

for reasons which he still doesn't understand. The movie displayed film clips, some dating to World War II, of actual UFO activity in various places and times. Several of the sequences showed UFOs near what appeared to be fighter aircraft, and in one sequence from the Korean War, a disc-shaped object passed close to an MIG fighter, causing it to crash. Wallace was told they were being shown this so that they might better understand the need for secrecy on the events of the 30th.

Wallace said that versions of the story leaked to the British media detailing alien meetings in the forest and landing marks on the ground were deliberately contrived by the military to mislead the public. The false evidence was intended to be discovered by UFO investigators so that a negative evaluation would be ascribed to the story, thus preserving secrecy.

It is quite a story, and coupled with other accounts of the Rendlesham Forest events, we are inclined to think that something truly extraordinary may have happened.

What was the Air Force's official response to this? The authors filed a FOIA request with the 81st Combat Support Group at RAF Bentwaters to determine if documentation was on file at the base. A reply dated April 28, 1983, came from Col. Henry J. Cochran, Bentwaters Commander.

Reference your letter dated April 14, 1983 requesting information about unknown aircraft activity near RAF Bentwaters. *There was allegedly some strange activity near RAF Bentwaters at the approximate time in question but not on land under U.S. Air Force jurisdiction and, therefore, no official investigation was conducted by the 81st Tactical Fighter Wing. Thus, the records you request do not exist [emphasis added].*

If no records exist, how did Col. Cochran know that something had happened near Bentwaters? He was not the Bentwaters Commander at the time. Furthermore, under the provisions of Air Force Manual 12-50, such records would either have been destroyed after a short period of time or they would have been passed along to a permanent storage facility for retention; that is, they would no longer be at the base. And the investigation was probably not conducted by the 81st Tactical Fighter Wing but by someone else (OSI?).

On May 7, 1983, CAUS Researcher Director Robert Todd filed an FOIA request with the Air Force's 513th Combat Support Group for information on the Rendlesham Forest affair. The 513th CSG provides document management services for the Headquarters of the Third Air Force in Europe, which covers the Bentwaters area. Our hopes were low for any positive results as it seemed that a tight ring of secrecy was placed around the story.

However, in a June 14, 1983, letter from Col. Peter Bent, Commander of the 513th CSG, an utterly stunning admission was made. Col. Bent said:

It might interest you to know that the US Air Force had no longer retained a copy of the 13 January 1981 letter written by Lt Col Charles I. Halt.