

UFO BRIGANTIA.

A JOURNAL OF UFO INVESTIGATION.



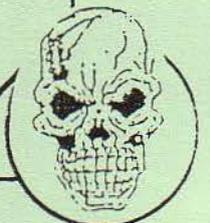
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The Journal Of The Independent UFO Network (I.U.N.)

'The washable covers of armchair ufology'

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THE IUN

The Independent UFO Network had life breathed into it by a complicated series of blood sacrifice rituals, in September 1987, and was moulded from the souls of the West Yorkshire UFO Research Group (WYUFORG) and the West Yorkshire UFO Network (YUFON), together with many hitherto independent investigators from all over the U.K. The Network exists as a non-dogmatic, free-floating pool of active researchers and investigators working together by consent and agreement, not rules. We have no membership, you are in it if you think you are.

The IUN operates a policy of total freedom of information, witness details where applicable excluded, and will assist other researchers of the UFO phenomenon to the best of its abilities. All completed IUN case files are open for inspection, comment and re-evaluation. The IUN holds no fixed viewpoint as to the ultimate nature of the UFO enigma, respecting individual beliefs and freedoms in such matters, although if you believe in something strange we'll probably poke fun at you. Closely linked with the F.U.N. (Freemasons Ufology Network- why else do you think Philip Mantle wears his left trouser leg rolled up), the IUN have spies everywhere- be careful, what you are thinking now is being recorded. Seriously, we aim to get things done without constraint.

The IUN also operates the 24 UFO Hotline, courtesy of Philip Mantle at his number above, and is involved in Project Pennine (co-ordinator David Clarke), a long term study of anomalous light phenomena in the Pennine region of the U.K. All enquiries about the IUN, case files, UFO BRIGANTIA etc should be addressed via one of the contact addresses above. In a pretentious attempt to cultivate an enigmatic persona, the IUN no longer tells people why UFO BRIGANTIA is named thusly, hoping instead that strange theories will spring up to account for it.

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Something of an international issue this time, with articles from France, Norway and the USA. Jim Melescuic's 'Updates From The States' column will be a regular feature and we hope to have other regular contributions from overseas ufologists to show there is ufology elsewhere. Most of the questionnaires are now in, but please if you haven't sent yours, do it now. The results will be published in the next issue, and make enlightening reading.

OK. It's Wednesday the 18th January and I'm ruminating with what to fill up the pages of the March issue of UFO BRIGANTIA. The editorial idea comes-how about a blow by blow account of a case as it happens? But we haven't had any good cases for a while. A passing tooth fairy hears my thoughts and being fed up to the back teeth with inserting five pence pieces under drool covered pillows, sprinkles a little magic into our world.

The 'phone rings (at that very minute coincidence fans). It's Rodney from Lancashire- a UFO landing has been reported in his local newspaper. Excitement enters our drab ufological lives for a moment. But more than excitement- this landing was seen in the same quarry that Mike Sachs saw his landed UFO in some years back (see Jenny Randles' Pennine UFO Mystery pages 60-62). Galvanised into action Rodney sets about trying to contact the witness. I inform other people. Landings (of what? by whom?) are few and far between, never mind landings in the same locations as previous ones. Rodney 'phones back shortly. He's spoken to Mike Sachs, who knows the witness and we have more details. The man was walking his dog when he

saw this massive thing, all colours and with a domed top, near the quarry where Mike Sachs had had his sighting. The dog took one look apparently and legged it. The witness knows Mike Sachs quite well and had ribbed him on and off for years about seeing a UFO. Problems though, the original report in the newspaper was 'wrong' - there was no landing - no 'thing' in fact to land. Rodney is to see the witness tonight.

OK. Lets hold the bus right there and see what we've got. A report of a landing. Even my cruel, hardened sceptical heart rose to the heavens when I heard that. Could it be true? Was this the 'big one' we had all been waiting for? Could I stop using my copy of Above Top Secret as a door stop? Was the 'Ultimate Secret' to be revealed in a wet Lancashire quarry? No. The second call dampened the excitement - not exactly a landing after all, not even exactly an object, just a light. And then the doubt sets in. Churlish to think it I know, but this guy's a friend of Mike Sachs, knows all about his sighting in 1979, and then has one in the same area. Do we not smell something damp and aquatic here? But like I said, churlish to think it. What should we do? Drop everything- wives, husbands, children and jobs to rush off to scour the area of possible ground traces etc. If we hang on 'til the weekend will we miss something? We wait and the mystery sustains us.
Friday 20/1/89

A call from Phil Mantle. He's spoken to Rod, who's spoken to the witness. We are going to see him on Sunday and he (the witness) has already been to the area to video it. According to Phil, the witness has told Rod that he saw lights, loads of coloured lights, but at first it was like the Moon shining through clouds. No more info, but Rod has it all written down. We wait.
Sunday 22/1/89

The IUN, well armed, go on a picnic to Lancashire. The witness cannot be with us today but he has very thoughtfully been out to the sighting location and has videoed the area for us, complete with voice over, so we know exactly what he saw

and where. All witnesses should be made to do this. Mike Sachs has agreed to come and show us the area and so for two and a half hours we scour the quarry in his company. When Rodney went to see the man apparently his dog again wouldn't go past the point where it saw the 'thing'. We find nothing in the quarry other than 'stones and water' and note that from where the dog was standing, whatever was seen must have been above and not in or on the quarry due to the angle. The night of the sighting was a clear starlit night and the witness could see the moon in the west so that lets that out. His account of the light, "to the SE", sounds suspiciously like some kind of bright star or planet. Two compasses check the direction and find he was looking almost directly south east. As soon as we return from Lancashire a check is run on the IUN astronomy computer simulation program (sounds professional eh?). Why oh why couldn't he have been looking south west? If he had been it could have been one of a number of stars or planets seen through cloud. But he wasn't and there was definitely nothing of any significance, planet or star wise, to account for what he saw. Behind the quarry lies moorland stretching for several miles with no habitation or other source of light. It was an area the witness knew very well and he walked his dog the same route every day and so theoretically knew what he should and should not see in that direction.

Here we are faced with the basic dilemma of all UFO investigators. A 'good' witness reporting something bizarre with no obvious explanation. Is there really such a thing as a 'good', 'credible' witness? They're all human. The plot is flavoured and thickened by the fact that the quarry specifically and the Rossendale Valley in general has been the focus for years of literally hundreds of UFO's. Why Rossendale? Sceptics would say that as it lies under numerous flight paths for Manchester and Leeds Bradford airports, witnesses are seeing and misperceiving 'planes (and why do so many of these UFOs display red and green lights- typical 'plane colours?). But read Mike Sachs'

account of his sighting in 1979 and tell him that, both it and he are both convincing and sincere. Other sceptics would say that the Rossendale Valley (and other valleys in the Pennines and elsewhere) have so many sightings because of the high skylines making it easier to misperceive stars, planets etc and also because of the car headlights on roads in and around the hills- all leading to the problem: why do we have hardly any sightings from flat areas such as the Vale of York, Fenland etc, where these things are not applicable?.

Others would say that as Rossendale lies in a geologically active area people are seeing 'earthlights'. It's possible, at least we know that earthlights exist. Others are convinced they are seeing alien craft. Maybe. But again, why Rossendale? Why should some alien craft bother with a cold, dank valley in the Pennines. Why should anything under intelligent control and presumably wishing to remain unseen by mere earthlings, fly low in droves over a well populated area and land in an abandoned, wet quarry on at least three occasions? Is there really such a call for Millstone Grit on ZZNGONXX? And why are these things always so well lit? And why doesn't anyone ever photograph one. And why.....

Cases like the Rossendale Landing throw up all these 'why's' again and the fundamental mystery returns to ufology. Just what are people claiming to see? The case is under investigation and we'll bring you more on it as we find out. It may well resolve itself into something mundane in which case it casts doubts on other 'big' sightings in the area. It may remain unexplained, adding to the ufological folklore of Rossendale and in particular that quarry (where incidentally several 'mystery big lions/panthers/pumas' were seen in the early '80's- what it is about quarries that attracts both UFO's and anomalous felines?). It may have a mundane explanation that we never discover in which case the above still applies.

How far can and should an investigator go before a case is classed as an IFO or as a UFO? And even if it is a UFO and joins the statistics of such in the Pennines, how do we know that we didn't just miss something which would have reduced it to IFO status - and conversely, if it or any other case is reduced to a mundane explanation how do we know that there wasn't a real UFO in the same area as the star/planet/'plane/whatever? In most cases we don't and can't and all we can do is make assumptions based on probabilities.

We can believe anything and know nothing about this and most other cases. We are left with a mystery and all we have is a confused witness and a dog that isn't saying anything.

Somewhere right now, possibly above you the tooth fairy (who, enjoying the fun and mystery he has caused, has renamed himself the UFO fairy) is sprinkling some more magic. Catch it when it falls and see where it leads you.

Let's talk about viruses! The newspapers on and around Friday January 13th spent quite a bit of column space discussing computer viruses - rogue programs inserted into software by thoroughly bad boys and girls - which when 'activated' wreaked havoc in IBM's worldwide, meaning basically that people lost a lot of money (sob). Computer viruses are not new and first started on the mainframes in the 1960's, put there by bored anti-establishment computer operators who were into a little chemical experimentation and fancied some fun. It's a whole new ball game now and there are specific companies set up just to rid people's software and businesses of this false information. The UFO connection to all this (you wondered where it was didn't you) is simple. The frenzy of documents 'leaked' from the Government over the years has led to speculation that they might be true, they are deliberately false or they are a bit of both. But why aren't they simply UFO viruses? Like the various hoaxes which have been/are currently being perpetrated on the UFO community by ufologists and those with an interest

in the field to see what they will do with them (Warminster, Durrant, Allingham and the many others still undisturbed and going quietly about their business), I would suggest that there is a new breed of hoaxer and one analogous to the computer virus designer. Meditate on this - A person or group of people, intelligent and knowledgeable about rumour and transmission of information, get together and decide to help an already downward spiralling subject on its way. For no other reason than the sheer hell of it they start introducing pieces of information into ufology via others, the media and UFO literature over the years and then just step back and watch it replicate itself a la the computer virus, until the whole system is saturated by it and it feeds off itself. This is somewhat different from the ordinary hoax or 'controlled experiment' because the perpetrators can never be found - they aren't even in the subject - and will never reveal themselves, they will just keep doing it for the enjoyment of manipulating people and their beliefs. MJ-12 may have had more to do with this than any shadowy government agency and the recently 'introduced' documents connected with MJ-12 which try to discredit Philip Klass may also be doing this. It's a game anyone can play, just read a few books and magazines, fake a document or two, send them off to the 'right' people and watch as thousands take on your created belief. Someone ought to market it as a game.

We really ought to take a look at the 'James Whale' TV show broadcast on Feb 3rd which 'dealt' with UFOs, but we won't. Most of you will have seen it anyway and it was utter crap enlivened only by James Whale telling Harry Harris to 'shut up' several times at the end. If you've got it on video though, watch it again and you tell me if the 'dogs' on the computer simulation of Alan Godfrey's abduction aren't exactly the same as the ones used on Spitting Image. There will never be a good representation of the UFO enigma on TV because people would rather laugh than think.

BYE BYE RONNIE - BE GOOD!

The latest in the long line of American presidents who have expressed interest in UFOs leaves office on January 25th. One time actor Ronnie may not have been that good at remembering what he was supposed to say but he sure knew what he was seeing when he saw a UFO as the clipping below shows.

UFO fright for Ron

RONALD Reagan is convinced he saw a UFO, it was revealed last night.

He was so amazed, he ordered the pilot of the plane he was in to follow the mystery object as it zig-zagged across the night sky.

The President said later: "When I got off the plane, I told Nancy all about it and

By MARK CHRISTY

we read up on the long history of UFOs.

"Yo know, even the Egyptians referred to UFOs in their hieroglyphics."

Veteran pilot Bill Paynter, 72, who was at the controls, said: "President Reagan and the others called my

attention to a big light flying a bit behind my plane.

"It appeared to be several hundred yards away. It was a fairly steady light until it began to accelerate, then it appeared to elongate.

Speed

"Then the light took off. It went up at a 45 degree angle — at a high rate of speed.

"Everyone on the plane was surprised."

Paynter said the mysterious object definitely was not another plane.

The close encounter, revealed in a new book, backed up Reagan's theory about aliens in space— apparently he once said he believed in flying saucers.

Daily Star 1/10/88

Besides this awesomely vital sighting Reagan commented at the November 1985 Geneva summit, when talking about Mikhail Gorbachev, that, "how much easier his task and mine might be on these meetings that we held if suddenly there was a threat to this world from another species from another planet outside in the universe. We'd forget all the little local differences that we have between our countries, and we would find out once and for all that we really are all human beings here on this earth together." Very touching Ronnie, let's get those Star Wars wagons in a circle now. This statement led to hundreds of UFO buffs rabidly imagining that our Ron 'knew something they didn't' and was hinting at it. Or maybe it was all part of the 'Education Program' and Reagan's statement was part of a carefully controlled series of information leaks.

Reagan's belief in UFO's wouldn't, I'd have thought, gelled well with his belief, as a 'born again christian', that this planet is in the end times and all those who have been good (selling arms to murderers and torturers is obviously good in born again land) will be lifted off during the 'rapture'. But then I suppose it's all a matter of who you imagine is doing the lifting. Perhaps god drives a flying saucer after all. The only possibly true quote Reagan has ever

given may be his, "This may be the generation that will face Armageddon". Sounds like a cop out for ecological rape to me.

Reagan's well known interest in UFO's has culminated in the current rumour that before he leaves office he will make some major public announcement concerning UFO's (yawn, this happens with every president, either incoming (Carter) or outgoing). Ron retired to chop wood and be wholesome in late January and you guessed it, he said nowt. Was he 'silenced' at the last minute? So now we'd all better start to wonder what President Bush will come out with regarding UFO's- after all, he was head of the CIA at one time so he knows the 'Ultimate Secret'. Watch out for 'Bush knows all about UFO's but isn't telling' rumours coming your way, from America, soon.

If all the ufological time and money spent on messing about with what the government may or may not know about UFOs was spent on interviewing witnesses and investigating cases we would know a lot more than we do now. 'Storming the Government' ufology has become a separate subject in its own right and has nothing to do with people claiming to see UFOs whatsoever and everything do to with little boys playing games that get them nowhere but which make them feel important.



HESSDALEN UPDATE By Mentz Kaarbo



Mentz Kaarbo is the editor of the Nordic UFO Newsletter, a member of UFO Norway and the MUFON Representative for Norway.

Article first published in the Nordic UFO Newsletter issue 1, 1988, and is reproduced with the kind permission of Mentz Kaarbo.

INTRODUCTION

During the winters of 1984 and 1985, Project Hessdalen became world famous when ufologists from Norway and Sweden performed one of the first heavily instrumented on-site UFO investigations in history. This desolate mountain valley (Hessdalen) in Southern Norway had been haunted by strange light phenomena for several years, causing much commotion among both ufologists and the inhabitants in Hessdalen. However, due to a recent, continuing low activity of UFO sightings in the area, the project has not been able to obtain funds for further direct research. Hence, Project Hessdalen has been inactive regarding field research and so-called 'hard-core' investigations for the last three and a half years.

Initially we gained support from various scientific research institutions: the Universities of Oslo, Bergen and Trondheim, together with the military research foundation Norwegian Defence Research Establishment (NDRE). The latter institute gradually became our closest collaborator, especially during the last field research in 1985.

However the fact that we to some extent were supported by these institutions must not lead people to believe that we recieved any sort of significant financial funding. Support was limited to professional consultation and kindly equipping the project with various scientific instruments at our request. But many of our cooperative partners (often individuals in charge of their departments or sections at the universities) expressed a sincere (unofficial) curiosity and interest regarding the phenomena in Hessdalen from which we were able to profit. During the 1985 period we experienced

an even higher interest in our research, which among other things, resulted in a brand new headquarters at Hessdalskjolen transported to the site by vehicles from the Norwegian Army. This connection with the military authorities was mainly established through NDRE, giving us certain advantages seldom offered to civilian UFO groups.

If the sightings of these phenomena had continued at the same scale as initially (period 1982-1984), the project might have benefited from significant economical support for the next year (1986). The funds would be given from the Norwegian Research Council for Science and the Humanities, with NDRE as the recommending authority. In this way Project Hessdalen could have become a common, public research programme at the same level as ordinary university projects. However, due to a limited UFO activity in 1985 and even lower during subsequent years, neither the project committee nor the NDRE could justify such a request for funds from official sources. Instead the Project Hessdalen Fund was extended with private donations (however limited) and the whole project restructured to be able to support similar research in other parts of Scandinavia. This rearrangement was initiated at a meeting of the Project Hessdalen Committee in November 1985. Since then, the investigation in Hessdalen has been limited to registering the reports still being given by local residents, together with correspondence and presentation of Project Hessdalen. Final Technical Report Part 1 by principal

investigator Erling Strand, published in 1984 after the first on-site investigation. Slides and pictures taken by various researchers during the last seven years are also presented in the report.

Highlights of observations in Hessdalen from 1981-1988

In this section, a summary of the more important events in Hessdalen's sightings history will be presented. It also includes major features of Project Hessdalen after foundation in 1983.

Pre-1981

According to various independent sources several sightings and unusual events have been recorded in the twentieth century. Notable activities have been made during World War II and at the end of the 1960's. A significant observation was made in September 1980, which might be interpreted as an initial event, leading to the subsequent 'flap' of later years. Mr August Holen observed three strange, saucer-shaped objects at close range when out grouse hunting. Although he observed them for just a few seconds, the sighting made a deep impression on him, and evidently became the first in a series of UFO events.

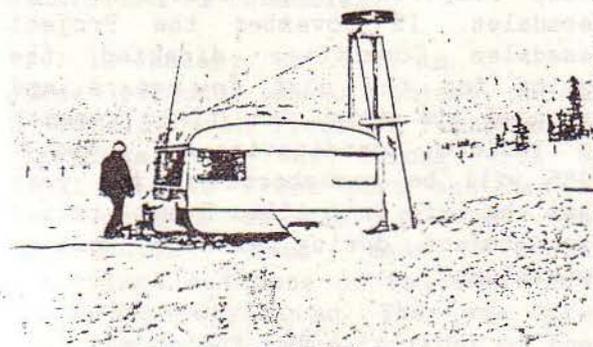
1981

During December, several local residents become aware of unusual and unexplainable light phenomena in the Hessdalen valley.

1982

A strange and transient light phenomena abound both in Hessdalen and to some extent the surrounding areas. The activity peaked between January and April. Hessdalen instantly became famous and was presented in the mass-media both locally and nationally, culminating in a movie made by the Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation shown in late March. UFO NORWAY performed its first public meeting in Alen on March 26. The activity continued throughout the year, although reports fell to a low level during the summer, mainly because of the luminous nights at this latitude.

By the end of the year Hessdalen aroused growing interest from UFO groups from around the world.



Project Hessdalen Caravan

1983

Public interest in Hessdalen was still high although activity had faded somewhat compared to that of the previous year. Project Hessdalen was established between June 2-4 in Sweden at a meeting between UFO NORWAY and UFO SWEDEN. The project was presented internationally at the BUFORA CONGRESS in London in August. Several noted ufologists became members of the advisory committee to Project Hessdalen. The project work proceeded during the autumn of this year, preparing for a heavily instrument orientated field investigation in 1984.

1984

The first thorough, scientifically based field investigation in Scandinavia took place between January and February. The subsequent report, (Final Technical Report Part 1) presenting preliminary results was published in late 1984. During this year general activity faded, though not significantly. The project received some attention in various scientific institutions and was granted practical assistance for the following year also.

1985

Project Hessdalen Part II was conducted in January and February. However, due to bad weather, observations are not as numerous as

in 1984. This, together with the fact that the general activity fell to a low level during the subsequent years, precluded further commitment into field research (with equipment) in Hessdalen. In November the Project Hessdalen Committee directed the policy for the next few years and extended its scope for field research to include Scandinavia as a whole. 1985 will be remembered as the year that the late Dr J Allen Hynek visited the project during extreme weather conditions.

1986

Some reports were still trickling into our report files, mainly from the inhabitants of Hessdalen. However due to lack of adequate resources no thorough investigations could be performed.

1987

The same held true for 1987 as it did for 1986. A small rise in activity was detected, however it was by no means enough to spur any extensive field research. In both 1986 and 1987, the project's leaders were busy with correspondence with a number of foreign UFO groups. A further presentation was made to the BUFORA CONGRESS in London by Erling Strand and Odd-Gunnar Roed.

1988

At the time of writing (June 1988), no significant plans exist for further commitment in Hessdalen. The UFO activity is still at a low level and cannot justify any official funding from the scientific bodies previously mentioned.

A short summary of observations made between 1985-1988.

The sum total of UFO reports from Hessdalen in this period from January 1985 to June 1988 (excluding sightings made during Project Hessdalen Part II) amounts to a couple of dozen. However, all possible reservations must be taken regarding the quality of these reports as just a few have been checked thoroughly. Here some selected cases are presented to give readers an

idea of the past and prevailing UFO activity in Hessdalen.

(1) 29 January 1985. 8.00-8.30 pm.

A miner in the valley observed a large shining light phenomenon towards the Finnsdalen (mountain). This same event happened during Project Hessdalen Part II and there was a sighting of an unknown light at 8.13 pm the same day made by the team members. However this was an oblong light passing from north to south. The day after, a similar light was seen at lake Oyungen for about half an hour, starting at 8.30 pm. The colour of this light was a yellow-white.

(2) 30 January 1985. 7.30 pm.

A person situated at lake Hesjoen (8 km south of the centre of Hessdalen) observed a luminous sphere-shaped light. It came into view west of the lake and moved to the east making a stop above the pasture meadow where the observer was situated. It hovered motionless for some time until it disappeared towards the south.

(3) March 1985. time unknown.

A man from Alen drove his car towards Hessdalen. When he passed Hessdalskjolen he suddenly caught sight of a large light moving south above Hessdalen. After having collected a person from further up the valley he returned to Alen. They made a halt at Hessdalskjolen in order to look for the possible light phenomena. After a short time the same phenomenon returned.

(4) 5 April 1985. 10.30 am

Friday during the Easter period a married couple were driving up the Hessdalen. One of them caught sight of a 'wingless plane' which hovered above the northern part of Aspaskjolen. The object was stationary for a while before slowly moving off towards the north. After a short time the object disappeared into 'nothing'. Incidentally, this object was observed right above the site where Project Hessdalen's headquarters was situated just two months earlier.

(5) Early October 1985. time unknown
Three people observed an illuminated 'thing' under the clouds. It passed on the eastern side of Finnsahogda (mountain) towards Aspaskjolen. No sound was heard.

(6) 9 October 1985. time unknown.
An illuminated 'thing' was seen passing towards the north. The weather conditions were good with good visibility.

(7) 15 November 1985. 7.30 pm.
A luminous 'orange' passed from the Aggdalen valley (beside the Litlfjellet mountain) towards the Haltdalen valley.

(8) 20 October 1986. Sometime in the evening.
A father and his daughter, busy with their work in the cowshed, observed one of the 'usual' illuminated objects towards the east. The object drifted slowly in a southerly direction. After having fetched binoculars, they could see a spherical shape, its light being yellow-white. On its way towards the south it stopped, standing motionless for at least 10 minutes. Thereafter it drifted somewhat westerly, perhaps returning a bit before hovering motionless once more. The object now seemed somewhat stretched, probably due to a changed perspective. The observers had to return to their work and after some time the object was gone. The weather conditions were clear with a moderate breeze and the temperature was minus 3 degrees centigrade.

(9) 2 January 1987. 3.12 pm.
An oval yellow-white object came flying from lake Oyugen and flew above Heggsethogda. It made a turn towards the north above the eastern side of Varhuskjolen. On the northern side of the mountain it dived into the valley between Aspaskjolen and Finnsahogda (mountains). The speed was about the same as that of a small aircraft and it probably passed below the peak of Finnsahogda (1068 meters above sea level). Curiously enough, at the same time two persons were situated at Aspaskjolen. However, they did not see anything, although they were in just

the right position to do so. This observation was made by Leif Havik (member of UFO NORWAY and Project Hessdalen) on one of his many excursions to Hessdalen.

(10) 12 January 1987. 7.55 am.
Three persons saw an object which moved slowly in front of Finnsahagda (mountain). It was oblong with a light in the front part and had a dark portion on the aft end. The observation was made through binoculars and none of the observers could hear any sound. They are sure that the object moved in front of the mountain some half way up its height. Weather conditions were good with clear skies, no wind and a temperature of minus 26 degrees centigrade.

(11) 16 October 1987. 7.20 pm.
Three adults and a child were travelling by car between Tydal and Reitan (some 10-15 km east of Hessdalen). On the road between the mountains they initially observed several star-like balls of light passing overhead at a great speed. The sky was clear and the wind blew intermittently into a storm. Some minutes later, at about 7.20 pm, they saw a bright flash of light which illuminated the sky towards Alen (some 10 km to the north-west). The light seemed bright greenish and they stopped the car and turned off the lights after another flash had appeared. Each flash lasted for about 3-4 seconds with a period of one minute between them. Shortly after the last flash they caught sight of an object which came flying relatively low above the terrain from the west-north-west. The object was shaped like a prism equipped with four legs underneath. All these details were clearly visible as the object came down in front of the car, flying slowly forward, making a brief halt and then disappearing right up into the sky. The observers stated that the object must have been large and was in view for around 30 seconds. All four persons felt a certain pressure in their heads both during the observation and shortly afterwards. (This symptom has also

been felt by some other witnesses who have observed UFO's in Hessdalen). The observers were also a bit frightened and none of them had seen anything similar before.

The Project Hessdalen Fund.

This project fund was established in June 1983 in order to finance the entire Project Hessdalen the following year. Together with private donations, it was the intention that several private firms and institutions should sponsor the project with (it was hoped) considerable amounts of money. A prestigious plan to attract possible investors attention was launched and should have been followed up by certain appointed members of the project committee. However, despite all efforts, especially during the latter half of 1983, no significantly lucrative deals were established. In that sense, the project became mainly a private economical venture more or less paid for by each participants own pocket. When cooperation with various scientific institutions gradually developed we hoped that some official funding might be forthcoming but due to reasons mentioned above this did not become a reality.

Then in August 1985, an invitation the Project Hessdalen Workshop was sent to some 100 ufologists around the world. A conference giving an in-depth review of the phenomena and the investigation in Hessdalen was planned for 2-4 November (1985) in Oslo. However, due to a late invitation and the fact that most of the participants had to travel long distances (at their own expence) a very limited positive response was received. Instead an alternative meeting was arranged with selected members from UFO NORWAY and UFO SWEDEN. The future of Project Hessdalen was discussed and it was apparent that no furth immediate funding was possible. Therefore the scope for UFO research was extended to geographically cover the whole of Scandinavia. If similar phenomena as those observed in Hessdalen should appear at other locations in Scandinavia over prolonged periods of time, investigative teams and field stations should be established on the

spot. However ambitious, this programme should become realistic by gradually acquiring funds (by means of private donations) over a period of several years. One of the first sources of income was the circulation of stickers, T-shirts etc, together with the sale of the Project Hessdalen Final Technical Report.

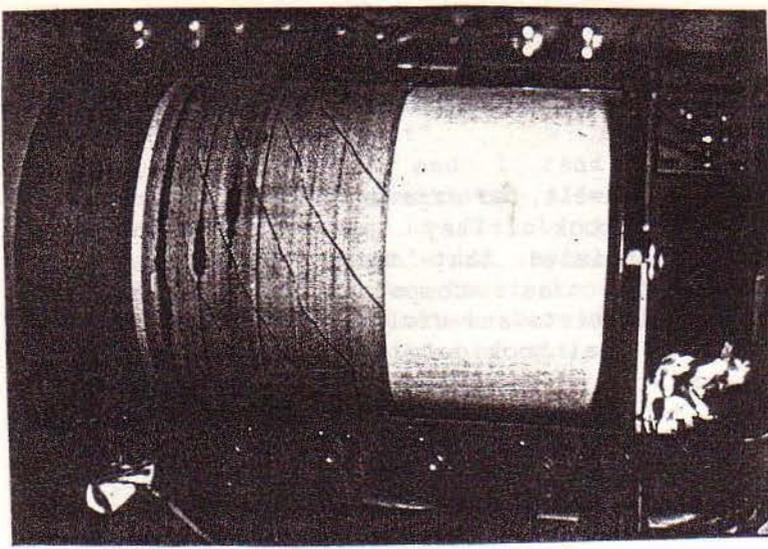
The present state of the project reveals that to obtain significant funds in this way is a long and tiresome process, especially when rapid action and results are called for. Our foreign connections will probably welcome news and further results from Hessdalen (and other locations). Presently, however, no locations exist in Scandinavia where UFO phenomena are sighted enough to justify an expedition a la Hessdalen. Another precluding factor is the still limited resources available.

Interested persons may still contribute to the Project Fund by sending donations to the following address:

Project Hessdalen Fund,
P.O. BOX 14,
N-3133 Duken,
Norway.

(Editors note: Any donation, hwoever small would be appreciated by the Hessdalen Fund. Hessdalen Reports, T-Shirts (for all you ufological fashion gods) and stickers, can be obtained from the above address and all proceeds go to the fund. Support it please)

As you will now understand there are various reasons for the present inactive state of Project Hessdalen. Whatever the future may bring, we certainly hope to be able to conduct further research into this elusive phenomena. There are certainly no plans to bury this project, just let it gradually recover from a period with limited resources. From time to time we will bring the latest you news regarding the project, hopefully giving unique and interesting information.



The Hessdalen Seismograph
Addendum

HESSDALEN REVISITED
By PHILIP MANTLE

Philip Mantle is a member of the Independent UFO Network in Britain and is a Council member of the British UFO Research Association as well as being the MUFON Representative for England.

From December 22-29 1988, I had the opportunity to visit our counterparts in Norway and visit the Hessdalen valley for the first time. After celebrating Christmas Norwegian style first with my friend and colleague Odd-Gunnar Roed of UFO Norway, we drove the 500 or so km to Hessdalen. With a temperature of minus 10 degrees centigrade and around 5-6 feet of snow conditions were mild for this time of year.

As you will have read in the previous pages there are no current field investigations taking place in Hessdalen at the moment and sightings of the light phenomena is at quite a low level. Knowing all this did not prevent me from staying for a hour or two in the mountains at the scene of the Project Hessdalen headquarters. Unfortunately the 'Hessdalen Phenomena' as it has become know as did not manifest itself for us but I wouldn't have missed the opportunity of visiting the area for all the tea in China.

After staying in Hessdalen for a couple of hours we drove another 60 km onto Rognes to stay the night with Leif Havik. Leif is the nearest of the Project Hessdalen researchers to

Hessdalen and has probably spent more time in Hessdalen than anyone else. At Leif's house there is the only piece of equipment currently monitoring the Hessdalen valley in any way. This equipment is a seismic measuring instrument which constantly measures earth movements in and around Scandinavia. It is hoped that by long term use of this equipment a possible link may or may not be established with earth movement and the light phenomena. Only time will tell.

It has been apparent for many years now that light phenomena as observed in Hessdalen can be viewed at other locations around the world. One such location is the Pennine Hills in northern England (see MUFON JOURNAL NUMBER 248, December 1988, Project Pennine: A landscape/UFO Study by David Clarke). It was because that such light phenomena is so frequent in the Pennines that Project Pennine was established and with any luck we will be able to follow in the footsteps of our Norwegian colleagues and set up a Hessdalen type project in the Pennine hills.

My admiration for our Norwegian colleagues has grown immensely since visiting the Hessdalen valley for myself. Never again will I complain when the rain is pouring on me as I trek round some lonely hillside somewhere in the Pennines. My thoughts will be in Hessdalen and I will think of the sub-zero temperatures (minus 40 is not uncommon in Hessdalen in winter) that our colleagues had to endure. But on a more serious note, the researchers at UFO NORWAY and UFO SWEDEN have shown the rest of the ufological community what can be done and we must follow in their footsteps. I shudder to think of the money wasted on such things as the MJ-12 documents when it could well have been put to much better use in Project Hessdalen. My thanks go to Odd-Gunnar Roed, Erling Strand and Leif Havik for making my trip to Norway such a memorable one.

NEW SCIENTIST, CSICOP AND THE UFO MOVEMENTBy Jenny Randles

Nobody would pretend that ufology is yet a fully fledged science. But many of us certainly attempt to be scientific in our approach. The way in which that fact comes across to real scientists (or rather, very often *does* not come across) is fundamental to many of our problems.

In Britain there are two prestige weekly journals covering general science. Both have an international reputation. One of these, Nature, simply does not discuss things like UFO's. It has a hard time writing about problem areas of accepted science and this kind of supernaturalism would bring down the wrath of its readership very fast.

The other publication is New Scientist and they have at least been willing to consider material material. That enlightened switch in attitude seems to have begun about late 1982 when a paper was published on earth mysteries research into possible energy sources from stone circles. It later included a fine piece from Paul Devereux and geologist Dr Paul McCartney on their theory of 'natural UFO's' (basically UAP generated by stresses in the surrounding rock strata); then just released in their book Earthlights.

Peter Warrington and myself, who for some years had tried to interest New Scientist in a general article on UFO science, took the initiative again and succeeded in being granted space for a feature that was titled (by the editor) "The neglected science of UFO's". Our space limitation was drastically cut to just one page, and there was very little we could do with that confinement. But we tried to demonstrate how both physical science and psychology might be able to assist serious UFO research and drew the clear distinction between amateur ufology, as forever reported by the media, and actual research by genuine workers.

Our article appeared in February 1983 and we were moderately pleased with its breakthrough. It immediately led to the request from a somewhat startled science publisher, Basil

Blackwell, to expand the feature into a book. They were thoroughly astonished that there was such a thing as compatibility between scientists and ufologists.

That book duly appeared two years later as Science & The UFOs (recently re-published in softback by Blackwell Inc. of New York). I do not pretend it said anything startling or original. But it was carefully designed to try and impress upon scientists that they could assist ufology and ufology might just have surprising things to contribute to their work. We were heartened by some nice reviews from scientists, including noted PSI researcher, Dr Eric Dingwall and the former member of the infamous CIA panel - space scientist, Thornton Page.

But by the time New Scientist got around to a review their policy had done another rollercoaster ride and they made the curious choice of asking Ian Ridpath, noted debunker of UFOs, and not himself a scientist, to write their account.

This appeared in their issue of 5 September 1985 and to call it unfavourable would be an understatement. I am not about to get embroiled in replying to a review, since peoples opinions of books are their own and fair comment. But one thing stood out from Ridpath's polemic. It was NOT a book review but an excuse to sound off about why, to him, ufology was a madhouse and a total waste of time.

Ridpath made utterly unjustified claims, such as that the book represented the extra-terrestrial hypothesis (anyone who actually reads what we wrote will know this is absurd) and then babbled on about why this made ufology scientifically unsound. Just about his only actual mention of the book in the review was to make the utterly astonishing claim; "It is disappointing to find that their examples include single-witness cases, to which UFOlogists traditionally assign low weighting, as well as several cases that they

must know are highly suspect, if not downright fraudulent".

When Peter and I read this completely unsubstantiated allegation we were shocked. It plainly implies that we included material in Science & the UFOs which we "must know" was quite likely fabricated, but wilfully misguided our readers by not stating this. That, of course, is a disgraceful and false innuendo.

Peter and I composed a reply to New Scientist, submitted jointly but published (for some reason) only in Peter's name (26 Oct 1985) in which we explained that Ridpath's 'lie' (for what else does one call it?) was "calculated to be near libellous" and that we were "surprised and concerned that the reviewer was permitted by the editors to make a charge like that without substantiation". This substantiation, of course, we duly requested.

On 7 November 1985 the magazine carried a reply from Ridpath under the provocative heading "UFO Fraud?". he reported that he responded to the challenge "with pleasure" and then simply listed sightings that were "highly suspect or fraudulent", and these were..the Socorro, New Mexico landing (April 1964), the McMinnville, Oregon photos (May 1950), the Betty and Barney Hill abduction (September 1960), the Val Johnson car collision in Warren, Minnesota, and the famed Pascagoula, Mississippi abduction. Note that of these, only one fits the criterion of being a single witness experience, which Ridpath stated in his first letter was the sort of material we had been foolishly accepting. Also, only the Warren, Minnesota, case (which was that single witness event) is discussed in any detail, or accepted by Science & The UFOs as valuable evidence. It features significant data, exceptionally well researched, immediately after the event, by Allen Hendry of CUFOS.

If Ridpath had read the book, as he presumably ought to have done in order to review it, his deliberate misrepresentation of our handling of these cases (in passing and often critical of them) can only be called

intentional misleading of New Scientist readers.

Apart from which, he provided not a jot of evidence (literally just this list of cases!) to even call into question any of these sightings, and he clearly had to know that stories such as the McMinnville photographs and the Val Johnson car attack have been studied in enormous detail with the balance of evidence very much in their favour. To say otherwise, either demonstrates incompetence or bias. Yet the man has the arrogance to end his letter by suggesting that "to find the facts (Peter) only has to check the references given in his own book. That in itself is sufficient comment on the standards of research used by UFOlogists."

Needles to say we were not about to let such an incredible assertion be the final word. But editor M. Kenward did not acknowledge further letters and instead forwarded thm to Ridpath.

Our immediate reply pointed out that Rodpath only listed cases in a highly impertinent fashion and produced not a scrap of evidence to support his calim that they were fraudulent. "True, those cases he quotes have been criticised," we accepted. "Show me a UFO case that has not. It is a shame that Ridpath did not comment in his review on the considerable portion of the book where we criticise the subject and data. It does seem as though he would like to regard the opinion of some critics of the subject as fact, when in reality they merely hold an opposing viewpoint." Of course, you must have worked out by now that Ridpath's sources are Philip Klass and other CSICOP (Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal) chronies.

Peter Warrington and I were less concerned about what Ridpath had done to our book (savage criticism and controversy rarely does anything other than sell additional copies). But we were deeply worried about how a respectable science journal could allow such outrageous things o be said about Ufology in the guise of a serious comment.

Perhaps New Scientist had grown out of their enlightenment very quickly.

So we served to end the debate by stating: "Rather than continue this discussion in these pages, we throw down the gauntlet to Ian to meet us in a public debate to discuss the proposition : 'UFOs are not spaceships, but still worthy of scientific study'."

Boy did that upset the apple-cart. We talked to Ridpath and attended a lecture where we openly challenged him to justify his claims of fraud. he waffled around saying things like 'it was proven in one of Klass's books' - but he provided no real evidence to oppose ANY of his list of fraudulent cases, despite repeated requests.

What of the public debate? We kept up the pressure. If he was true to his word (as we told him and the magazine) then he should be willing to debate these cases, face to face, and present his evidence before an impartial audience. We were moer than willing.

He said that two against one was unfair (what a cop-out when it was the supposed facts that mattered), so we offered to let him bring another debunker with him. he would not debate the matter if we 'ruled out' spaceships, because he knew perfectly well that all debunkers rely on the same con trick he used in his book review. You pretend that UFOs and spaceships are synonymous and so try to fool everyone (including yourself) that you have rid the UFO from the face of the earth. Finally, Ridpath seriously wrote to us on 27 Jnauary 1986, saying that we were backing out because WE had not organised the debate already!

He added; "The motion that UFOs are not worthy of study by science is not one that I particularly wish to oppose. What I do dispute is that UFOlogy itself is a science, or that further study of UFOs will produce genuinely anything new to science. Your motion fails to state what it is that you expect to find, and it it is precisely this lack of testable predictions that critics have long attacked."

Ah, so now we see our mistake. In order to be scientific, UFO research has to make up its mind before it does

the research what the answers are going to be and so predict them. If we do not do that and simply say, 'something interesting is going on here. It doesn't seem to have conventional solutions and frankly we don't really know what it is, but we think scientists ought to set up some research projects and try yo find out' - then we are being cranks or mystics!

The arrogant Ridpath actually reminded us he had made clear predictions in his review (basically that in the next century people will still be reporting UFOs, Ufologists will still be writing junk about them and science will still be ignoring them). With this kind of delusory mentality forced down peoples throats by high and mighty science writers and the science press, it would be a surprise if Ridpath is proven wrong.

As to the debate (which you will not be staggered to learn never took place) "I suggest you do it without me," Ridpath said, sidefooting out. And added, concerning some of my articles in the literature, "It's about time that we all gave up pretending that (Jenny) is a 'scientific' investigator."

If Ridpath is an example of what one of those is, then I can only say thank heavens for that!

I cite this tale because it is very symptomatic ofa more general malaise that prevents the scientific press from taking the UFO subject with any degree of seriousness. New Scientist does still review UFO books, but rarely with any objectivity. (Astonishingly, one of the most favourable was uncredited and for the paperback of my highly controversial offering The UFO Conspiracy !)

In 1988 Dennis Stacy (editor of MUFON Journal - ed) has actually published reviews of the new Klass abduction book and the Vallee rehash of old material. I presume he simply submitted them and they were accepted because both were largely critical of the book and in the process appeared to be critical of UFOlogy. Of course, I am sure Dennis intended no such thing, but it is hard to imagine a glowing review of a serious pro-UFO

title being carried.

For instance, in 1987 Klass was given a Ridpath-like opportunity to review the BUFORA book UFOs 1947-8, with chapters by many leading UFO experts and co-edited by Hilary Evans and John Spencer. The review (very hostile of course) spent most time attempting to disassociate Hilary Evans from the 'rubbish' he had been forced into editing. One day, Klass hoped, Hilary would write a decent UFO book. The definition of such a book, I am sure we can all 'predict' (in true scientific style!).

This is the first part of a two part article.

.....

UFO LECTURE

THE IUN IN CONJUNCTION WITH BUFORA ARE HOLDING AN AFTERNOON OF UFO RELATED LECTURES ON SATURDAY APRIL 22nd 1989. 2 pm to 5pm

THE VENUE IS ROOM ONE, BRADFORD CENTRAL LIBRARY, PRINCES WAY, BRADFORD - BRADFORD LIBRARY IS ONLY FIVE MINUTES WALK FROM THE TRAIN AND BUS STATIONS AND THERE IS AMPLE PARKING AT THE REAR.

THE AFTERNOON'S MAIN ATTRACTION WILL BE MUFORA CHAIRMAN, PETER HOUGH'S HEAVILY ILLUSTRATED TALK ON THE 'ILKLEY ALIEN' CASE. A FASCINATING ACCOUNT OF POSSIBLE PHOTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE OF AN ALIEN ENTITY, ABDUCTIONS, ETC.

OTHER SPEAKERS WILL INCLUDE PHILIP MANTLE, TALKING ABOUT THE PETER BEARD PHOTOGRAPHIC CASE AND A GENERAL UPDATE ON THE STATE OF UFOLOGY IN YORKSHIRE TODAY.

THERE WILL BE A WELL-STOCKED SECOND HAND UFO BOOKSTALL AND BUFORA AND IUN PUBLICATIONS WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE. TICKETS ARE LIMITED AS THE ROOM ONLY SEATS 70. POSTAL APPLICATIONS CAN BE MADE TO THE EDITORIAL ADDRESS. TICKET PRICE IS £2 (£1:50 FOR BUFORA MEMBERS)

.....

OH YEAH? <MAN>|

"That was a UFO, beamin' back at ya. Me and Eric Heisman was down in Mexico two weeks ago - we seen forty of 'em flying in formation. They-they-they've got bases all over the world you know. They've been coming here ever since nineteen forty six- when the scientists started bouncing radar beams off the moon. And they have been livin' and workin' among us in vast quantities ever since. the government knows all about 'em.....Why they don't reveal themselves to us is because of they did it would cause a general panic. Now, I mean, we still have leaders. These leaders have decided to repress this information because of the tremendous shock that it would cause to our antiquated systems."

George (Jack Nicholson): Easy Rider 1969

Dateline America



Updates From The States

Dateline America



Jim Melesciuc, MUFON member and editor of one of the few sensible US UFO publications, ORBITER, presents the first of his Updates From The States columns.

ABDUCTIONS

Something new but not quite so new in the abduction phenomena! It seems that a picture of a so-called alien implant device is being included in a number of lectures by abduction proponents. The picture is of a tiny microscopic crossword type object.

Mystery object amid the chromosomes

SIR—The very tiny object shown below, much like a fragmented crossword in appearance, was recently found in one of our routine chromosome preparations for prenatal diagnosis following amniocentesis. But what is it?

Is it a man-made device? Packing text as binary coded information on the miniature scale (the scale bar is 10µm) would seem advantageous. Or is it a naturally occurring substance? None of the possibilities we have been able to think of would



seem to be appropriate for amniotic fluid, so if anybody is able to suggest an answer to this mystery we would like to have it. We are as intrigued as we are ignorant.

JOHN WOLSTENHOLME
IAN HARLOW
GEORGE CLARKE
HILARY SHERIDAN
JON JONASSON
MARK CROCKER
HELEN MATTHEWS

Department of Medical Genetics,
Churchill Hospital, Headington,
Oxford OX3 7LJ, UK

There was mention of this tiny object in Nature (Vol. 323 Sept. '86) and at the time it had professionals in medical genetics baffled. Unfortunately, for the abduction

proponents, the object has been identified as a Diatom skeleton which we found out is quite common. (ref: Nature Oct 23 and Oct 30 '86).

FACE ON MARS

The photos taken from the Viking 1 orbiter of the 'Face On Mars' image and its accompanying 'City' is slowly being swallowed by many in the ufological field (hook, line and sinker) as proof of extraterrestrial visitation.



Some have even gone so far as to say that UFO visits and the Face on Mars connection is unmistakable (ref. MUFON Indiana Newsletter Oct. 1988).

The scientific community is also split over the speculation that the image and so-called city was left behind by extraterrestrials. Mark Carlotto, a scientist who has written articles on the 'Face on Mars', feels he has discovered a second eye socket and teeth in the mouth. I think we're going to be hearing a lot more on the Mars features as it weaves its way into ufological circles.

MJ-12

The Fund for UFO Research has undertaken a \$16,000 fund raising effort proposed by Nuclear Physicist Stanton Friedman. Telephone calls have been going out to numerous individuals throughout the UFO community in search of donations of up to \$500. Friedman's objective, if the funding is provided, is to research and draw every possible inference about the activities and associations of MJ-12 members. Some of the responses to this request have

ranged from "utilising the funds to finance a professional indepth study of abductee claims", to simply "call Strieber", Many feels to finance such an endeavor on a simple 'whim' is absolutely absurd.

LEGAL STUFF

A petition calling for congressional hearings on UFOs is being circulated. by MUFON Deputy Director John Schuessler. Betty Cash is assisting Schuessler with this task. Betty was injured during a close encounter on Dec.29 1980, along with Vickie and Colby Landrum. It may be that this drive for congressional hraeings resulted from the disclosure of 'Falcon's' information aired on UFO Cover-up Live. In the program Falcon (ex- agent Doty) stated that the Cash/Landrum UFO was a government test flight of an extraterrestrial craft which got out of hand.

R.I.P.

Another piece of news that recently came to our attention is on a sad note. The former director of of the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP), Donald Keyhoe, had died on Nov.29 1988. Donald Keyhoe was a retired US Marine Corps Major and is noted for his firm stance against the USAF and other government agencies alleged cover-ups and debunking programs. Donald Keyhoe authored six books on the UFO phenomena and two books dealing with aviation and espionage.

In the vicious rumour department it is alleged that CAUS (Citizens Against UFO Secrecy) investigator/researcher Larry Fawcett has spoken with a general who is somehow associated with 'Project Aquarius'. The account of this meeting somehow found its way onto Para-Net (a computer bulletin board used by ufologists to disseminate information). A telephone conversation with Barry Greenwood quickly revealed that the story is just a tell-tale.

ORBITER is a monthly newsletter, available from 43 Harrison Street, Reading, MA 01867, USA. Please enquire for UK rates. UFO BRIGANTIA recommend ORBITER.

SUBSCRIPTION NEWS

Subscription to UFO BRIGANTIA is £7:00/6 issues (one year), from the editorial address. We are also running a joint subscription deal with Jenny Randles' Northern UFO News whereby the two magazines are available jointly for £11 pa. - that's a magazine a month for £11- think about it! One UFO magazine dropping through your eager letterbox every 28 days, and all for £11.

It works out at over 250 pages of ufology a year. Available to new and re-subscriptions only. Overseas enquire for rates. All cheques payable to 'Martin Dagless' please - NOT UFO BRIGANTIA, the bank manager doesn't like it.

This is not a 'merger' between the two magazines as some people of a paranoid persuasion have intimated - both 'zines will keep their individuality and flavour. The object is to give readers value for money and the chance to have a more varied view of the UFO phenomena. Also to prove that UFO groups and magazines can work together for the benefit of ufology.

!!!!!! PLEASE NOTE!!!!!!

SOME SUBSCRIBERS APPARENTLY DID NOT RECEIVE A COPY OF THE JANUARY ISSUE DUE TO A POSTAL COCK-UP. IF YOU DID NOT RECEIVE YOURS PLEASE CONTACT THE EDITOR AND YOUR SUBSCRIPTION WILL BE CREDITED WITH ONE EXTRA COPY.

NO ALTERNATIVE!

Based on information supplied by Mark James

Alternative 3. The name either sends you into paroxysms of laughter or into a conspiratorial silence, because YOU KNOW that it's true.

Since Alt. 3 hit the UK TV screens in 1977 a certain amount of controversy has attached itself to it. Most sensible people disregarded it as a hoax. That's most sensible people, unfortunately most people aren't sensible and the book which followed got into the best seller charts and spawned a whole sub-culture of Alternative 3 buffs out to prove its truth. The book is now in its nth print run and is still catalogued as non-fiction. Alternative Three is also still mentioned frequently in the UFO literature, often favourably and the programme has been re shown on US TV numerous times.

The two letters reproduced below should lay to rest once and for all the Alternative 3 twaddle. Letter one is from Canadian ufologist Les Cherni to one of the writers of Alternative 3. Letter two is the reply, from his co-author Christopher Miles. The content is self evident. There was no Alternative 3, except in the fevered minds of those who were foolish enough to read the book and watch the TV program and who believed it. Even though this information was available it doesn't seem to have been widely spread in the literature so even though it may have appeared before elsewhere we make no apologies for printing it again.

But wait! Notice in Miles' letter he says 'Mr Ambrose is away at present'. Away, what can he mean? Perhaps Mr Ambrose 'knew too much' about Alternative Three and had to be 'silenced'.....(cont. page 23 'Paranoia Fanciers Gazette & Weekly').

310 Bloor Street West, Apt. 1823
Toronto, Ontario M5S 1W4
Canada
August 28, 1980

Mr. Les Charni,
310 Bloor Street West,
Apt. 1823,
Toronto,
Ontario M5S 1W4,
Canada.

13th October, 1980.

David Ambrose
C/O Anglia Television Studios
London
England

Dear Mr. Ambrose:

I have just finished reading the book "Alternative 3" in which it says that you wrote the script for the television film called "Alternative 3".

What I would like to know is if it is still your opinion that "Alternative 3" is a true story. Or contrast do you have your doubts at this time?

If it's true are there any additional details arising from this story?

I would appreciate very much if you can reply to this letter as soon as possible.

Yours truly,

Les Charni

Les Charni

Dear Mr. Charni,

Mr. Ambrose is away at present, and as I am co-author of the script and book of Alternative III, I am taking the liberty of answering your letter.

The idea for the film and subsequently the book, was something that David and I dreamed up over a lunch together in London, as I was getting rather tired of the docu-drama on television and wanted to prove how easy it is to lead the general public up the proverbial garden path! I am sorry that you were one of them and if you look at the film or read the book, you will realise that there are hints of its unauthenticity all the way down the line.

Of course it has a sprinkling of fact in it, but the basic show is a complete hoax and if you think a bit more yourself, you would realise this was the case.

Yours sincerely,

Christopher Miles.





◦ REVIEWS ◦

CHANELLING: by Jon Klimo (The Aquarian Press £7.99)

'Channeling' (the book, that is) is an interesting development in the coming of age of alternative psychology/cosmology. Time was that the only serious 'respectable' books for people interested in the study of altered states of consciousness etc were horrendously statistical and mind numbingly boring so the field was left wide open to cranks and apologists. 'Channeling' illustrates how far things have moved on since those days and how far into the mainstream alternative psychologists are getting themselves.

Mr Klimo's book is nothing so much as a text book. I imagine it has already found its way onto the shelves of numerous students in America. If Psychoanalysis was First Wave psychology and Behaviourism was Second Wave, the Human Growth Movement has moved on from the Third Wave to the Fourth. Transcendental Psychology I suppose you'd call it.

There has of course been a resurgence of interest in the phenomenon of Channeling over the last twenty years but as Mr Klimo points out, it has been with us since time immemorial. He has three aims in the book: to define and categorise the various aspects of Channeling; to assess the implications of communications with dead and transcendent beings; to expand our conceptions of ourselves and of reality.

This book is probably as good an introduction to the phenomenon of Channeling as any available. It looks at Channeling both in its present day and historical manifestations (I must say I was surprised to read that "In the twelfth century Merlin...was reported to be capable of many feats of mental and physical channeling."). Mr Klimo then goes on to consider the sorts of material that come up in Channeling sessions and how this happens. In the third part of the book the variety of explanations that have been brought to bear on the phenomena are considered. Finally, Mr Klimo offers what I suppose is a manual of Channeling for beginners with some reflections on the implications of Channeling for human creativity and growth and some ideas for getting started yourself.

Mr Klimo talks of "...the same perennial philosophy or ancient wisdom" expressed by the sources who speak through the Channelers. I'm afraid to me the content of the messages looks pretty banal. What I find genuinely interesting are the accounts of the subjective aspect of contact and 'inspiration' and the impact of this process on the lives of those to whom it occurs. I suspect that, as with ET contacts, this is probably one of the most important areas for study.

The book exhibits both the faults and the virtues of the text book format. On the one hand everything is here. If you're a beginner in the field of Channeling and want to find your bearings, then this is a good place to start. On the other hand, because everything is here, and because everything is edited, weighed and balanced, it is easy to lose the feel of how exciting (dare I say mind blowing?) the sorts of encounters that are the subject of this book can be.

I'd say the book is probably an indispensable companion to anyone interested in the phenomenon of Channeling. And indeed, dedicated ET'ers could probably do with having a look to widen their frames of reference a little.

Review by Philip Foster

Lincolnshire Lights

By David Clarke

Since the publication of my reference work SPOOKLIGHTS: A BRITISH SURVEY, in 1986, co-authored with Granville Oldroyd, I have gathered a mass of further historical material relating to anomalous light phenomena from the archives and libraries of the British Isles. Combined with the material documented by Project Pennine, including much important first-hand eyewitness testimony, a data-base will soon be assembled to enable common variables to be isolated in the search for the origin of the unknown energy forms involved.

The flat expanse of glacial drift and fenland which constitutes the Eastern Counties of England may not be regarded as the ideal geological conditions for the production of the luminous earth-spring phantoms which Dr. Michael Persinger and Paul Devereux regard as Earthlights. However, it should be borne in mind that sedimentary material overlies older faulted rocks and the existence of active seismic stress zones in East Anglia is confirmed by the location of the largest recorded earthquake in British history - at Colchester in Essex in 1884.

Furthermore, the location of one of the most interesting recurring light phenomena in the region - undulating countryside immediately to the north of the city of Lincoln - occurs in an area of interesting geology. Middle Street is a ridge of limestone oriented north-south from Lincoln to the Humber along which runs parallel the Roman road of Ermine Street. Ethel Rudkin, the famous local collector of folklore, writes of a stretch of road, Old Leys Lane, on the crest of Middle Street, near an old stonepit where:

"...night after night (early this century) in winter-time a light could be seen; it looked like a bicycle lamp and was at about the same distance from the ground and of the same colour. A man from Atterby used to come courting to Willoughton, and he was so scared by this light that he used to go another way, many miles

round. One of our policemen was at the crossroads late one night, and saw a bicycle light coming up Atterby lane. Though he was off his beat he thought he would stay and see who it was; so he waited until the light got level with him - and there was nothing!"

Mrs Rudkin describes a number of other locations along the length of the limestone ridge where weird lights were often encountered by local villagers. An informant tells of lights at Blyton Carr, where they are *"reddish in colour and keep close to the ground; the 'dance' and look like a man walking and carrying a lantern; they also move quickly from one place to another"*.

To the east of the ridge of Middle Street is a sandstone escarpment known as The Cliff. Nestling between the two is a string of villages following the length of Ermine Street. One of these is the apparently unremarkable hamlet of Cammeringham.

Writing in 'Lincolnshire Life', Mr G.F. Garner, tells of how *"almost fifty years ago (during the 1920's) I used to spend part of my summer holiday on the farm of an uncle at Sturton-by-Stow, and it was during one of these holidays that he told me the fantastic, amazing and, as far as I know, the unsolved and unsoluble mystery story of the Cammeringham Light"*.

This *"emanation, appearance, apparition, phantom, phenomenon - call it what you will"* was a typical example of a Spooklight. Its favourite haunting ground was *"near a certain wood down below the Cliff (hill) at Cammeringham"* as well as the top of a wall among some outbuildings of ancient Cammeringham Farm on the hillside above the village. However it did not stay there but was exceedingly mobile, speeding along quiet country lanes and scaring locals returning home in the dark of night. Ethel Rudkin

writes that the last occasion the light was seen to her knowledge was on September 1931, after a "very wet summer"; she describes how a local carrier had seen late one night when returning home along Middle Street from Lincoln, a weird light on Cammeringham Top - "it went before him bounding up and down near the hedge on the west side of the road"; suddenly it vanished either into the ground or into thin air.

In the 1930s it was said that the Light was an established fact of life in the area, the three oldest residents of the village were "without a doubt that the 'Light' did exist and that they had all seen it." One had seen the Light moving among some haystacks, another had seen it performing gymnastics above hedgerows, and the third moving across the road in front of him. This situation reflects the traditional belief in the existence of inexplicable lights in many isolated farming communities in the Pennines today, as well as highland regions of Wales and Scotland, where the ignorance and disbelief of outsiders means very little to those who know these lights exist but who avoid discussing with outsiders events for which they have no logical explanation.

The existence of so many independent witnesses over such a length of time in a localised district suggests to me that the light phenomenon involved must be connected to some unknown topographical and geological factors rather than accountable by some vague socio-psychological aberration of the people involved.

Significantly, G.F. Garner tells of how "not everyone could see the light, even at moments when it was visible to others. My father... born at Ingham in 1884, never saw it, but he was not a sceptic, perhaps because he knew people who claimed to have seen it, and whose integrity he could not doubt. Moreover he held the astonishing view that ability to see the light depended upon the hour at which a person was born, which is perhaps a far-fetched way of saying that some people have psychic powers and some have not". This statement echoes numerous contemporary UFO

sighting accounts where apparently huge and brilliantly lighted flying 'machines' have hovered over heavily populated areas and yet were only observed by one individual or a small group of individuals.

The Revival Lights of Wales in 1904-5 were also on occasion only visible to certain people; the journalist Beriah G. Evans on one occasion seeing a blood-red light "apparently within a foot of the ground..in the centre of the village street before me", whilst in the company of the evangelist Mary Jones. Two other companions, however, saw nothing. Mrs. Jones claimed to receive guidance from these lights in much the same manner as modern UFO contactees. Hence: "she had seen, almost from the first, each evening, a light between here and the hills. It had revealed to her what to expect at the meetings."

G.F. Garner describes how his grandfather accompanied a friend by the name of Taylor in an attempt to solve the mystery of the Cammeringham Light. After the light appeared, Taylor pointed to it and told Richard Garner where it was. "To Mr. Taylor's astonishment, my grandfather replied that he could see nothing at all, and he did not believe that there was anything to see!". However Taylor was a religious man, and after he fell to his knees in prayer the light began to move towards him, following which his dog evidently saw the light and snapped at it, causing it to vanish. The possibility that belief in itself-like prayer- can create objective phenomena external to the human mind is a theory known and accepted by mystics and philosophers for millenia. The Tibetans, for example, believe that shamans are able to manipulate invisible energies into visible 'thought projections' known as tulpas.

There were many theories about the Cammeringham Light, including the obligatory tale that it was connected in some way with a murder that had taken place in the vicinity during the 19th century. G.F. Garner notes that there were "neither ships, nor sea storms, nor marshes, and therefore no St Elmo's Fire and no

Jack o'Lanterns". The widespread 'explanation' that lights such as these Will o'the Wisps were due to the ignition of marsh gas produced naturally in swamps and fens is now known to be without scientific foundation - lights such as these have never been artificially reproduced in the laboratory.

In her work on East Anglian ghostlore, Joan Forman states that the Light at Cammeringham had been seen "on several occasions over the centuries", but was seen particularly frequently during the late 19th century, so much so that parties of curious ventured out regularly from the village of Sturton for 'skywatches', without solving the mystery. The association of the light with local belief has led some to connect its proximity to the Roman Road (as I have also found in my study of the Longdendale Lights in Derbyshire). Most interesting in this context is the experience of a Mr Lucas, a resident of Lincoln, early this century, in the neighbourhood of Cammeringham, recounted by Joan Forman:

"Mr. Lucas was walking to work one morning just as dawn was breaking. It was a misty start to the day, and the vapour was formed in banks and patches...the sun was rising, and the day grew brighter as the man walked. Without realising it, Mr. Lucas focussed his attention on a particularly large bank of mist which was drifting towards him. As it drew nearer there emerged from it a chariot driven by a woman and pulled by two horses, one white and one black. The woman's dress was long and loosely flowing; her hair also lay loose over her shoulders. She whipped the horses and as she moved, the early sunlight caught and lit a quantity of gold jewellery which she wore. Within seconds the chariot was again swallowed up by the mist".

Mr Lucas was of the firm opinion that he had seen the ghost of Queen Boadicea, though the parts played by perception, expectation and cultural conditioning in this experience are highly relevant to how paranormal phenomena are interpreted today in the space-age. The locals told Mr Lucas

that he had seen the Cammeringham Light, implying that the local light phenomena also manifested in anthropomorphic humanoid form. Appearances of such luminous figures are common in ghostlore and have undoubtedly given rise to legends and traditions of 'White Ladies' and ghostly monks haunting ancient earthworks and halls, and to the sustenance of religious belief in the continuing manifestations of radiant religious entities such as the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Another interesting experience with light phenomena in the Cammeringham area took place in the year 1950, suggesting that whatever factors contributing to their production are still around. An ex-RAF observer reported, how one night he and a colleague had observed 6 or 7 balls of orange light in the sky whilst driving near the village of Ingham, a mile from Cammeringham. The lights accompanied the car as they drove along the disused airport runway at Fiskerton.

"They were as big as footballs," he recalled "just in front and above me. I reduced my speed to 15 mph..the lights moved with me. I slowed down to a crawl and they seemed to slow down with me. I stopped and cut the engine and suddenly I could not see them. Then suddenly, although it was black and moonless, I found myself in the middle of an area from 150 yards in diameter, bathed in an intense yellow light. Although I was not afraid I stayed in the van and started off for home. The light immediately went out and the small lights returned just in front of me all the way back.

"On my arrival in Fiskerton I found my wife and others standing outside the house looking at the same objects 'swinging in the sky'. The lights gave a performance of what I can only describe as aerobatics, dividing and multiplying all the time. Suddenly, there was only one left and its size diminished rapidly to that of an orange. It travelled at an amazing speed until no longer visible. The three of us agreed that we had observed something 'just a little out of the ordinary'."

The behaviour of these lights hardly sounds like the performance of the extraterrestrial spaceships which we are continually being told are real physical machines capable of crashing and being stored in the icebox. The experience above is typical of those who have observed the characteristics of light phenomena at first-hand. Unfortunately, many 'ufologists' have already decided beforehand what UFOs are (spaceships) and have continuously distorted and misrepresented eyewitness accounts to fit their theory. The current fad or obsession with 'abductions' is a perfect example.

Those researchers quietly working on the connections between geophysical light phenomena (ie the objective UFO phenomena) and the human brain, such as Dr Michael Persinger and Paul Devereux are slowly progressing along the road towards a true understanding of what really lies behind the UFO mythology. This fundamental research is taking place outside the mainstream of the UFO community, which has progressed nowhere in forty years of searching for non-existent 'aliens'. Many prominent names in ufology are still living in a paranoid fantasy world populated with pickled aliens, vile government plots against the people, and above top secret documents. This situation is highly amusing to those observing it from outside its cultural context, though no doubt I will be proven a heretic when 'The Truth' finally emerges! However, as we all know, "there's often nothing more strange than the truth...."

Notes & References

1. Folklore Journal, 1938-39, pgs 46-8/2. Lincolnshire Life, January 1974./3. Lincolnshire Magazine, Vol. 4 (1938-39), pgs 25-26./4. Haunted Esat Anglia, by J. Foreman (1974). pgs 25-26./5. 'Longendale Lights' in Derbyshire Life and Countryside, February 1989./6. Lincolnshire Chronicle, May 25, 1978./Thanks to Nigel Watson, Lincoln Central Library and the Geology Department of Sheffield University for material used in this article.





news...news...news...

DO THEY MEAN US?

Totally mental is *Intruders* by Bud Hopkins (*Sphere* £2.99) which follows in the shallow footsteps of the infamous *Communion* (Avon £2.99) by Whitley Streiber (great name!) in claiming to be a factual representation of the evidence that we have been 'visited'.

What a load of shite! What intelligent alien with more than one active braincell is going to visit this festering capitalist hole?

Hopkins is especially offensive with his claims that the UFOs-are-a-load-of-oid-bollocks lobby (ie, every sane person on the planet) can be compared to those who were sceptical about Hitler's Holocaust—a truly disgusting comparison. Eat shit and die. Both books claim to be non-fiction. Flying pig off, scumbags!

Taken from the book review section of the *New Musical Express* (18/2/89) we have a fine example of how popular culture sees UFO material. Obviously Steven Wells, the reviewer hasn't got the faintest idea about what's what. He may be right- they are crap books - but they do have *some* basis in reality. Write and complain.

CIRCLES

Ralph Noyes has a comprehensive list detailing all the major sources of published information dealing with the anomalous 'cornfield circles' (worldwide), which have become attached to ufology. If you are at all interested in this phenomena this bibliography is essential. It can be obtained (please send an sae) from Ralph Noyes, 9, Oakley Street, London SW3 5NN.

WANTED

Ron West would like to obtain copies of the following books: 'Passport To Magonia' & 'Invisible College' by Jaques Vallee and 'Secret of the Ages' by Brinsley le Poer Trench. Ron is also interested in any books dealing with 'Agharti' and other underground cities. Ron West, 95 Chilburn Road, Gt. Clacton. Essex, CO15 4PE.

COMPETITION RESULTS

Ufological apathy seems to have been prevalent and no-one won the competition. Pathetic. Here are the answers. Across: Exobiology/U. T. /I. F. O. /Sad/Ea/On/god/Brent/N. D. E. /Umno/Elf/M. P. /Catoe/Apen/M. O. /A. R. /O. S. I/Is/Dero. Down: Eddie Bullard/Ohio/Lawson/Grudge/Chop/Farm/Bent/Delphos/E. M. /Demonic/Tf/C. I. A. /E. M. /Fear/N. R. O. /M. I. B. And the humans were: 1. Mark & Graham Birdsall. 2. John Rimmer. 3. Philip Mantle. 4. Andy Roberts. Better luck next time!

IUN REPORTS

1. The AUGUST REPORT (David Clarke) - Sightings during August '87- £3:00
 2. The HULL REPORT (Gary Anthony) - Investigation and reconciliation of UFO flap which took place over Hull on 9th December 1987. Same price as above.
 3. FLY-BY-NIGHT (David Clarke). - Over 160 pages dealing with the initiation and development of a major UFO wave (1988). Exhaustive sighting and investigation reports, newspaper cuttings, maps, photographs, drawings, statistics, letters from the MOD etc, etc. Originally a limited edition, demand has forced a reprint and it is now available in three A5 booklets at £8:50 inc p&p.
- All reports available from the editorial address. Cheques to 'Martin Dagless'.



THE FRENCH CORRECTION

Dear Philip,

.....Thanks also for UFO BRIGANTIA. I must say it is one of the best UFO reviews I have read.....I would also like to stress one or two points regarding the last issue (Nov/Dec) and especially concerning Regina Cullen's quote from George Andrew's letter. No. It is not CNRS which is the equivalent of NASA, but CNES. The CNRS is the National Scientific Research Centre, and has nothing to do with the CNES.

Also, according to our knowledge (and we're pretty well informed), CNRS did not distribute a dossier to 'heads of the different French UFO groups' as stated. Maybe Andrews refers to the Lear paper probably obtained by Jean-Francois Gille, former CNRS researcher and nuts and bolts believer in UFO's. All the best and keep up the good work.
Perry Petrakis (Association d'Etude sur les Soucoupes Volantes) Aix-en-Provence.

Editors reply: Several people wrote in about this topic. Since then we have heard from George Andrews that the 'dossier' was in fact just a French translation of the Lear statement anyway- and you know what we think about that. Thanks to Perry and other 'researchers' such as C.D. Allan a ufological myth has been nipped in the bud here. Perhaps researchers making wild claims should check them out in future?

IF YOU BELIEVE THIS YOU'LL BELIEVE ANYTHING!

Dear Sir,

Thankyou for printing my letter concerning the crashed UFO. Since I submitted that letter I have had further, confirmatory, evidence. Evidence which leaves me in no doubt as to exactly where the UFO crashed and who was responsible in its recovery. My contact, 'Peter' has also provided me with more information on the US government's involvement with UFO's, which when considered with the release of sensitive documents in the USA, make considerable sense. He referred to code names such as 'JASON', 'EXCALIBUR', 'MERLIN' and 'WIZARD'. I have seen documents pertaining to this last one although I will not reveal the content to you or any other so-called UFO researcher. You are out of your depths. Why do you want to know so much? Your recent attempt to contact me (on behalf of whom?) showed just how amateurish you are and I will not be passing information, no matter how trivial, to you in future.
Yours, Alan Staithes, Preston, Lancs.

Editors Reply: OK. Why are people so hung up on 'code' words and pieces of papaer with black lines through them. Why only other day I was looking through a classified document dealing with the 'two sandwiches short of a picnic' end of the UFO researcher spectrum- it's code word - 'Pillock'. Can we have some sensible letters please readers?

THICKENING THE PLOT

The newspaper cutting below is taken from the Times, and as you will read describes a German built UFO crashing on the Norwegian island of Spitsbergen. The Spitsbergen UFO crash, although generally thought to be a hoax, keeps re-appearing in ufological literature and refuses either to go away or be resolved. This 'Nazi Connection', currently enjoying something of a fashionable revival in some ufological areas, serves to confuse matters even more. We are printing this cutting with no comment, but a major article bringing together everything known about the Spitsbergen crash is being researched and will hopefully be in UFO BRIGANTIA some time later this year. Other newspapers of the time (notably the Swedish ones) ran similar stories about the Spitsbergen crash - also printing plans of the famous 'Schriever disc' - again implying Nazi connections.

So what's occurring? Klein was a highly placed engineer working for the Germans and did work on some flying disc designs. Several things don't fit though - not least the fact that the Swiss paper quoted (Tages-Anzeiger) could not find the article referred to.

“FLYING SAUCER” IN 1945

GERMAN'S ACCOUNT OF EXPERIMENTS

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

GENEVA, Nov. 18

The Zurich newspaper *Tages-Anzeiger* to-day published an account of an interview with German engineer, Herr Klein, who was employed in Speer's Ministry of Munitions during the Third Reich, and in that capacity was concerned with the production of Hitler's secret weapons. One of them, according to Herr Klein (who now lives at Zürich), was a type of "flying saucer."

He states that he was present when a "flying saucer" was released from Prague in 1945. It soared to a height of 30,700ft. in three minutes. The construction of the pilotless, ray-guided disc was begun in 1942, and within less than two years it was possible to make the first experimental flight. It was one of these discs, Herr Klein claims, which was released at Stettin and crashed on Spitsbergen. The model was built at Peenemünde, where the V1 and the V2 were also produced. According to Herr Klein, two types of flying disks are being produced to-day—one with a diameter of about 52ft. and the other with a diameter of about 138ft. Nor did he disbelieve stories that "flying saucers" had been seen both to remain stationary and to turn at an angle of 90deg. Stability, he said, was attained with a device on the principle of the gyroscope.

Klein may have been involved in German flying disc work and also involved with Schriever, but although in the adjacent cutting it states that he saw the 'saucer' fly doubt may be cast on this. According to GENESIS author, W. A. Harbinson, the date given for the original test (14/2/45), when Klein claimed to see it fly, is open to question as it was a day of extremely bad weather, not conducive to test flights. Schriever himself denies that the test ever took place. Doubt is further cast over these incidents by the fact that Renato Vesco's book INTERCEPT UFO, which deals with man-made and German UFOs, fails to mention the Schriever disc entirely. The American Intelligence agencies obviously thought otherwise and at the end of WW11 circulated several memos to the effect that Klein, Schriever and his pals should be brought in for a chat if possible. Later Air Intelligence reports from 1954 aren't so sure and state that "Klein etc are not known to have produced any significant information pertaining to flying saucers. It is very possible that...has led writers to speculate freely on connection between them and the flying saucers which have received wide publicity." More Nazi UFO stuff next issue, with an article from Ian Blake