no anisotropy, A/T being 18/36 and 8/15, respectively. The effect of the social factors noted above indicates that for these groups the true A/T might well be less than 0.5. The carbonaceous chondrites have an $A/T = 9/14 = 0.64$; the pigeonite chondrites have an $A/T = 6/8 = 0.75$; the enstatite chondrites have an $A/T = 6/7 = 0.86$; the stony-iron meteorites have an $A/T = 4/4 = 1.0$. The number of these falls are so small that we have not attempted to apply any social correction; nevertheless, there does seem to be at least a suspicion that the enstatites and stony-irons exhibit a definite anisotropy.

DAY OF YEAR

We plot in Figure 4 meteorite falls per day

of the year. Indicated on this figure are times of maxima of the known meteor showers. There is no correlation. In particular, there is no meaningful correlation with the Taurids, despite *Opik's* [1966] statement to the contrary, nor with the Geminids nor Comet Wilson-Harrington 1949 III [*Opik*, 1965]. We see no evidence for the existence of nonrandom events on this time scale, despite the earlier conclusions of *Brown and Goddard* [1964], which are not clear to us.

Next, we investigate the summer-winter anisotropy. In the three months May, June, July 170 falls have been observed, whereas in the months November, December, January only 108 falls have been observed, a summer-winter anisotropy of $178/108 = 1.6$. This result is statistically significant and has been taken as evidence that either (1) the earth annually meets a meteorite swarm at a point in its orbit corresponding to the summer months, or (2) the summer is more favorable than the winter for observing and recovering meteorites [*Heide*, 1957; *Brown*, 1960; *Mason*, 1962; *Krinov*, 1960]. We investigate the social factors involved here by breaking the data into two cases: falls observed between the equator and 35°N , and falls falling at latitudes greater than 35°N . There are insufficient falls recorded in the southern hemisphere to extend our tabulation to both halves of the sphere.

We find, for latitudes 0° - 35°N , 48 falls during these summer months versus 43 falls in the winter months, constituting a negligible anisotropy of 1.1. For latitudes greater than 35°N , on the other hand, we find 122 summer falls versus only 65 winter falls, a very definite anisotropy of 1.9. That is, the observed summer-winter anisotropy is due almost entirely to falls in the higher latitudes where winter is an 'indoor' season. Nearer the equator, where there is not such a large difference in the comfort to humans during the summer-winter seasons, the anisotropy tends to disappear. The fact that the anisotropy does not entirely disappear in the moderate latitudes is not disturbing, since in regions extending as far as 35°N there do begin to be seasonal differences.

J. Wood (private communication, 1968) has pointed out that there exists an astronomical factor that might tend to influence these data in much the same manner as our postulated

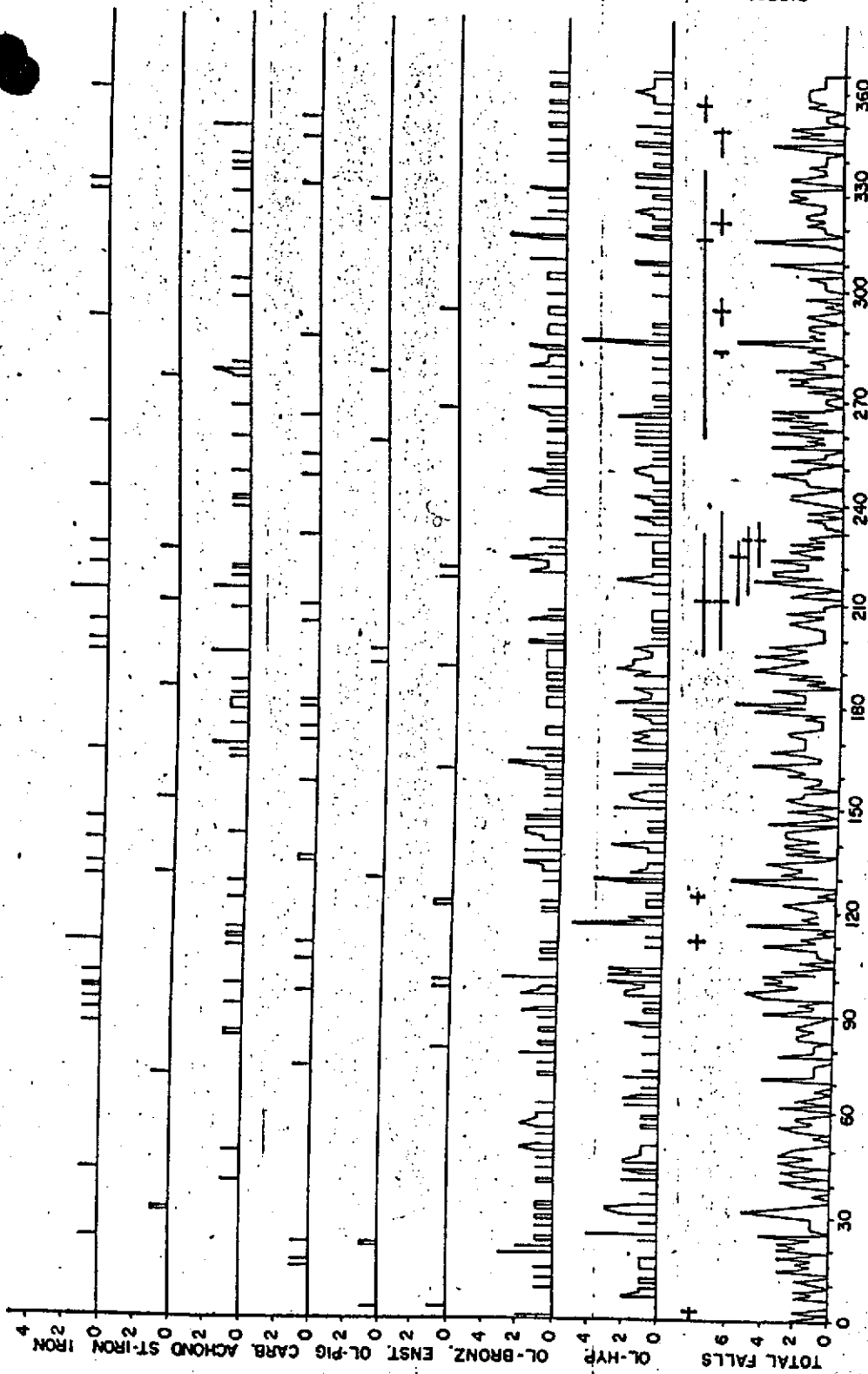


Fig. 4. Observed falls, all classes, versus day of year.

social effect. The axis of the earth is tilted to the plane of the ecliptic and precesses in such a manner that the northern hemisphere is tipped at a more favorable angle to the ecliptic in summer than in winter (for the important daylight hours). If meteorites have orbits that lie predominantly in the ecliptic (low inclinations), there will be a greater frequency of meteorite-earth collisions in the daylight hours in the northern hemisphere in the summer than in the winter, for the same reason that the northern days are warmer in the summer than in the winter. Since most observed falls occur in the daylight hours (Figure 1), this effect will increase the number of summer falls at the expense of the winter falls. Wood has further pointed out that, if the meteorites are in direct orbits (overtaking the earth), the date of maximum daylight falls will be displaced springward from midsummer's day. If the meteorites are not in direct orbits of low inclination, this effect will be negligible.

To disentangle the effects of this factor from the effects of the social factors, we note that this 'ecliptic' factor will produce a summer-winter anisotropy greater than unity for daylight falls; for night falls (1800-0600 hours) the effect will be exactly reversed: An area on the earth's surface that, at a given date presents the greatest solid angle to the ecliptic during the daytime, presents the least solid angle at night. We have therefore broken the summer-winter data into day (0600-1800) versus night (1800-0600) intervals. The data are shown in Table 2.

We see that the observed effect is in fact the reverse of that calculated on the basis of the ecliptic factor: For daylight falls in the northern latitudes the summer-winter anisotropy is 1.6, whereas for night falls in the northern latitudes the summer-winter anisotropy is 2.7. I.e., we have noted before that the reason for the high total summer-winter anisotropy is due to falls in the northern latitudes; we now note that this northern summer-winter anisotropy

is due mainly to night falls rather than to day falls. The ecliptic factor would produce a daylight northern summer-winter ratio of about 4 and a night ratio of about $\frac{1}{4}$ if the meteorite orbits were exactly in the plane of the ecliptic. This is not in accord with the observations. The social effect cannot be calculated so directly, but we would expect a night northern summer-winter anisotropy greater than a day since northern winter nights are so much more forbidding than the days and since in the summer part of the 'night' hours (1800-0600) are actually illuminated by daylight; this is in accord with the observations.

We conclude from these data that the observed summer-winter anisotropy previously noted is caused entirely by social factors. In particular, we find no evidence among these data for a swarm of meteorites crossing the earth's orbit at any particular point. Further, we point out that the ecliptic factor is not operative: Although it could account for the increased total anisotropy in northern latitudes, it absolutely fails to account for the fact that the night anisotropy in these latitudes is greatly increased over the day anisotropy (predicting in fact the opposite effect). An added bit of information on meteorite orbits comes out of this conclusion: If the meteorites were in orbits of low inclination, this ecliptic factor would have to show the postulated effect. Since it does not, we conclude that the meteorite orbits are in fact not of low inclination. This conclusion is in disagreement with assumptions generally made. It would be of interest to calculate quantitatively a lower limit to the angle of inclination to the ecliptic from these data, but care must then be taken to evaluate quantitatively the social factors in the data.

YEARLY FREQUENCY

Previous investigators [Krinov, 1960; Mason, 1962; Heide, 1957; Paneth, 1956] have noted a more-or-less continuous increase in yearly fall frequency from 1800 to 1940 and have sug-

TABLE 2. The Summer (May, June, July)/Winter (November, December, January) Anisotropy

Observed (Total)	0°-35° N (Total)	> 35° N (Total)	(> 35° N) 0600-1800	(> 35° N) 1800-0600
170/108 = 1.6	48/43 = 1.1	122/65 = 1.9	76/48 = 1.6	46/17 = 2.7

gested that this increase is due either to astronomical effects or to social factors, such as growing and spreading populations, improving communications systems, and increasing scientific interests. *Pancik* [1956] in fact concluded that the evidence actually indicated a decreasing frequency of meteorite falls during this interval, the observed increase being due entirely to these social factors. He came to this conclusion by normalizing the data to reported observances of ball lightning.

It has now been possible to continue the curve to include all falls through 1965 [*Hey*, 1966]. It is clear from Figure 5 that the observed fall frequency has undergone a definite decrease during the years 1940-1965. This decrease is difficult to interpret at first sight. In many countries the same social factors that tended to increase the number of earlier sightings have continued to increase and at an even accelerated rate during these years, but in other countries there has been a widespread change in population habits immediately fol-

lowing the war years. Not only has the fraction of people living in rural areas decreased, but also in many parts of the world the total population density has decreased in large rural tracts. The manner of agriculture has also changed: A man sitting on a horrendously noisy tractor is not so liable to observe a stone falling from the sky as is a man quietly hoeing a row, for whom the silence of the day is broken by the meteorite's arrival. To complicate things still further, *F. Whipple* (private communication, 1963) has pointed out the rapid increase in man-made sky noises during these years; where once any loud noise from the sky was a curiosity-inspiring event, now large populations have learned to either take these noises for granted or to run for their lives from them.

To unsnarl the social factors from these observations, we normalize the data in each 5-year interval to the number of finds reported in that same interval; in Figure 6 we present the number of falls per find reported for each interval. The reasoning behind this procedure is

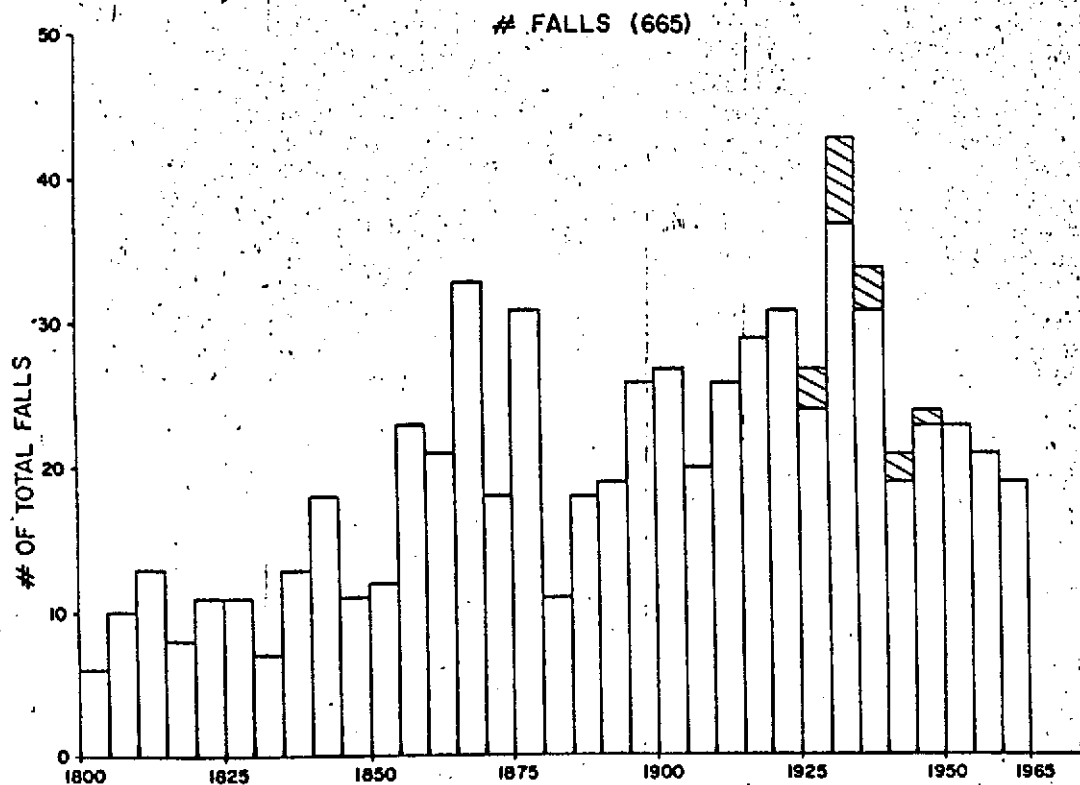


Fig. 5. Observed falls (total in all classes) versus year (crosshatching: reports attributed to Nininger's effect).

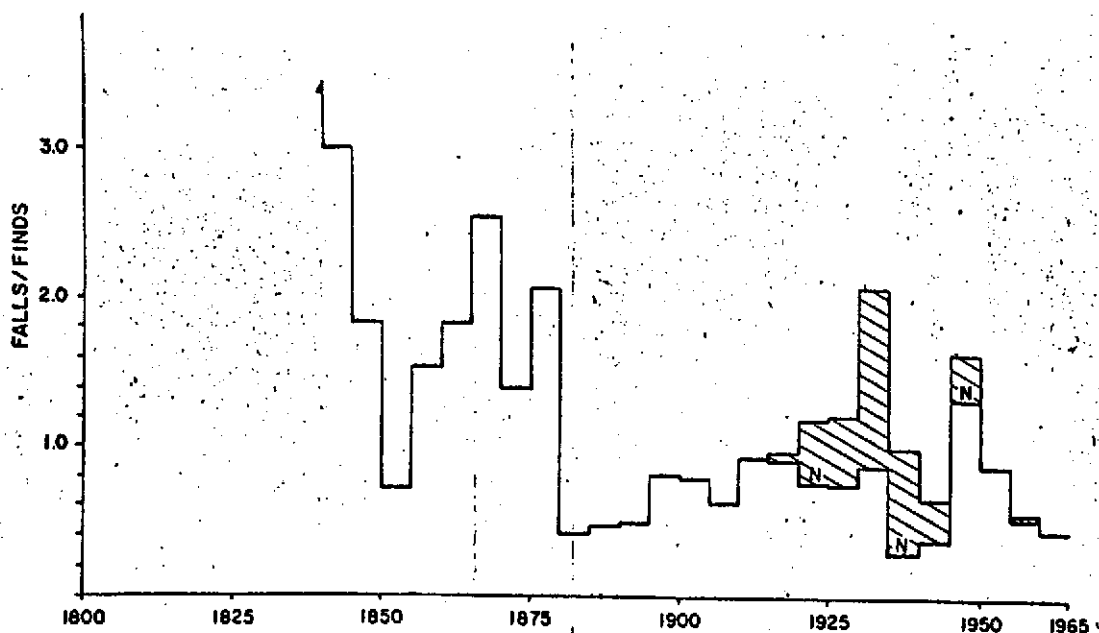


Fig. 6. Observed falls/finds versus year (crosshatching: corrected for Nininger effect).

that the number of finds reported during any given time is not a function of astronomical factors operative during that time (since the finds in question fell on the area many years previous to their discovery) but is a function of the social factors affecting the discovery and reporting of falls, e.g., social awareness, population density, scientific interest, and ease of communication. Of course, there are some factors that are not common to the discovery of both falls and finds, such as the rate of human-induced overturn of the surface layers of the earth by plowing and planting. We feel, however, that such a normalization does cancel out the most important social factors, with one notable exception, the exception being the 'Nininger' effect. During the years 1923-1948, H. H. Nininger conducted, throughout the mid-western section of this country, an intensive program of education and gospel concerning the importance and value of meteorites. The effect of his effort can be dramatically seen by considering the number of finds per year; there is a sudden and distinct rise starting about the mid-twenties and fading out only in the mid-forties, as people reported finds that they would normally have relegated to the mantel over the fireplace or to a dump. The increase in

falls observed because of this effect is again strong, but not quite so strong as the effect on finds, since increased awareness of meteorites and enthusiasm for their recovery can be applied in the case of finds to the accumulated debris of thousands and hundreds of thousands of years, whereas for falls the population is limited to the ones that actually fall in the area during that particular time interval. We have therefore corrected Figure 6 for the Nininger effect by subtracting both falls and finds reported in this area of the country in this time interval. Of course, this again overcorrects for the effect, since some such occurrences would have been reported in the absence of Nininger, but, if we look at the great increase in reports brought about because of his work, we can only conclude that the overcorrection is negligible. At any rate, both the corrected and the uncorrected data are shown in Figure 6.

The pattern that emerges by simply counting the numbers of observed falls (Figure 5) is a pattern of an increasing number of fall observations till about 1935, and then a tailing off. The pattern that emerges from our fall/find analysis (Figure 6) is rather a pattern of simple random variations owing to the statis-

small sample population (observations of about 10 falls and a roughly equal number of finds in the interval) with the data previous to 1850 being ignored because of their extreme paucity. The variation beyond the statistical observed in Figure 6 is so slight that we hesitate to ascribe it to nonrandom aspects of meteorite falls during these time intervals, because of the possibility of fluctuations in social factors incorrectly compensated for. The statistical fluctuations observed in these data do not, of course, imply such large variations in the true number of falls. If the average number of falls is about 500 per year [Brown, 1961], then quinquennial variations of only a few per cent are to be expected. These statistical fluctuations in the observations limit our analysis, so that we cannot make a precise statement concerning the possibility of a true decrease in meteorite falls since 1935, but there does not appear to be any evidence for such a decrease. In particular, if the two general peaks during the periods 1860-1880 and 1920-1950, for which there is an indication in Figures 5 and 6, were indicative of individual astronomical events that fed new meteorites into earth-crossing orbits, particular meteorite classes would be associated with each such event. We have investigated the yearly frequency as a function of meteorite class (data not shown) and find no such association.

CONCLUSIONS

The chondrite morning-afternoon anisotropy previously assumed must be reconsidered. We believe that no such anisotropy exists for the bronzites. The hypersthene may show some such effect, but it is smaller and much more uncertain than had been thought. Orbital calculations based on this effect seem to us to be of doubtful validity. Other meteoritic classes have statistically uninteresting numbers of falls available, although the enstatite chondrites and stony-irons, with few data available, seem to be clearest cases for the anisotropy.

The summer-winter anisotropy previously observed is an effect due to purely social causes.

The meteorite orbits do not lie close to the plane of the ecliptic.

There is no apparent correlation between meteorite falls and known maxima of meteoric showers.

Within the large limits of error of our analysis we see no evidence for a change beyond the statistical in yearly meteorite influx.

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lights on cloud

1

1
1
4

PILOT OR PLANE

1

HOAX

1

LIGHTS ON HIGH
BUILDING OR CRANE

1
1

RADAR

1
1

SMOKE

1

PYROTECH

1
1

SHIPPING

1
1

KITE

1
1

~~CHAND~~ LIGHTS

H. SLEE) GAS

1

19

1/44/6/20

UFO STATISTICS - 1ST JANUARY 1959 TO 30TH SEPTEMBER 1968

Year	Satellites and Debris	Balloons	Celestial Objects	Meteorological and Natural Phenomena	Aircraft	Miscellaneous	Unexplained (Insufficient Information)	Total
1959	1	3	1	7	4	2	4	22
1960	-	8	2	7	10	1	3	31
1961	16	11	8	20	9	5	2	71
1962	11	6	5	8	9	4	3	46
1963	18	6	4	4	10	7	2	51
1964	43	3	6	-	10	7	5	74
1965	27	3	3	2	7	-	14	56
1966	38	10	5	5	17	15	5	95
1967	57	42	26	19	150	22	46	362
Total	<u>211</u>	<u>92</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>72</u>	<u>226</u>	<u>63</u>	<u>84</u>	<u>808</u>
1968 ... to 30 9/68	55	9	27	3	93	16	13	216

Note: Miscellaneous reports include, for example, hoaxes and the reflection of lights on clouds.

44/6/12

UFO STATISTICS - 1ST JANUARY 1959 TO 31ST DECEMBER 1967

Year	Satellites and Debris	Balloons	Celestial Objects	Meteorological and Natural Phenomena	Aircraft	Miscellaneous	Unexplained (Insufficient Information)	Total
959	1	3	1	7	4	2	4	22
960	-	8	2	7	10	1	3	31
961	16	11	8	20	9	5	2	71
962	11	6	5	8	9	4	3	46
963	18	6	4	4	10	7	2	51
964	43	3	6	-	10	7	5	74
965	27	3	3	2	7	-	14	56
966	38	10	5	5	17	15	5	95
967	57	42	26	19	150	22	46	362
otal	<u>211</u>	<u>92</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>72</u>	<u>226</u>	<u>63</u>	<u>84</u>	<u>808</u>

1968
31/5/68
30/10

~~39~~	~~5~~	~~13~~		~~40~~	~~6~~	~~6~~	~~109~~
~~16~~	~~1~~	~~10~~				~~7~~	~~107~~
53	9	27				13	216

ote: Miscellaneous reports include, for example, hoaxes and the reflection of lights on clouds.

-2-

APS to S of S through DUS(Air)

Copies to:- PS to US of S (RAF)
AUS(0)(Air)
DSTI

I enclose a draft Answer, Supplementaries and background notes for this question. This question affects the interests of the Board of Trade and the Home Office as well as Ministry of Defence and the answer, supplementaries and background notes have been cleared with them. Also attached are folders containing the earlier questions addressed by Sir John Langford-Holt to the Prime Minister and to US of S(RAF).

Head of S4(Air)
4 June 1968
JFG

Enc: Folders

TUESDAY, 11TH JUNE 1968

Sir John Langford-Holt (Conservative - Shrewsbury)

*No 115 Sir John Langford-Holt - To ask the Prime Minister, whether he is aware that under the present arrangements some reports of unidentified flying objects are made to the Ministry of Defence and police reports are made to the Board of Trade; and whether he will arrange that all such reports are made to one department.

ANSWER:

Prime Minister:

As my Hon Friend the Minister of State Board of Trade told you on 29th November 1967, reports of unidentified flying objects are not called for by his Department. Any received by the Board of Trade from the police or anyone else are passed on to the Ministry of Defence.

POSSIBLE SUPPLEMENTARIES

Q.1. What instructions have been given to the police about reporting unidentified flying objects?

A. No specific instructions have been issued, but over the years it has become established practice for police forces all over the country to pass reports of interest to the Ministry of Defence.

Q.2. Is the Prime Minister aware that the Assistant Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis told a member of the public that UFO reports were sent by the police to the Board of Trade?

A. There seems to have been some misunderstanding. If police observe an aeroplane in flight bearing neither military nor the proper civil marks the matter is reported to the Board of Trade. This is, of course, not a report of an unidentified flying object in the accepted sense.

Q.3. Is the Prime Minister aware that some reports of unidentified flying objects are not passed on to the Ministry of Defence by the police?

A. The police have extensive knowledge of local conditions, and it is left to their good sense to decide whether any particular report should be passed on to the Ministry of Defence.

Q.4. If some reports do not reach Ministry of Defence does this not leave a gap in our national security?

A. No Sir. The Royal Air Force keeps a constant watch on the skies over the United Kingdom and I am confident that we can rely on them to secure our air defence.

BACKGROUND NOTES

Sir John Langford-Holt

1. Sir John Langford-Holt has shown an interest in unidentified flying objects for at least two years and has asked a number of questions on the subject. The relevant Hansard extracts are at Appendices 1 to 5. This question is directly related to the question answered by the Minister of State Board of Trade on 29th November, (Appendix 2).
2. As was true of the question answered by the Prime Minister on 19th December, (Appendix 1), it is possible that Sir John Langford-Holt was prompted to ask this question by ~~MR [REDACTED]~~ has been in correspondence with the Board of Trade, Home Office, Ministry of Defence and the Commissioner of Police on the question of reports of UFOs received by the police. He has also been in correspondence with the Prime Minister's office, Sir John Langford-Holt, M.P., Sir Eric Bullus, M.P., the United Nations Organisation, the Canadian and other Governments and organisations about various aspects of UFO reports.
3. Last October the Assistant Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis, in response to letter from Mr Hennessey, told him that reports of unidentified flying objects were passed to the Board of Trade. This was a misunderstanding. The Assistant Commissioner had in mind an instruction concerning 'aircraft' which is now of course normally taken to mean an aeroplane. If an aircraft is observed by the police bearing neither the proper military nor civil marks the matter is reported to the Board of Trade. This is not a UFO report in the accepted sense.

Reporting Procedures

4. RAF Stations have standing instructions to pass reports received from any source, eg police or public, or originated by them to Ministry of Defence.

5. No specific instructions have been issued to the police, but it has become established practice for police forces to pass reports of interest to RAF Stations or to Ministry of Defence. The police have unrivalled knowledge of local conditions, happenings and personalities and it is sensible for them to decide whether a report should be passed on to Ministry of Defence for investigation.

6. The Board of Trade are not interested in UFO reports, but some of their establishments, particularly the Air Traffic Control Centres, receive reports from time to time. Board of Trade establishments have instructions to pass such reports on to the Ministry of Defence.

General

7. At Appendix 6 is a general brief on unidentified flying objects which includes some statistics.

GENERAL REPORT
HOUSE OF COMMONS

Date 19.12.67. Col. 379W.

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

Q14. Sir J. Langford-Holt asked the Prime Minister whether he is satisfied that all sightings of unidentified flying objects which are reported from service sources are explainable; what inquiries he has authorised into these objects outside the defence aspect; and whether he will now appoint one Minister to look into all aspects of reports.

The Prime Minister: The Answers are: "Yes, except when the information given is insufficient"; "None"; and "No".

HANSARD EXTRACT 29th NOVEMBER 1967.**Unidentified Flying Objects**

Sir J. Langford-Holt asked the President of the Board of Trade by what authority he requires reports of unidentified flying objects from the police; and what action he takes on them.

Mr. J. P. W. Mallalieu: No such reports are called for.

Oct. 17/7

Dec. 19/7/66

APPENDIX 3

~~Appendix 17~~

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

Q7. Sir J. Langford-Holt asked the Prime Minister whether, in view of the fact that the Secretary of State for Defence is responsible only for the air defence implications of the reports of unidentified flying objects, he will allocate to a Department the duty of assessing the wider implications of these reports.

The Prime Minister: No, Sir.

Sir J. Langford-Holt: Is the Prime Minister aware that enormous numbers of these reports are coming in to the Government from people, not all of whom are cranks? Would it not be appropriate, without myself knowing very much about the origins or significance of these items, that somebody in the Government at least should take a serious interest in them?

The Prime Minister: These matters are taken seriously when the reports which are received are sufficiently detailed to enable a check to be made. In very many cases there are natural phenomena, or less natural phenomena such as balloons, aircraft, and so on. Where it has not been possible to get a satisfactory explanation, it is usually because the information has been too inadequate or imprecise for investigation.

Mr. Hogg: Is it not well known that these unidentified flying objects are the chickens coming home to roost in the ruins of the right hon. Gentleman's reputation?

The Prime Minister: I seem to remember thinking that question rather funny when it was put by the right hon. Member for Flint, West (Mr. Birch) six years ago.

Mr. Shinwell: In view of the fact that the Opposition are always looking for mares' nests, could not my right hon. Friend undertake this task of looking for unidentified objects?

PARLAMENTARY PAPER.

Vol. 70

22/6/66

[Handwritten signatures and initials]

Appendix II

Unidentified Flying Objects (Reports)

73. Sir J. Langford-Holt asked the Secretary of State for Defence what arrangements are made for the reporting and receipt of reports of sightings of unidentified flying objects; and how many of these reports have been received in the last 10 years from civilian and Service sources.

Mr. Merlyn Rees: Reports of unidentified flying objects are received by my Department from both Service and civilian sources and are investigated. Between 1959 and 1965 351 reports were received. I regret that earlier figures are not available.

HANSARD EXTRACT.

Col. 704

Date: 22/6/66

APPENDIX 5

~~Appendix 5~~

Sir J. Langford-Molt asked the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made as to the value, courses and origins of reports of sightings of unidentified flying objects as well as of the objects themselves.

Mr. Merlyn Rees: Reports are examined at their face value in the light of their possible air defence implications, and we do not carry our study beyond this point. No defence implications have been found.

24 1/4 - 0

APPENDIX 6

GENERAL NOTE



Sources of Information

1. By and large reports of unidentified flying objects originate from someone who has seen an unfamiliar object or phenomenon or a familiar object in an unfamiliar situation. The vast majority of the reports received are imprecise; many are of limited accuracy; and many of the objects were seen only for seconds. These reports reflect the known unreliability of untrained observers. Nevertheless, by careful study and by conducting field investigations to obtain more information, it is possible to pinpoint the explanations for about 90% of all reports. The rest remain unexplained because they are too imprecise or inadequate to permit further investigation. RAF stations have standing instructions to pass reports received or originated by them to the Ministry of Defence but they do not have any instructions to carry out local investigations. There is nothing to distinguish these reports from others which are made direct to the Ministry of Defence.

Investigation of Reports

2. The Air Force Department of the Ministry of Defence accepts all reports of unidentified flying objects which are passed to them and studies these reports solely because of their possible air defence interest. None of the reports received to date provide evidence of clandestine terrestrial activity or of activity under extra-terrestrial control. Neither do they reveal anything whose investigation seems likely to result in a significant advance in scientific knowledge.

Civil and Military Radar Network, Defence Intelligence sources, and other scientific and technical sources, eg the Meteorological Office, the Royal Observatory, the Radio and Space Research Station etc., confirm the accuracy of this conclusion.

Statistical Analysis

3. An analysis of reports received each year from 1959 to date is at Annex A.

This confirms that:-

- a. There was a marked increase in the number of reports in the latter part of 1967. In October some 90 reports were received. The present rate is about 20 per month.
- b. The number of reports is very small compared with those received by the USAF. (Over 10,000 from 1947 to 1965).
- c. The normal explanations continue to apply.

/Disclosure of Information

Disclosure of Information

4. The Ministry of Defence tells those who have reported UFOs the result of their investigation and the explanation of the sighting. The Ministry of Defence also reveals these explanations to other interested parties, eg the Press, in response to specific requests. Neither the report nor the explanation are classified. Case records are not made available for public scrutiny as this could be considered to be a breach of confidentiality as between the Ministry of Defence and members of the public who make reports. Some members of the public particularly ask that their reports should receive no publicity. Some case records also include material from classified sources, eg operational radar films and BMEWS data.

Reasons for Increased Number of Reports in 1967

5. Three factors have contributed to the increase in the number of reports in 1967. First the extended periods of fine weather in the Summer and early Autumn months provided ideal conditions for intensive and extensive flying, gliding and ballooning activities and they also caused a great many people to spend more time out of doors and permitted those people to see much more of the aerial activity than usual. Secondly, the planet Venus, which is extremely bright, was to be seen over the UK for an extended period from the beginning of October. Thirdly, very wide publicity has been given in the press and on television to reports of unidentified flying objects and this has encouraged the public to search the sky in the hope of seeing their own unidentified flying

received in recent months come from the London area and have proven aircraft or aircraft lights. There has been nothing in the reports received in 1967 to indicate that they are in any way different from the reports received in earlier years. Apart from frequent sightings of the planet Venus - especially by people in North Devon and Sussex - there have been no mass sightings.

Reports from Service Sources

6. Sir John Langford-Holt has referred in the past specifically to objects reported from Service sources. Few sightings originate from Service sources and separate statistics are not kept for this category of report. In 1967 only eight originated from Service personnel or civilians employed by the Armed Forces. All were explained.

/Retention of Reports

Retention of Reports

7. Because reports received have proved to have such mundane explanations, it has been the practice to retain them for a period of five years only before destruction.

Further Studies

8. The Ministry of Defence has found no evidence to suggest that reports of unidentified flying objects have other than the most mundane explanations. This view is based on a full study of reports and careful comparison with data available from defence sources and other scientific and technical advice. In the circumstances, the Ministry of Defence does not consider that separate studies by other Government Departments or by a University or other independent organisation would produce results to justify the expenditure of time, effort and money involved. Neither the contract awarded to the University of Colorado (See Annex B) by the USAF nor the information we have on the attitude of the USSR (Annex C) give grounds for altering this opinion. Present knowledge of the progress of the Colorado study indicates that it is unlikely to reveal any significant new facts about unidentified flying objects of scientific or defence importance and is unlikely to resolve the public relations problems associated with UFO reports.

Parliamentary Interest

9. A list of MPs who have put down Parliamentary Questions or made Parliamentary enquiries most recently is provided at Annex D.

UFO STATISTICS - 1ST JANUARY 1959 to 31st MAY 1968

YEAR	SATELLITES AND DEBRIS	BALLOONS	CELESTIAL OBJECTS	METEOR- OLOGICAL AND NATURAL PHENOMENA	AIRCRAFT	MISCEL- LANEOUS	UNEXPLAINED (INSUFFICIENT INFORMATION)	UNDER INVESTI- GATION	TOTAL
1959	1	3	1	7	4	2	4	-	22
1960	-	8	2	7	10	1	3	-	31
1961	16	11	8	20	9	5	2	-	71
1962	11	6	5	8	9	4	3	-	46
1963	18	6	4	4	10	7	2	-	51
1964	43	3	6	-	10	7	5	-	74
1965	27	3	3	2	7	-	14	-	56
1966	38	10	5	5	17	15	5	-	95
TOTAL	154	50	34	53	76	41	38	-	446
1967	57	42	26	19	150	22	46	-	362
1968 ¹⁰ / _{31 58}	33	4	9	-	33	3	2	25	109
TOTAL	244	96	69	72	259	66	86	25	917

NOTE: Miscellaneous reports include, for example, hoaxes and the reflection of lights on clouds.

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE STUDIES

1. The United States Air Force has been studying reports of unidentified flying objects since 1947 (Project Blue Book). It has a small permanent staff for this purpose. From 1947 to 1965 inclusive the USAF received over 10,000 unidentified flying object reports and were unable to explain some 600 of these despite the availability of a full description of the object observed. At a hearing before the House of Representatives Committee on the Armed Services in April 1966 they agreed that these "unidentified" reports deserved further attention and subsequently the US Department of Defense awarded to the University of Colorado a contract for a full scientific study of reports of unidentified flying objects.
2. The contract was awarded to the University of Colorado because they were one of the few Universities in America which had not publicly taken up a position for or against the existence of unidentified flying objects which could not be explained on the basis of existing scientific knowledge.
3. There is no doubt that the USAF hoped that the University's study would confirm the findings of Project Blue Book and that they also hoped that it would vindicate them in the face of growing public belief that the USAF were concealing the truth. However, due to scepticism publicly expressed by the Leader of the University of Colorado Study Team (Dr. Condon) the University's study is already being denigrated in America as an elaborate plot to give an air of impartiality to the biased attitude of the USAF towards these reports. There are voluntary organisations in America, eg, the National Investigations Committee for Aerial Phenomena, devoted to the investigation of UFO reports. These organisations firmly believe that there are facts concealed by the USAF which should be made public.
4. A member of the University of Colorado Study Team, Dr. Low, visited the MOD in August 1967. He enquired about our interest in unidentified flying objects and we explained that, like the USAF, our interest arose from the possible air defence implications. We also told him that we had found mundane explanations for the vast majority of the reports we had received. He did not ask for any other information or for details of individual cases.

5. The conclusions and recommendations of the University's study are potentially of great interest to us in that they may help both the USAF and ourselves to decide what depth of consideration should be given to future reports. The USAF has promised us a copy of the report and Dr. Low has undertaken to keep us informed of the progress of the study in the meanwhile.

USSR STUDIES

1. Daily papers on 13th November 1967 reported an announcement made on Russian television that a Soviet Air Force Commission had been established to investigate reports of unidentified flying objects.
2. Earlier this year the Scientific Attache in Moscow made some discreet enquiries and was told that because insufficient information had been received to sustain it the Commission had been disbanded. However, the Scientific Attache thought it likely that the Commission was continuing its work under cover. But, we have received no other information to support the Scientific Attache's assessment.

PARLIAMENTARY INTEREST IN UFOs

1. The following MPs have put down Parliamentary Questions or initiated Parliamentary enquiries about unidentified flying objects in recent years.
2. Mr. Edwin Brooks. P.Q. 27th May 1966. See Appendix I to this Annex.
3. Sir John Langford-Holt.
 - a. P.Q. 22nd June 1966. See Appendix II to this Annex.
 - b. P.Q. 22nd June 1966. See Appendix III to this Annex.
 - c. P.Q. 19th July 1966. See Appendix IV to this Annex.
 - d. P.E. 7th September 1967. He asked US of S(RAF) to make Ministry of Defence information about UFO reports available to the University of Colorado. US of S(RAF) replied that we were in contact with the University but had been given no reason to believe that they wanted such information.
 - e. P.Q. Supplementary 5th November 1966. See Appendix VIII.
 - f. P.E. 24th April, 1968. He asked US of S(RAF) about the details referred to in the answer to P.Q. from Mr. Peter Mills (see para. 7) and about the American conclusions mentioned in the answer to Mr. Patrick Wall on 22nd November 1967. He was referred to the more recent figures given to Mr Edward Taylor (para. 4b) and told that in referring to the conclusions reached by the Americans US of S(RAF) had in mind the general views of the USAF and not the Colorado Study which has yet to make an official announcement about conclusions.
4. Mr. Edward M. Taylor.
 - a. P.Q. 24th July 1967. See Appendix V to this Annex.
 - b. P.Q. 22nd January 1968. See Appendix XI to this Annex.
5. Sir Eric Bullus.
 - a. P.E. July 1967. The MP passed on requests from a Mr. [REDACTED] ([REDACTED] correspondent with the Ministry of Defence, the Prime Minister and others) that:
 - (1) US of S(RAF) sign a declaration that no alien objects had flown through UK airspace. (A similar request was addressed to the Prime Minister).
 - (2) The Ministry of Defence, or another Government Department should initiate as a matter of high priority (directly or through the United Nations) a full scientific study of UFO reports.

Both requests were refused: the first on the grounds that Ministerial opinion had already been publicly stated on many occasions; the second on the grounds that available information did not justify a high priority for such a study.

/b.

- b. P.Q. 25th October 1967. Probably arising from the answer to the P.E. See Appendix VI to this Annex.
- c. P.E. May 1968. The MP passed on a letter from Mr Hennessey challenging an explanation given to an observer by MOD. No new information was provided and the MP was told that MOD had no cause to amend the explanation given.
6. Dr. Reginald Bennett. P.Q. 7th November 1967. See Appendix VII.
7. Mr. Peter Mills. P.Qs. 8th November. See Appendix VIII.
8. Mr. Patrick Wall.
- a. P.Q. 8th November. See Appendix IX.
- b. P.Q. 22nd November. See Appendix X.
9. Mr. Richard Kelley MP, passed on a request from a constituent asking for general information about UFOs.

Ref. 1714

Date 27/5/66

Appendix I

Mr. Brooks asked the Secretary of State for Defence how many reports of unidentified flying objects were received by his Department throughout Great Britain during 1964 and 1965; and of these how many have since not been satisfactorily explained.

Mr. Merlyn Rees: The following are the figures:

	Total Number of Reports	Number not Explained
1964	74	5
1965	56	14

In the cases that have not been satisfactorily explained the information given has generally been too imprecise or inadequate to support any further investigation.

NAVY SECRET

70

Date 22/6/66

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Appendix II

Unidentified Flying Objects (Reports)

73. Sir J. Langford-Holt asked the Secretary of State for Defence what arrangements are made for the reporting and receipt of reports of sightings of unidentified flying objects; and how many of these reports have been received in the last 10 years from civilian and Service sources.

Mr. Merlyn Rees: Reports of unidentified flying objects are received by my Department from both Service and civilian sources and are investigated. Between 1959 and 1965 351 reports were received. I regret that earlier figures are not available.

HANSARD EXTRACT.

Col. 704

Date: 22/6/66

Appendix B III

Sir J. Langford-Holt asked the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made as to the value, courses and origins of reports of sightings of unidentified flying objects as well as of the objects themselves.

Mr. Merlyn Rees: Reports are examined at their face value in the light of their possible air defence implications, and we do not carry our study beyond this point. No defence implications have been found.

Col. 579

Dated 19/7/66

Appendix IV

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

Q7. Sir J. Langford-Kolt asked the Prime Minister whether, in view of the fact that the Secretary of State for Defence is responsible only for the air defence implications of the reports of unidentified flying objects, he will allocate to a Department the duty of assessing the wider implications of these reports.

The Prime Minister: No, Sir.

Sir J. Langford-Kolt: Is the Prime Minister aware that enormous numbers of these reports are coming in to the Government from people, not all of whom are cranks? Would it not be appropriate, without myself knowing very much about the origins or significance of these items, that somebody in the Government at least should take a serious interest in them?

The Prime Minister: These matters are taken seriously when the reports which are received are sufficiently detailed to enable a check to be made. In very many cases there are natural phenomena, or less natural phenomena such as balloons, aircraft, and so on. Where it has not been possible to get a satisfactory explanation, it is usually because the information has been too inadequate or imprecise for investigation.

Mr. Hogg: Is it not well known that these unidentified flying objects are the chickens coming home to roost in the ruins of the right hon. Gentleman's reputation?

The Prime Minister: I seem to remember thinking that question rather funny when it was put by the right hon. Member for Flint, West (Mr. Birch) six years ago.

Mr. Shinwell: In view of the fact that the Opposition are always looking for mares' nests, could not my right hon. Friend undertake this task of looking for unidentified objects?

HANJARD EXTRACT

Cel. 47...N

DATED 24-7-67

627
Appendix V

Unidentified Flying Objects

Mr. Edward M. Taylor asked the Secretary of State for Defence what information he has regarding reports of unidentified flying objects in recent months; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. Merlyn Rees: Such reports are investigated, but nothing of defence interest has been found.

HANSARD EXTRACT

Col. ...484...W.

DATED 25-10-67

~~57~~
Appendix VI

Unidentified Flying Objects

60. Sir E. Bullus asked the Secretary of State for Defence how many reports he has received in the last six months of the sightings of unidentified flying objects; what were the results of his investigations; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. Merlyn Rees: 153 reports have been received in the Ministry of Defence in the last six months. Some of these are still being investigated, but commonplace explanations have been found for the rest.

✓
HANSARD EXTRACT

Col. 85/86. Oral

DATED 7-11-67

~~2/5/67~~
Appendix VII

Unidentified Flying Objects

49. Dr. Bennett asked the Secretary of State for Defence what organisation Her Majesty's Government has for the analysis and valuation of reports of flying objects not identified as aircraft.

Mr. Merlyn Rees: The Ministry of Defence examines these reports in the light of their possible air defence implications; and it obtains advice, as necessary, from Governmental and other scientific and technical organisations. The adequacy of our arrangements can be judged from the fact that between 1st January, 1959, and 30th September, 1967,

625 reports were examined and 555 were found to have mundane explanations. The remaining 70 reports contained insufficient data for evaluation but there was nothing to suggest that they related to incidents materially different in kind from those which were explained.

Col. 1212/1014 *oral*
DATED 9-11-67

Appendix VIII

Unidentified Flying Object
(North Devon)

15 and 16. Mr. Peter Mills asked the Secretary of State for Defence (1) if he will make a statement on the circumstances in which an unidentified flying object has been seen in the Okehampton area of Devon; and what are his plans to deal with a recurrence of this flying object;

(2) whether the flying object in the Okehampton area of Devon, which has been described as a star-shaped cross larger than a conventional aircraft, is a British aircraft or an unidentified flying object.

The Under-Secretary of State for Defence for the Royal Air Force (Mr. Merlyn Rees): We received a number of reports of objects seen in the sky over North Devon in October. After investigation, some proved to be aircraft and some were lights. Of the lights, the majority were the planet Venus; but the source of a few lights has not been positively identified. I can say, however, that none of these unidentified lights was an alien object.

There are standing instructions for R.A.F. stations to report unusual objects seen in the sky, and standing arrangements for investigating these reports and similar reports from other sources. I do not consider additional action necessary.

Mr. Mills: Will the hon. Gentleman bear in mind that this matter is not only of considerable interest to the South-West, particularly the Okehampton area, but also of some concern? How does this statement square with the statements of two police officers and of engineers at Hensbury Tor that low flying objects were moving for over an hour in the area?

Mr. Rees: In answer to a Question yesterday and another today, I have published details of all the investigations which have been made over recent years, and none of these would give any reason to believe that there are unidentified objects in the sense which has been implied. Further, we have complete radar coverage to a very great height over all these islands and have access to that over Europe, and none of this leads us to believe in any sense that this is anything else than something which we know nothing about.

Mr. Alan Lee Williams: Can my hon. Friend assure us that he has received scientific advice?

Mr. Rees: I can give that assurance. This is not just an air defence matter. We have access to scientists of high repute—they have been consulted on all these matters—and also to psychologists.

Sir J. Langford-Holt: The hon. Gentleman said that we have complete radar coverage. In these circumstances, can he explain how a letter was sent by his Department when a report was

sent about one of these objects to the effect that it "might or might not" have been an aircraft but his Department was unable to say?

Mr. Rees: The problem is that, if one is notified of this right away, it is possible to give a more definitive reply, but when one gets a letter weeks later asking what it might have been on such and such an occasion, it is difficult to be definitive on it. But nothing leads us to believe that this is men from Mars or anything of that kind.

Mr. Shinwell: Would it not be desirable for the Government to encourage this idea that there are unidentified flying objects and that there is a danger of invasion from another planet? Would this not create the necessary diversion so that people in this country, and the electors in particular, would not worry about their economic problems?

Mr. Rees: Judging from the public's response to some newspaper reports, I can only hope that they will take my right hon. Friend's remark seriously.

HANSARD EXTRACT

Col. ...160/159 W

DATED ...9-11-67

3A
Appendix IX

Unidentified Flying Objects

Mr. Wall asked the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on unidentified flying objects sighted over Great Britain during the past two years.

Mr. Merlyn Rees: From 1st January, 1966 to 30th September, 1967, 274 reports were received. 242 reports were found to have mundane explanations. The remaining 37 reports remain unexplained because the information provided was so inadequate that no conclusive investigation was possible. The detailed analysis of these reports against the background of reports since the beginning of 1959 is set out below.

UFO STATISTICS—1ST JANUARY, 1959 TO 30TH SEPTEMBER, 1967

Year	Satellites and debris	Balloons	Celestial objects	Meteoro- logical and natural phenomena	Aircraft	Miscel- laneous	Unexplained (insufficient information)	Total
1959 ...	1	3	1	7	4	2	4	22
1960 ...	—	8	2	7	10	1	3	31
1961 ...	16	11	8	20	9	5	2	71
1962 ...	11	6	5	8	9	4	3	46
1963 ...	18	6	4	4	10	7	2	51
1964 ...	43	3	6	—	10	7	5	74
1965 ...	27	3	3	2	7	—	14	56
1966 ...	33	10	5	5	17	15	5	95
Total ...	154	50	34	53	76	41	38	446
1967 (TO 30.9.67)	30	33	7	18	58	2	32	179
Total ...	184	83	41	71	134	42	70	625

Note: Miscellaneous reports include, for example, hoaxes and the reflection of lights on clouds.

Unidentified Flying Objects

Mr. Wall asked the Secretary of State for Defence what exchange of information or other co-operation is taking place between his Department and the official United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics investigations into the problem of unidentified flying objects.

Mr. Merlyn Rees: We are in touch with the Americans on this subject but not with the Russians. I understand the conclusions which the Americans have reached coincide with ours.

by 1970, and this is being considered in the light of current economic circumstances.

Tinned fruits have been bought from Great Britain or from Commonwealth countries whenever possible.

HOUSE OF COMMONS REFRESHMENT DEPARTMENT (PURCHASES)

98. Sir Knox Cunningham asked the Lord President of the Council if he will state the quantities and specify the various types of food and drink bought, during the past three months for use by the Catering Department of the House of Commons, from the United Kingdom, the Commonwealth and Europe, respectively.

Mr. Maxwell: I have been asked to reply.

During the past three months and, indeed, before this period, all fresh provisions have originated completely from the United Kingdom and Commonwealth countries.

Wines have been bought through our shippers from France, and on specific requirements only from other countries.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Unidentified Flying Objects

Mr. Edward M. Taylor asked the Secretary of State for Defence how many reports of unidentified flying objects were received in 1967; how many of these reports were subsequently shown to have a natural explanation; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. Merlyn Rees: The total number of reports received in 1967 reflects a wave of public interest in U.F.O.s, reaching a peak towards the end of the year. The analysis of the reports published below shows that, as in previous years, the vast majority were found to have mundane explanations; the remainder of the reports contained insufficient information for conclusive investigation but nothing to suggest that they related to incidents materially different in kind from those that were explained.

UFO STATISTICS—1ST JANUARY, 1959 TO 31ST DECEMBER, 1967

Year	Satellites and debris	Balloons	Celestial objects	Meteoro- logical and natural pheno- mena	Aircraft	Miscel- laneous	Un- explained (insuffi- cient informa- tion)	Under investi- gation	Total
1959 ...	1	3	1	7	4	2	4	—	22
1960 ...	—	8	2	7	10	1	3	—	31
1961 ...	16	11	8	20	9	5	2	—	71
1962 ...	11	6	5	8	9	4	3	—	46
1963 ...	18	6	4	4	10	7	2	—	51
1964 ...	43	3	6	—	10	7	5	—	74
1965 ...	27	3	3	2	7	—	14	—	56
1966 ...	38	10	5	5	17	15	5	—	95
Total ...	154	50	34	53	76	41	38	—	446
1967 ...	57	42	24	19	149	18	46	7	362
Total ...	211	92	58	72	225	59	84	7	808

Note: Miscellaneous reports include, for example, hoaxes and the reflection of lights on clouds.

Troops (Sailing from Liverpool)

Mr. Booth asked the Secretary of State for Defence what was the destination of the troops who sailed from Liverpool on 6th January.

Mr. Boyden: I know of no troops who sailed from Liverpool on duty on 6th January, but if my hon. Friend would let us have more details I will make further inquiries.

10 F 13

H.M.Y. 'Britannia'

100. Mr. Emrys Hughes asked the Secretary of State for Defence what was the total cost of H.M.Y. 'Britannia', including refits, maintenance and other costs, from the decision to build it to 16th January, 1968; what is the present weekly cost of maintenance; how many officers and men are now employed; what is the average number of weeks per

UFO Reports - FÉBRUARY 1968

SATÉLLITÉS

9

BALLOONS

CÉLÉSTIAL OBJECTS

1

MÉT. & NATURAL PHÉNOMÉNA

AIRCRAFT

8

MISCÉLLANÉOUS

UNÉXPLAINED

18

Under investigation

1

UFO Reports - JANUARY 1968

SATÉLLITÉS

4

BALLOONS

CÉLÉSTIAL OBJECTS

2

MÉT. & NATURAL PHEN.

AIRCRAFT

12

MISCELLANEOUS

1

UNEXPLAINED

19

UNDER INVESTIGATION

1

	SAN	FEB	MAR	APR
SATELLITES AND DEBRIS	2	3	2	2
BALLOONS	1		2	1
CELESTIAL OBJECTS				1
BIOLOGICAL TURAL GENA	1	1	1	
RAFT	2	2		
SCATTERED				
UNEXPLAINED	2	4	3	
TOTAL	8	10	8	4

[illegible]

UFOs - ANALYSIS FOR MAY 1967

TYPE	NUMBER	%
AIRCRAFT	3	20%
SATELLITES	4	26.7%
SATELLITE DEBRIS		
BALLOONS	1	6.6%
CELESTIAL		
METEOROLOGICAL PHENOMENA		
MISCELLANEOUS	1	6.6%
UNIDENTIFIED (Insufficient Information)	4	26.7%
UNKNOWN	2	13.4%
TOTAL	15	

TYPE	NUMBER	%
AIRCRAFT		
SATELLITES	2	66.7%
SATELLITE DEBRIS		
BALLOONS		
CELESTIAL	1	33.3%
METEOROLOGICAL PHENOMENA		
MISCELLANEOUS		
UNIDENTIFIED (Insufficient Information)		
UNKNOWN		
TOTAL	3	

UFOs - ANALYSIS FOR MARCH 1967

TYPE	NUMBER	%
AIRCRAFT		
SATELLITES	2	25%
SATELLITE DEBRIS		
BALLOONS	2	25%
CELESTIAL		
METEOROLOGICAL PHENOMENA	1	12.5%
MISCELLANEOUS		
UNIDENTIFIED (Insufficient Information)	2	25%
UNKNOWN	1	12.5
TOTAL	8	

UFOs - ANALYSIS FOR MARCH 1967

TYPE	NUMBER	%
AIRCRAFT		
SATELLITES	2	25%
SATELLITE DEBRIS		
BALLOONS	2	25%
CELESTIAL		
METEOROLOGICAL PHENOMENA	1	12.5%
MISCELLANEOUS		
UNIDENTIFIED (Insufficient Information)	2	25%
UNKNOWN	1	12.5
TOTAL	8	

TC/58/3/3

UFOs - ANALYSIS FOR FEBRUARY 1967

TYPE	NUMBER	%
AIRCRAFT	2	20%
SATELLITES		
SATELLITE DEBRIS	3	30%
BALLOONS		
CELESTIAL		
METEOROLOGICAL PHENOMENA	1	10%
MISCELLANEOUS		
UNIDENTIFIED (Insufficient Information)	4	40%
UNKNOWN		
TOTAL	10	

UFOs - ANALYSIS FOR FEBRUARY 1967

TYPE	NUMBER	%
AIRCRAFT	2	20%
SATELLITES		
SATELLITE DEBRIS	3	30%
BALLOONS		
CELESTIAL		
METEOROLOGICAL PHENOMENA	1	10%
MISCELLANEOUS		
UNIDENTIFIED (Insufficient Information)	4	40%
UNKNOWN		
TOTAL	10	

UFOs - ANALYSIS FOR JANUARY 1967

TYPE	NUMBER	%
AIRCRAFT	2	25%
SATELLITES	2	25%
SATELLITE DEBRIS		
BALLOONS	1	12.5%
CELESTIAL		
METEOROLOGICAL PHENOMENA	1	12.5%
MISCELLANEOUS		
UNIDENTIFIED (Insufficient Information)	2	25%
UNKNOWN		
TOTAL	8	

UFOs - ANALYSIS FOR JANUARY 1967

TYPE	NUMBER	%
AIRCRAFT	2	25%
SATELLITES	2	25%
SATELLITE DEBRIS		
BALLOONS	1	12.5%
CELESTIAL		
METEOROLOGICAL PHENOMENA	1	12.5%
MISCELLANEOUS		
UNIDENTIFIED (Insufficient Information)	2	25%
UNKNOWN		
TOTAL	8	