

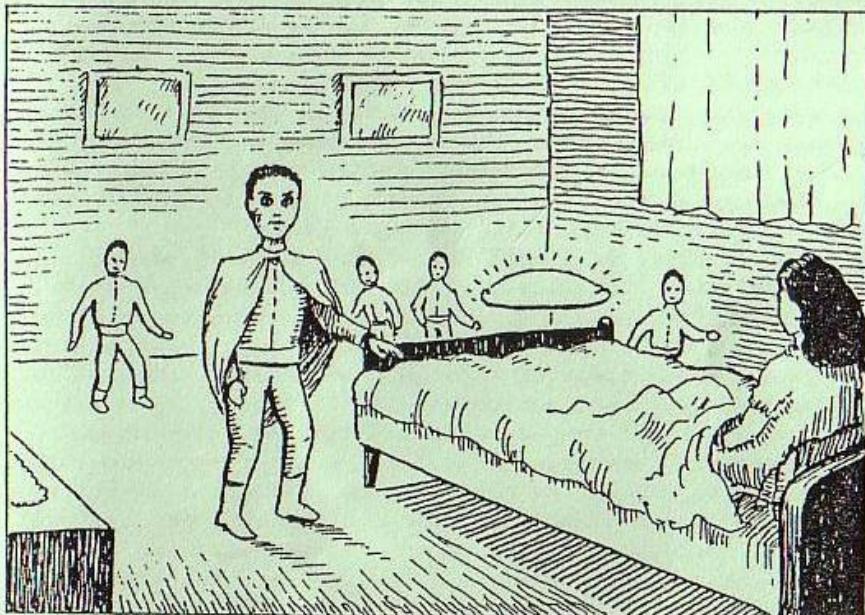
NORTHERN UFO NEWS

159

Spring 1993

All the news, views and up to date cases £7 for six

EDITOR: - JENNY RUNDLES



COVER DESIGN BY: ROY SANDBACH..... LOGOS BY: BILL CALLAGHAN

CONTENT:- Usual features plus; What is wrong with the sceptics? pp 2-4... Circular Logic p. 6... Eclipsing the Unknown last part ... p. 7... A new UFO movie from Hollywood... p. 7. . Cases from Derbyshire, Gwynedd, Humberside and Lancashire (including the mystery helicopter is back and three visually challenged mice) pp 12-14... Case Histories... UFO over RAF base and a CE 4 or an abduction from Oxfordshire? .. pp 14-16.

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NB:- APOLOGIES FOR THE COUPLE OF WEEKS DELAY TO THIS ISSUE, DUE TO EXTREME PRESSURE OF WORK AND BUSY HOUSE HUNTING A FEW MILES FROM STOCKPORT (MORE ON THAT ANON, OR - GIVEN THE STATE OF THE HOUSING MARKET - NO DOUBT ANON AND ANON). AS ALWAYS REMEMBER THAT NUN IS A TIME-CONSUMING TASK THAT I WILL TRY NEVER TO LET SLIP MORE THAN A COUPLE OF WEEKS BEHIND SCHEDULED PRODUCTION.

J. R. Comments... In my view the UFO movement needs strong criticism. So we do rely quite heavily upon the watching brief of a laudable organisation such as 'The British and Irish Skeptics' (the UK equivalent of the noted - or notorious? - CSICOP). They produce the journal 'The Skeptic', which I strongly recommend as essential reading to all (see the journal listings this issue). But at times I wonder where the boundary between scepticism and desperation lies. Possibly such bodies owe it to themselves to take a hard look at exactly what it is they hope to achieve.

My concerns here are not really over principles. All serious investigators must know that there is a lot that is rotten in the state of supernaturalism but we sometimes need reminding of that fact. I support 'The Skeptic' in this aim 100 per cent. Some of us do try to police the field from within and I think it should be a cooperative venture between ourselves and sceptical scientists and commentators to fight together, albeit from differing perspectives, to establish the truth. I see no major obstacle against that ability, but wonder why when we brought the sceptics in to work with MUFORA on the Birchwood Mall UFO video, NUN published the inconclusive findings whilst they said nothing. If this joint research had solved the case would they have still remained silent?

However, I think there is a real danger that British sceptics will earn the 'bad boy' reputation that many American UFOlogists adopt towards CSICOP and, in particular, its UFO commentators. The danger seems to be stemming from the way in which this cooperation has become very much a one way street.

Serious researchers into strange phenomena take note of sceptical views. They are discussed and debated and, even if not accepted, at least the critics are recognised and responded to. *UFOlogy*, for example, takes note of the fact that sceptical writings exist. They are not regarded as being in some parallel universe. Sadly, I do not see much evidence that the reverse is true. There seems to be few occasions when the sceptics are even willing to acknowledge that 'believers' can ever have anything positive to contribute. It is like 'goodies' versus 'baddies' all the time.

I may be cynical, but it rather seems to me that it is an essence of scepticism that it must ignore the serious positive researchers because their arguments are far more difficult to refute. So they concentrate on the 'easy' targets; those folk who have what, to many fellow researchers, are extreme views and tell the world (or so it seems) that these extremists reflect the rule rather than the exception. Such selectivity bugs me. It is a kind of 'heads we are right' and 'tails you are wrong' mentality.

We see it well illustrated in *UFOlogy*. Time and again in TV and radio shows when a sceptic is brought on to oppose a 'believer' they are in their element if that believer promotes conspiracy theories, ET invasions and the like. If they do not, and instead offer sobering facts (eg 'we accept that 95% of all UFO sightings are mistaken identity but believe the rest reflect new phenomena as yet unaccepted by science...') then they flounder. All too often, rather than accept this and paint a picture of cooperation with slightly different emphasis, the sceptics seem to prefer petty disagreements so as to maintain this pretence of confrontation. But why?

Bootleg videos are doing the rounds of a TV programme screened in Australia in September 1991. I haven't seen it, but was on it 'live' so recall well how UFOlogists like Jerry Clark, Bill Chalker, Keith Basterfield and I were pitted in this feature (and others) against resident sceptics who seem to have assumed all they had to do was spout the old 'it can't be so it isn't' incantation and the moderate vote would gravitate their way. This often seems to be on the basis that 'everyone knows UFO buffs are slightly potty'. But when those UFO buffs, as we did, rammed down the camera facts, figures, statistics and evidence it appeared that they had never even heard about, let alone digested, they were left flopping about like a netfull of wet haddock on the quayside.

I felt no triumph at this. When members of the sceptics community in the audience approached after the show and said they felt 'embarrassed', I did not see this as the cause to rush around the room screaming a chorus of 'one-nil, one-nil'. I simply felt that it shows a wonderful potential for cooperation and fruitful disagreement lost. Is not science all about someone coming up with a theory, someone else disagreeing with that idea and from the resulting friendly but sharp dialogue the truth somehow emerging?

Why then do the sceptics seem so hopelessly unable or unwilling to know as much about our evidence as we seem to do about their criticisms of the same? Why won't they hold their hands up from time to time and offer praise for internal criticism within any field when it is occasionally due? I get the impression that unless the person who says something sensible or resolves a case is a signed up member of the sceptics party then a kind of collective amnesia descends over the movement until, maybe years later, someone from the right side rediscovers the truth and can be hailed as a victor wrecking another defeat onto the looney tune believers.

Lest you think this a tad paranoid, I am afraid that you can see it all the time in the sceptics movement. Even in the fine pages of 'The Skeptic'.

Look at some examples. In May 1992 the magazine rebuked sources for failing to point out that the object that was reportedly involved in the mid-air UFO encounters over Britain was only relatively small. There was not a word mentioning the fact that UFO groups investigating the case never hid that fact, nor the idea that a balloon was responsible. Indeed one BUFORA officer went out of his way to calm down a hysterical media. Since 'The Skeptic' get BUFORA material, read the cuttings with these comments in and also get NUN which had a sober and detailed assessment of the sightings which hardly went overboard about them and certainly hid no crucial facts - then how come 99% of sceptics, who never read these sources, must assume (yet again) that UFOlogists were useless mythmakers and that only the intrepid sceptics had anything sensible or worthwhile to say on the case?

Okay, one example, but far from alone. Look at how sceptics treated crop circles. To be sure there was a lot that needed criticising there, but there were some of us doing exactly that for a long, long time. Where were the sceptics between 1980 and 1989 when 'Circular Evidence' first appeared? Nowhere. The fact that the first hoax was exposed in 1983 (by UFOlogists) or that vigorous debate within the field has gone on for years challenging the alleged evidence for mystic forces or the popular view that there was no real input from hoaxes all became an irrelevancy. As soon as the subject made big news, in marched the sceptics, called everyone associated with the field an idiot and ran off with the honey pot smiling and pretending they were the only ones riding in to the rescue of common sense and sanity. In opposition were the massed armies of twittering nutters to which every cereologist had become subscribed overnight. This is simply untrue.

I have sent two letters to 'The Skeptic' respectfully pointing out that not all circle researchers are the same. Neither letter was published.

Again, the magazine reviewed my lecture at UMIST's 'ET or not ET' conference in April 1992. This was done fairly, but the ridiculous inference emerged that nobody knew why the witness who took the alien photograph on Ilkley Moor had a camera with him up there at dawn. It was also noted that he was anonymous, in terms designed to make it seem that the case was poorly investigated. Yet, as many of you know, and as 'The Skeptic' ought to have known because they get this magazine, we presented a long and detailed report on this case in NUN which answered both those questions very clearly. The witness was publicly anonymous because of his job but his identity was known to all the investigators who had worked with him. And from day one we had enquired why he had the camera with him (it was to film dawn coming up over the village in the valley below). Without quibble we had thus received every negative before and after the 'alien' shot on the roll of film and this at least partly supported the story. I should add that I wrote to 'The Skeptic' and asked them to point these facts out. I do not suppose you need two guesses to work out that they have yet to do so.

I dare say you might accuse me (not unreasonably) of bias. I do find it hard to believe that any objective reviewer, however good or bad the book may be, could describe 'Spontaneous Human Combustion' by Peter Hough and myself as being 'credulous beyond belief' and so worthless. But 'The Skeptic' do. The book may be rubbish, but critics elsewhere have said it was painstakingly factual in pointing out both the pros and cons.

However, to me far more disturbing than all of that is the way in which the January 1993 issue of 'The Skeptic' features a columnist actually seeming proud of the fact that - despite appearing not to have read it - a book on spontaneous human combustion was subjected to what is almost censure. The book had been bought for future publication by a company and the Skeptic columnist offered evidence to show their marketing people the downside of proceeding with such a title. The publisher said they must make money. But why react like this? Because the name of its author was enough to show this columnist it would contain no scepticism within its pages!

Possibly, since no author names, book titles or publishing company are given by 'The Skeptic' this might refer to a different work; although (to my knowledge) no other book on this unusual subject was published during 1992 and so was likely to be subject to such marketing discussions. However, even if the cited book were not 'Spontaneous Human Combustion' by Peter Hough and myself, the principle is the same. In my view it is overstepping the mark to do anything that might even hint at trying to stop a book from appearing without reading it and seemingly on the grounds that it is from an author who writes on strange phenomena and discusses a subject that, as a sceptic, they appear to be unwilling to accept could possibly exist.

If it was 'Spontaneous Human Combustion', you will be pleased to hear that Bantam publish it in paperback in May and a US hardback (from Marlboro) and then later a US paperback (from Berkeley) will both follow.

I say these things, not out of spite or anger. I believe in what 'The Skeptic' is here to do. But there is a very real danger of going too far. So please, step back from the brink and take stock... We do need your input.

READERS WHO HAVE BEEN MISSING ISSUES OF UFO BRIGANTIA PLEASE NOTE. THIS IS A FULLY INDEPENDENT MAGAZINE OVER WHICH NUN HAS NO CONTROL. I AM GLAD TO SAY IT IS NOW BACK IN PRINT. BUT IF YOU GOT NO ISSUE IN EARLY 1993 PLEASE CONTACT THEM DIRECT AT: - 15 Rydal Street Burnley Lancashire BB10 1HS

NEWS ROUND UP:

:: Further to the above note, Brigantia has evidently been having some problems but they have assured me they are back to something like a normal schedule. The recent issue (no 52) was the first since last summer but no 53 is promised before the April NUN is due with you. So all joint subscribers take note and contact Brigantia direct if you experience any difficulties.

:: Also back on schedule is UFO Newsfile, the BUFORA digest of British press stories. There have been 3 issues since the last NUN so as to catch up! The first of 1993 (no 12) brings you a wide range of cuttings from around the UK. With their help I can offer copies of these three issues (nos 10 - 12) to one lucky reader. We ran this competition before and it proved fun, so all you have to do is pretend you are a headline writer with the 'Daily News of the Sport World Sun' and invent a UFO related headline; either about a real or a fictional case. We'll print a selection and the best will get all three copies. Send entries by (appropriately enough!) 1 April, please! For those who prefer to take the easy way, you can get the next six issues of UFO Newsfile by sending £6 (£5 if BUFORA member) to: - 'BUFORA Ltd' at 16 South Way Burgess Hill Sussex RH15 9ST.

:: Midnight Books has produced its 'New Year Sale' catalogue with some rare second hand titles (eg Allingham's infamous 'Flying Saucer From Mars' and some very useful very old issues of FSR). Send an SAE to new address of:-
The Mount Asceton Rd Sidmouth Devon EX10 9BT Tel: 0395-515446

Snippets from readers (air your views, ask and answer questions)...

...Martin Schofield suggests investigators check out 'Aircraft Illustrated' as each month they carry details on air events and often report military exercises due to take place over certain regions. Very helpful idea. Thanks.

...Paul Green ponders the film footage from Russia shown on a recent SKY NEWS documentary. Does anyone have details? He was also most impressed by the Groom Lake Nevada footage of what look like secret aircraft.

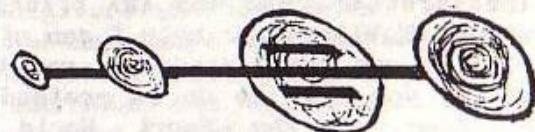
...Victor Keen suggests that the 'Fog from Nowhere' report (NUN 158) was missing some data. This was just a brief summary of a 20 page BUFORA investigation. He also suggests a rational alternative to interpret this case, that the bump in the road caused a fracture in the car exhaust and silencer (ie muffler, to US readers). Leaking carbon monoxide fumes might have created the 'weird' feelings. An unusual idea which I'll pass onto the investigators... Tim Matthews notes on this case that there are other accounts of missing traffic and distorted car journeys but he has never heard of a multiple pile up resulting from one of these Oz Factor/CE 4. In fact it is an interesting anomaly I have noticed that such cases tend not to occur on motorways where any form of time lapse or encounter whilst doing 70 MPH would inevitably prove disasterous.

...Paul John notes that Nick Pope at the MoD has written to him (21 Dec) offering to inform investigators of any cases that tie in with a dated sighting they have if you pass on details to Air Staff 2A. He will also be happy to 'any more general questions that you have concerning the UFO phenomenon'. A welcome change of approach at Main Building, Whitehall.

DEATH OF A UFO PIONEER

It is sad to have to record the death, just after Christmas, of another of UFOlogy's most important pioneers, the French science writer and investigator Aime Michel. Michel wrote several books that were translated into English during the 1950's and these became some of the first really essential publications. In the 1960's his work via FSR brought us classic cases such as Valensole and Dr X, still major events thanks to his excellent case histories. He has been ill for some time and his active contributions to the field really ended a good while ago. But in Aime Michel we have lost another of the great names from the first three decades of the UFO mystery.

CIRCULAR LOGIC



The winter months have produced an extraordinary battle in the crop circle world. MUFON Journal published an article from Jim Schnabel about what has become called the 'Swangate' tapes. Schnabel, an American researcher living in England, has in the past infuriated the circle community with his 'insider' exposées of coordinated hoaxing activity which he has written for Sunday glossies. He himself won second prize in last years 'hoax a circle' competition, making a pictogram flying solo. He also appeared talking about hoaxing on the mark two version of the Equinox documentary last October.

Schnabel's MUFON article provoked the wrath of some top researchers who responded angrily to this pseudonymised report. Replies and counter replies have flown and the dispute for a time became quite a dirty scrap.

In so far as I can tell from the published accounts the essence of the story seems to revolve around allegations at a conference last autumn concerning secret agents who may (or may not) have been infiltrating both UFO and circle groups. You may recall my reference to these so-called 'birds' in NUN 157. Paul Fuller in The Crop Watcher 14 (£9 for 6: 3 Selborne Court Tavistock Close Romsey Hampshire SO51 7TY) offers a remarkably full and frank account of what is supposed to have happened, complete with transcripts of recorded phone calls and bravely naming all names.

The gist seems to be that Schnabel and a colleague claimed to be working for some sort of secret agency (Swan). They spun a fabulous tale but (Fuller says) offered him evidence that the whole story was a spur of the moment ruse, partly to see how far such a conspiracy theory might spread in this field. Later, even when the truth was revealed, some sources in UFOlogy and cereology allegedly had trouble accepting that it really was a tease.

That allegation is flatly disputed by those sources, but Schnabel and his colleague Rob Irving (whose work Fuller publishes in TCW) counter-argue otherwise. As such the battle has warmed up a dull winters scene.

Likewise, CONTACT UK's 'Awareness' (11 Ouseley Close New Marston Oxon OX3 0JS) have updated those amazing claims about their researcher having direct contact with the entities supposedly creating circles. In the first edition of 1993 they publish the 'entities' replies to questions solicited from readers. A 'big increase' in 'big art' circles will occur in 1993 and a major UFO event will come on March 12 (so by now you should know!) Humans are 'risking the raging energy attacking' (?) As for ET - there once was life on mars, and primitive life exists on venus but the nordics and their ilk of UFO abduction lore are 'not a reality'... So now you know.

FIRE IN THE SKY: THE MOVIE

I mentioned briefly last issue that a big Hollywood movie of this title is imminent. The film is written by UFOlogist Tracy Torme (I believe the son of singer Mel) who has penned several 'Star Trek: The Next Generation' episodes. MUFON in the USA are aiding Paramount's publicity for the film's release (due in mid March).

It is actually a dramatisation of the famous 'Travis Walton' abduction which happened in an Arizona forest in November 1975; although with some fictionalised bits it seems. These sound slightly ominous given that Tracy Torme felt the need to apologise for them up front in a letter to MUFON Journal! Travis Walton is reissuing his own long out of print book under the new title of the movie to coincide with release.

It is intriguing that this film adopts the same fairly unusual title as my own published booklet with BUFORA about the Peter Day movie film, published 4 years ago and which has had some publicity in the USA. Dreams (sob) of mega riches winging our way are probably doomed as titles (sad to say) cannot be copyrighted. Indeed, Tim Good has been kind enough to apologise to me on behalf of his US publishers who have had the brainwave of retitling his book 'Alien Liasons' into 'Alien Contact' for its US release, despite him telling them of my book of that same name. Of course, I realise its not Tim's fault, and there's no problem anyhow as I am simply arranging for my publishers to stumble upon the bright idea of retitling a planned new edition of 'Abduction' to (lets see, oh yes) 'Above Top Secret'.

Seriously, its just one of those things and (in any case) I had the last laugh when Paramount let me organise the novelty of a competition prize which is to be a UFO vacation to Britain. This will be offered in conjunction with the movie's US release as part of a planned TV advertising campaign, I believe. Should be fun.

I hope to persuade them to do the same thing in reverse (ie offer a prize of a UFO holiday to the USA) when the movie comes to Britain later in the year. More of that, with a bit of luck, in the next issue.

ECLIPSING THE UNKNOWN (4) by Robert France

In Celtic tradition the otherworld is divorced from the laws of the human world, yet seems part of the human world. Its existence was separate from, yet in direct contradiction, had, by its very nature, to be unified with, the human world.

The legends state that this otherworld is near, yet far and at one and the same time many places. Entry to it was underground via caves and burial mounds, at the bottom of lakes and rivers. It is veiled from the world of humans but is always just around the corner of reality.

This all certainly does have a lot in common with the contradictory nature and sources of the aliens, who claim to come from one planet and yet a cross section of abductees are given many planet names. The aliens also claim to come from nearby or far galaxies. Abductees also claim to have been taken underground, through mountain passages and under the sea, whilst being taken to the alien reality.

Time warping is also involved. Travel time in alien craft can take from a few minutes to a few hours. Abductees are unable to accurately report how long they have been gone, one having returned hours later with several days growth of beard. In the land of faerie, legend has it, there is no time.

With this otherworld content, the various missions and quests for objects of power, etc, there is an undoubted Arthurian overtone entering the UFO phenomenon. This can also be found to an extent with quests to find one's 'cosmic name' as a new age 'star child' - ie people born on earth but believing themselves of alien origin. Most mythologies make much play of the magickal significance of names; eg at the 'Round Table' Arthur's knights would find their names appearing at the appointed places.

Beneath the alien sheen an incredible amount of symbolism seems to be adopting real-life proportions. Why is this? Relevant factors do demonstrate that an exclusively extraterrestrial hypothesis is not valid.

Regardless of how this article might have seemed I am not a sceptic. On the contrary, I am heavily involved in the contactee phenomenon as a participant guided by 'non human' sources. Like many, I also have my 'mission', which includes the recovery of artifacts, and through this I have experienced a great deal. As such I consider myself an almost 'ideal' researcher because I do not have to be convinced by anybody that something is going on. But what *is* going on exactly? That is quite another matter!

Of course, many suggest that the old legends were dressed up as 'fairly land' simply because the ancient peoples could not conceive the idea of extraterrestrial life. So the phenomenon wore a disguise. But then why should the claim that they are extraterrestrials not simply be another disguise? The academics today seek such extraterrestrial (ET) life through technology and this is done just as devoutly as medieval experts contemplated devils and faerie folk. I doubt many would be happy if SETI was a search for fairy-land. In our society searching for ET is acceptable; so is legend simply adjusting to acceptability?

Any readers who feel they have relevant experiences or comments are invited to write to me and I will reply to every letter received. Write to:-

Pendragon Research Flat 1 151 Oxford Road Reading RG1 7UY

NB: Readers who were intrigued by Robert France's presentation might well be interested in his quite unique project 'Shadow of Man'. This is a cassette tape with three elements. It comprises an introduction by experienced UFOlogist Clive Potter who has looked into Robert's story. In the main it is a lecture by Robert himself, specially recorded for audio tape, in which he discusses his theories and ideas about the nature of the influencing intelligence. And all of it is backed up by the eerie UFO-inspired original music from the Scottish rock band CE IV. The 'Shadow of Man' tape is available for £6 (p & p inc) from 'Enigma Design' at:-

15 Rydal Street Burnley Lancashire BB10 1HS

FOR YOUR PERUSAL

Major articles elsewhere



FATE magazine is the worlds only monthly about strange phenomena, packed with the latest reports, stories and with regular UFO content from columnists such as John Keel and Jerome Clark. It is exclusively available (via a one year subscription or single issue rate of £1.90) from Enigma Design at 15 Rydal St Burnley Lancs BB10 1HS. The February 1993 issue is just out and is a vampire special with a series of pieces on this theme, but Jerry Clark also looks at changes in style of UFO books across the years.

Also new to report is the Southampton UFO Group newsletter which is a good old fashioned duplicated sheet of the like all UFO groups once used to have. Details from Steve Gerrard at 25 Weston Grove Rd, Southampton SO2 9EE

UFO Times Summer 92 (inc BUFORA sub:- 2C Leyton Rd Harpenden Herts AL5 2TL) Rather late (!) arriving in mid winter, but a double issue to try to catch up. Best designed UFO mag anywhere these days, superbly laid out and glossy. Robert Moore assesses IFO options, Manfred Cassirer surveys UFOlogists beliefs. Kerry Blower on 'alien' crystals and a detailed Ken Phillips report on a close encounter at a convent. A long wait, but on looks alone worth it.

Pegasus Spring 93 (Details:- 126 Grange Rd Guildford Surrey GU2 6QP) A pot pouri of stuff on ghosts, leys, ancient astronauts and UFOs of relevance to the Surrey area. Loved the brilliantly funny 'gossip' column even if the idea was slightly half inched from Paul Fuller's Crop Watcher.

World UFO 2 (Details:- 16 Newton Green Great Dunmow Essex CM6 1DU) I couldn't believe that the Potter, Mantle, Walmsley article on CEIVs and Armageddon has appeared yet again (for the zillionth time) - still, its good if you haven't seen it... There are also useful copies of media articles in here with lots of strange tales and reports from around and about.

IUR Dec (\$30 US for 6:- 2457 W Peterson Ave Chicago IL 60659 USA) As usual an invaluable mix... perusal through the archives of the late Gray Barker (he of the original MIB fame)... a detailed review of the Spitzbergen UFO crash and a report on a CE 2 from Russia (or is it the CIS)?

MUFON Journal (\$30 for 12:- 103 Oldtowne Rd Seguin TX 78155-4099 USA) Neatly redesigned for 1993 and with undoubtedly the biggest circulation in the world (over 4300) and as the worlds only UFO monthly must be a serious consideration for those wanting to stay in touch. Dec and Jan issues have the Swangate article/letters pro and con. There's a piece on using political pressure to get UFO action.. The Ed Walters photos reassessed (again) and are 'still valid' and theres an interesting look at the time-travel theory.

BAE Dec (\$25 CAN cash 2 St Clair Ave West Ste 607 Toronto Ontario MV4 1L5) This is a really impressive and important Canadian bi-monthly which focuses on close encounters from a psychological, but not sceptical, perspective. It digests the literature in specialist journals ref the mind, hypnosis, etc, and carries lots of feedback on topics from subscribing key UFO researchers.

Orbiter Nov (Exchange for data only:- PO Box 652 Reading MA 01867 USA) Has a detailed presentation of what has been a series of widely circulated 'underground' reports which seek to undermine the credibility of the now infamous 'Manhattan Transfer' abduction where a world leader supposedly saw a CE 4 take place. Includes Jerry Clark's reasoned response to the papers.

Just Cause Dec (\$20 US, for 4:- PO Box 218 Coventry CT 06238 USA) The sensible review of the latest official documents, government cover-ups etc by the authors of the seminal work on this theme 'Clear Intent'.

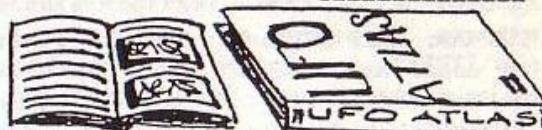
Swamp Gas Nov (Details:- Box 1918 Winnipeg Manitoba R3C 3R2 Canada) Chris Rutkowski's always informed and always entertaining look at UFO and circle happenings in Canada and, from Canada, commenting on everywhere else.

Fortean Times 67 (£2, major newsagents: sub via 20 Paul Street Frome BA11 1DX) All the usual wonderful news stories and worlds wierdest articles; inc a look at the Sweedish mystery underwater UFO/submarines and a behind the scenes assessment of the BBCs now infamous halloween 'Ghost Watch' stunt.

Annals Dec (£5, for 4:- 'Gerry Lovell' 8 St John St Wells Somerset BA5 1SW) Now this has settled down and the DTP programme is not so overpowering it is a nice looking, always interesting, mixture of small and easily digestible items on an incredible range of strange phenomena. A catalogue of the wierd.

Skeptic (£12 for 6: Dept B PO Box 475 Manchester M60 2TH) Despite what I say in my editorial this is a very important publication and you owe it to yourselves to read it. Like me, you probably won't agree with everything, but you do need to keep up with the arguments. Nov has a very useful piece by Steuart Campbell asking if ball lightning exists (quite a turnabout for a UFOlogist who once argued UFO cases were BL!) In Jan there is a fascinating, gruesome, but (if it were modified!) not at all bad, idea to test 'past life' stories... by suggesting that, eg, in my reported case of a woman who became a pig farmer (see 'The Afterlife') she be handed a live pig and asked to turn it into sausages whilst under hypnosis... Er, Yes, well

BOOKS OF THE MOMENT



Just a note to report that Fourth Estate publish a UK edition of David Jacobs book on American abduction cases; 'Secret Life' mid March. Its identical to the US edition and if you bought this from Enigma at their super deal price soon after its US release last year you won't have lost a penny that you thought you might have saved had you awaited the UK edition (shows how good Enigmas US import deals are). I'll be reviewing the book next issue, meantime the UK edition is in shops at £14.99, exactly the price (post free) from Enigma Design at 15 Rydal Street Burnley Lancs BB10 1HS.

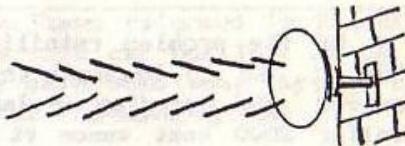
Also just out is 'The Afterlife', a Piatkus hardback from Peter Hough and myself. This reviews all the pros and cons of the evidence for survival and lets the reader judge this as you would in a trial and then effectively write the concluding page of the book according to your own verdict. It has quite a few pictures and is available for £16.99; although a cheaper WH Smith bookclub deal is coming soon if you subscribe to them.

Also due out in a busy month of March is a compilation edited by David Barclay (UFOs: The Final Answer). I know nothing about it yet, except that Blandford publish in hardback. If I get a copy by next issue I'll review it.

VISIONS OF THE BOWMEN AND ANGELS

Kevin McClure 32pp booklet 1993

'Wild Places' special assessing the legendary visions of phantom bowmen and angels supposedly seen by allied soldiers on the bloodied fields of the heroic 'defeat' at Mons in 1914 on the outset of World War I. Debate rages as to whether the story was inspirational fiction, some kind of psychosis or a genuine paranormal experience and there are fascinating twists and turns in the attempt to fathom this out. Kevin is a specialist in getting behind rumours and as such does a splendid job of presenting all this data. £2 (post free) (£2.50 o/s):- 42 Victoria Rd Mt Charles St Austell PL25 4QD

MEDIA MATTERS**A look at UFOs in the public eye**

UFO wise there were a couple of big recent stories. The first generated a lot of attention in mid December when there was a spectacular sighting over the Shetland Islands. The Glasgow Herald (14 Dec) told how a UFO 'blazing a trail of sparks and a vapour cone in its wake' passed over the Sullom Voe oil terminal (where soon after a major ecological disaster brought the world's media flocking). Was this a time travelling UFO a few weeks early? Perhaps not. According to the coastguard he saw the object for at least 30 seconds around 21.00 on 12 December and it was 'well within the atmosphere and above the clouds'. The object glowed dull red and came from the north west, passing the village of Brae then the oil terminal. It moved 'faster than a jet fighter but slower than a shooting star'. There were 18 other reports made from the coastal area of the islands. Lerwick Observatory were bemusingly said to have no explanation to offer and saw nothing.

The story coincided with news of the Aurora spy plane released from the USA. The Guardian (same day) describing this as having a top speed of 5500 MPH also picked up on Lerwick's comment and a police statement that 'we just haven't a clue what it could be' to suggest a link with a secret flight of the jet. However, it took a local astronomer to suggest what is clearly the most probable solution - that this was space junk. The Daily Record (who did not ask my view) cited my then recent book (UFOs and How to see them) as singling out Scotland, which was unfortunate as it seems likely this was irrelevant here. The UFO was simply better seen from Shetland because of the clarity of sky and open aspect surrounding the area.

The solution really was confirmed when it became clear that right across northern Scotland (eg around Aberdeen) the same object was seen at the same time. Thus it was miles high in the atmosphere. Although the meteor theory took hold for a time this was never an option. The long duration and sedate passage clearly proves this had to be heavier, metallic and artificial space junk - a booster rocket re-entering the atmosphere. These events are becoming more and more frequent as we shoot so much stuff into orbit and when they decay and come back down again, as here, their fiery death in the furnace of atmospheric friction can be very spectacular indeed.

The other big tale was regarding January's 'Global Conspiracy' conference at Wembley. You will find a preview on p. 16 of the last NUN and it was also promoted up front on UFO Call. I gather it made it onto the James Whale show on TV too. All of which makes quite puzzling the media tale that there was some sort of barrier to stop it being publicised.

The Daily Telegraph (21 Dec) reported how the organisers had gambled £120,000 on hiring Wembley Arena for the 12 hour sessions on a claimed global conspiracy (bringing in UFOs, Kennedy, AIDS, etc). Yet by then only 51 of the 12,000 seats had been sold. Ten days later, no doubt partly thanks to this PR, a huge story 'Save the world, seats in all parts' reported a rise to 105 sales with just a week to go. Quite respectable, one would have thought, had such a huge hall not been booked for what was to most people a rather ephemeral conference. Indeed the organisers even told me NOT to promote it as a UFO event, which may not have helped sell it to NUN or UFO Call regulars. The undercurrent of the conspiracy under review was also rather vague and yet vast, thus making it pretty hard for most to take in.

Of the problem retailing tickets one organiser was cited as saying that it had to be hard to just sell so few. But, when the big weekend arrived The Guardian (8 Jan) told us that the event had been moved to a smaller 2000 seat venue at Wembley. It alleged that one organiser stated that 'we have had no advertising published in UFO magazines. Their printing machines have broken down. All of them.' That statement might have been thought true, but so far as this little UFO magazine is concerned it is utter tosh. Our printers got NUN out without any hassle and UFO Call gave full details including the box office number for over a week.

Anyhow, come the day, conspiracy or not, 300 turned up - a figure any UFO conference in Britain would be delighted with. The Observer reviewing the event (in sarcastic terms) again referred to the printing press ko story. It would be interesting to know what lies at the heart of this belief, as presumably there must be some glimmer in it? Does anybody know?

It was left to the Wembley Observer (28 Jan) to really sum it up with words I dare not repeat as I suspect they were libellous. The Wembley press officer (obviously chuckling his little socks off) added; 'We cleared the roof to give room for any unusual craft to land but it was all in vain.'

BRIEF CASES

Some current investigations



The Derbyshire Flap:

My thanks to NUN readers and Omar Fowler at PRA for information on a spate of sightings in Derbyshire around the turn of the year.

They began in November when a huge triangle with red lights at the side was seen on several occasions; eg at Pleasley (3 Nov) and Breadsall (11 Nov). Then on 30 November when a white light was seen by four groups of witnesses in the Langley Mill area, including at least one police officer. At 21.00 that night a couple at Calwich Bank saw a red light and a green light in vertical array moving north over Ellastone. They then stopped and retreated on the same path. There was some speculation about a mirage of traffic lights (?) or lasers being used by Alton Towers theme park.

On 7 December at 18.45 a man at Hartington heading into Buxton saw two bright lights, one either side of the road. As he watched one moved and appeared as an elongated bright light. Then they vanished. Later that night, at 21.40 travellers returning from Ashbourne to Derby at Ednaston saw a bright object that scurried across the sky towards Derby faster than a plane.

Moving into 1993 the reports continued. One of them made brief mention in the national press and on TV. A police sergeant (Phil Garner) and PC Harry Dick reported a bright light around 18.00 over Kilburn on 12 January. They were responding to a 999 call from a housewife who had seen it hanging in the sky. Many other sightings occurred that evening around Chesterfield and it was said to resemble a 'tadpole' and be very bright. The real clue is that it stayed more or less in one place for ages and was seen in the same place next night. There is no doubt that in these 11 and 12 January reports the UFO was the planet venus, extremely bright in the early evening sky during January and the source of many calls. We even got some channelled via Jodrell Bank and it was a bit embarrassing having to tell witnesses that their UFO was a planet, something one would assume Jodrell might have known!

However, more puzzling are the triangles. These returned to Ellastone and Wootton on 19 January. Two men gave chase in a car but lost it on the moors. This is the moorland area where there have been many strange LITS reports in the past. Is the phantom helicopter on the move again?

Three visually challenged mice

8183 December 1981 Groeslon, Caernarvon, Gwynedd MUFORA C4-4

Mr L was in bed at 02.00 with his girlfriend when she heard mice in the cavity floor. He went upstairs and at her insistence set a trap. Ten minutes later the trap went off and he went up to find that it had killed a mouse. So he discarded the body and reset it. Twice more the trap caught mice in the same way over the next half hour. Mr L says; 'I don't know why I did this. I have never killed anything before or since.' After the third mouse he decided not to reset the trap. About 20 minutes after getting back into bed he awoke to find three small blue/green lights with a white centre. They formed a triangle and hovered in the corner of the room. Nudging his girlfriend she awoke to see them too. They both watched for 2-3 minutes until they faded out. They have often talked about it and concluded that these UFOs were in fact the souls of the three mice they had killed. Whatever the case, that must be the worlds most unusual IFO explanation!

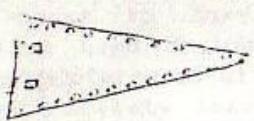
8433 22 April 1984 Grimsby, Humberside

MUFORA C3-5

On this date Mr W and his mother observed a formation of lights flying eastward out to sea from the bedroom of their house. Training binoculars

onto the array two jet afterburners were seen and he wrote the thing off as aircraft. But later a friend from Cleethorpes reported he chased it to the boating lake at what proved the same time (around 23.30). He was

directly underneath it and had described it as a huge triangular formation studded with white lights and 'rolling' forward. It is important to note that this occurred on the same day as the famous 'Saltfleet' case and amidst a wave of RAF incidents (eg a landing at Llangernyw, Clywd and an object hovering outside Lakenheath Air Force Base). There was almost certainly a military exercise on at that time and some of these events must presumably relate to unusual activity connected with that.



9034 9 December 1990 Pilling, Lancashire

MUFORA C3-4

A farmer and garage worker at 17.45 observed a see-through triangular object above Cockerham Sands. They said that it had a reddish glow inside and was floating over the sands heading out to sea. After about a minute it swivelled around in a sharp motion (without banking) and then disappeared into a point source of light... Some kind of sunset mirage effect, perhaps?

9123 18 October 1991 Llandudno, Gwynedd

Margaret Fry A3-6

A man and wife observed a bright object near the Little Orme and via binoculars saw it as an oval with 'bays' inset. It was in view for 2 hours, perhaps suggesting some kind of astronomical explanation. Do any readers have any possibilities as I have not come up with any obvious candidates. No doubt Steuart Campbell would recommend some kind of astronomical mirage !

9124 4 November 1991 Llandudno, Gwynedd

Margaret Fry A4-7

The same two witnesses a few days later observed a similar object at 03.33 but this was smaller and present for only 15/20 minutes before 'disappearing as suddenly as it arrived'. On this occasion a second witness nearby also saw an object near ground level over fields by her house. She independently described it as a dome with a row of multi-coloured lights across the top.

CASE HISTORIES



UFO OVER RAF BASE

Report by Ken Phillips

I met this witness on the recent 'The Time, The Place' TV show and he agreed to offer a detailed report which Ken thankfully secured.

The incident occurred on a Sunday in 1956 when the Mr M, then in the RAF, was at Akrotirie base on Cyprus. His job at the time was to ferry pilots to flight control and although there was no flying on this sunny day he was with 6 or 7 of them talking when they spotted the object.

It was described as being a long slim cylinder made of silver and reflecting the sunlight. They watched it standing still for some minutes and the base went onto a form of alert. A Canberra was then scrambled and took off in pursuit of the object. Many then on base were able to watch as the plane climbed up toward the hovering object. As it closed in there was a dramatic change in behaviour. The UFO suddenly flipped onto its edge and revealed that it really was dish shape. For 15 minutes ground based witnesses had only seen its rim from a side on position.

In what appeared a clear response to the approach of the Canberra the UFO now accelerated rapidly upwards in an arc that 'made the Canberra seem to stand still'. The experienced air crew estimated that it moved from zero to about 2000 MPH in under 30 seconds and that there must have been a way to shield the crew from 'G' forces.

It was later discovered during the extensive debriefing that followed that the object had been clearly recorded on radar, even before it arrived above the base and was tracked for some distance after it departed. It was at a height of about 500 feet and was so clear and distinct that, as Mr M says; 'All those in the squadron accepted that 'they' exist and nothing will ever alter my knowledge that I saw this thing.'

Has anyone any ideas about how to track down any possible records of this incident - so like several others from the time we've reported in NUN over the past (eg the Commander Townsend-Withers affair over Boscombe Down and the recently reported August 1956 intercept near the Isle of Wight)?

A DREAM OF ALIENS

Report by Melanie Warren/June Cameron

LAPIS

Mrs M read an articles in a women's magazine about abduction cases and began to wonder about her very similar 'dream' of being inside a UFO. The event occurred about late spring 1987 in Chilton, Oxfordshire but the witness now lives in Lancashire and was studied by the above investigators.

Mrs M is said to be married with one child, a practising Christian and without interest in UFOs or the paranormal. She had assumed it to be a 'weird nightmare' until reading the magazine.

She seemed to awake at about 1 am to see a bright light outside and got out of bed and walked downstairs (without trying to wake her husband). She felt 'guided' but was definitely moving under her own control.

Once outside she saw a 'huge spaceship' above the road. It was round with a dome on top and surrounded by white lights. It covered the width of ten houses but was utterly silent. She then felt herself 'lifted up' and put on a table where an 'excruciatingly painful' examination of her internal organs occurred. She was unable to stop this, being paralysed, screaming in pain and recalling little else before losing consciousness, except that three 'things' were beside her (two by her feet and the other by her head). She could not describe them but noted that other things (like robots) were in the background. She added that they seemed to have no concept of her suffering and likened it to a TV documentary she saw later where salmon were caught, tagged and released. The entities did their job oblivious to how it might be hurting the fish in exactly the way that she was treated.

When she awoke she wanted to write the incident off as a nightmare but still felt the pain. Because of the pain and examination of her body she stood in the bathroom afraid to pass water. She then went to a mirror to look at herself and as if this were a post hypnotic spell all the pain suddenly disappeared. She had no obvious external markings.

Mrs M had difficulty sleeping for some time afterwards but she still regards it as a very vivid dream, although being puzzled by the intensity and lingering pain. Her move to Lancashire 18 months later was unconnected and she seems to have no trouble coping several years later. The investigation team decided against regression hypnosis or the idea of showing her pictures of different types of alien.

This first rate case investigation explores all the options with a witness who is definitely not seeking sensationalism. She actually apologised to the investigators for causing them to come and see her. Mrs M claims to have read no books on the subject nor to be interested in abductions, but did know about UFOs, of course. She was very honest about the problems anyone has accepting it as reality, ie the fact that no neighbours claimed to see it. The events, interestingly, took place near an atomic power station.

Overall, this is a very impressive case which really puts us right at the heart of the dilemma about the CE 4 experience. By 1987 there had been enough data in print in tabloid newspapers and on TV about abduction cases for few to be truly immune from contact even if not seeking such data out. It is present in the subconscious and might stimulate a vivid fantasy. On the other hand, if CE 4s do happen in some way other than as purely visionary encounters, then there are several points in Mrs Ms story that seem to match little known aspects of such a reality. For example, the analogy with being treated like we tag salmon or the focusing of the pain/fear around the genital/gynaecological areas of the body.

How does one make a distinction between whether this is a real prototype CE 4 or 'just' a dream as the witness herself thinks? In the USA regression would be encouraged, but we know that might trigger a deeper level fantasy (based on this starting point 'memory') as easily as it might stimulate actual recall of any hypothetically buried incident. The Americans would say that by doing the hypnosis we have the data to evaluate. We tend not to press if a witness is reluctant and then are left with only permanently unresolved questions... Which is the right way to go?



F I N A L W O R D S

Up coming is the SOS OVNI annual European conference in Lyons. This year it is on 10/12 April and if you can speak French it promises to be a real treat. For further details of what is one of Europe's main events contact the organisers at Box 324 13611 Aix-en-Provence Cedex 1.

Nearer home the BUFORA lecture programme continues at the London Business School (Regents Park Outer Circle, Near the Baker St tube) at 6.30 pm on Sat 3 April Busty Taylor will give a pictorial review of last years crop circle crop... on Sat 1 May Ken Phillips will tackle modern contactees.

Details have also been announced about this summers main conferences. There are two (so far!) The BUFORA event moves south for the first time in a few years. This time it is at the University of Bristol School of Chemistry on Cantocks Close, Bristol. Dates are Sat 24 July / Sun 25 July. To date speakers lined up include MUFON notaries, American researchers Walt Andrus and Dennis Stacy, psychologist Dr John Shaw and the usual range of investigators presenting their wares. For full data and booking form write:-

BUFORA Congress The Leys Suite 1 2C Leyton Rd Harpenden Herts AL5 2TL

As usual there will also be an event at Sheffield; although a new venue has been found (The Polytechnic Main Building on Pond Street). Dates are Sat 14 Aug / Sun 15 Aug. I have yet to see a list of speakers but I gather it is set to include Linda Moulton Howe, the US cattle miltiations expert, and Budd Hopkins making another of his trips to our shores to update his abduction work. Details are available via the IUN address below:-

S U B S C R I P T I O N S

Thanks to all those who took advantage of the special offer and renewed early. There are still a few of you outstanding and if you need to pay anything to receive further 1993 issues it is shown here...

NUFON Regional Groups

SPI	(Scotland)	41 The Brees, Tullibody, Clackmannanshire	FK10 2TT
NLUFOIG	(Cumbria)	89 Bare Lane, Morecambe, Lancashire	LA 4 6RN
LAPIS	(Lancashire)	58 Torsway Ave, Blackpool, Lancashire	FY 3 8JZ
MUFORA*	(North & West)	6 Silsden Ave, Lowton, Lancashire	WA 3 1EN
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SSPR	(S. Yorks)	17 Old Quarry Ave, Wales, Sheffield	S 31 8RV
PRA	(Derbyshire)	12 Tilton Grove , Kirk Hallam, Ilkeston	DE 7 4GR
EMUFORA	(Notts)	8 Roosa Close, Bulwell, Nottingham	NG 6 7BL
PARASEARCH	(W. Midlands)	79 Sandringham Rd, Stourbridge, , W. Mid	DY 8 5HL
LUFOIC	(E. Midlands)	12 Unicorn C/van , Unicorn St, Thuraston	LE 4 8AX
NUFORC	(Northants)	46 Occupation Rd, Corby, Northants	NN17 2EF

* NUFON archive files held in central Manchester accessible c/o MUFORA T:0942-604265
You can visit the files by tram getting off at the Metrolink St Peter's Square Station in the Manchester City centre. Bona fide researchers are welcome but calls in advance to the above number are essential.