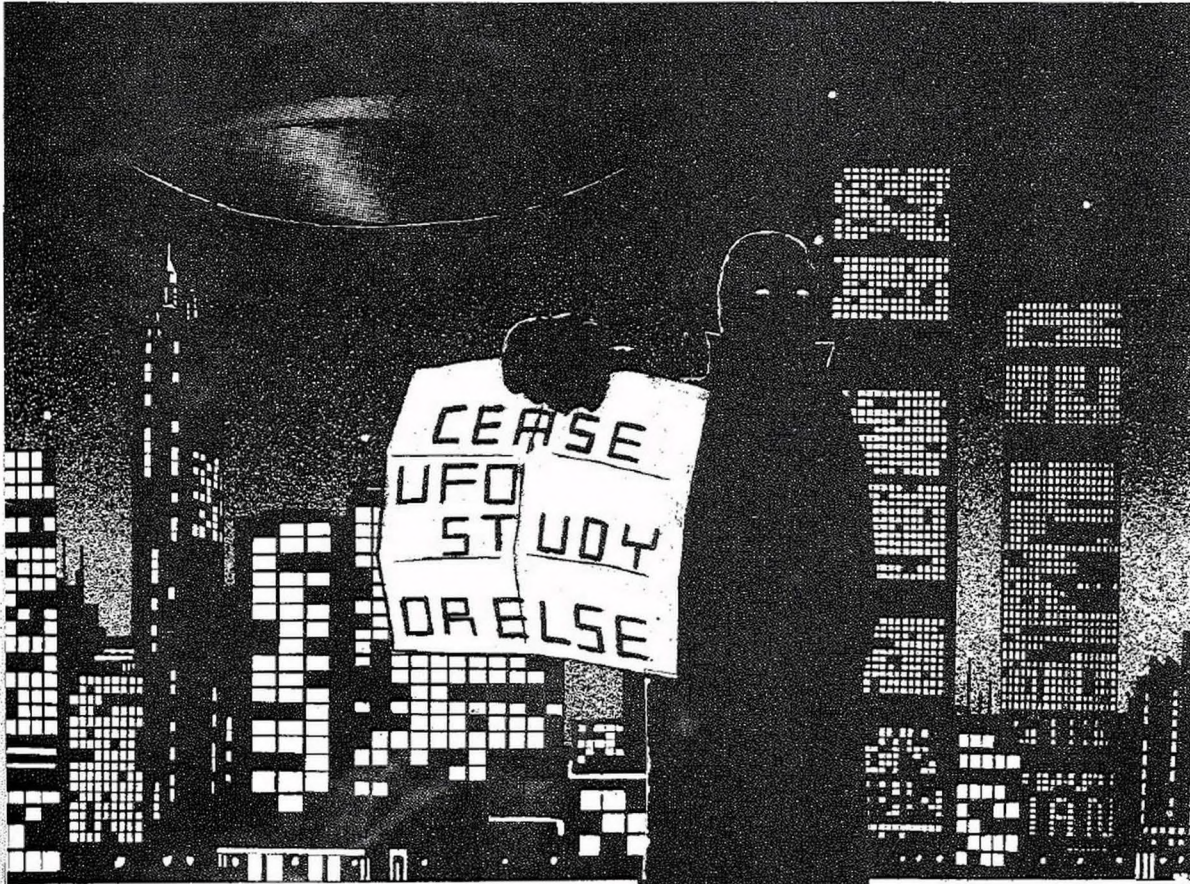


THE **PROBE REPORT**

JOURNAL OF UFO INVESTIGATION



MAN-IN-BLACK REALITY

IN THE WESTCOUNTRY

THE PROBE REPORT

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF PROBE UFO INVESTIGATION ORGANISATION

Editor - Ian Mrzyglod.

16 Marigold Walk,
Ashton,
Bristol. BS3 2PD.
ENGLAND.

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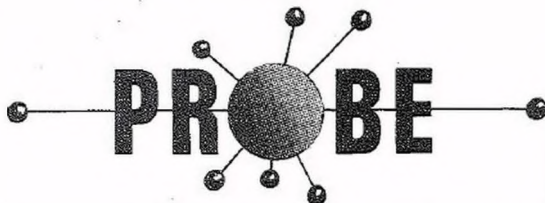
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UFO INVESTIGATION ORGANISATION

16 MARIGOLD WALK
ASHTON
BRISTOL BS3 2PD
ENGLAND

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EDITORIAL

Just where should one draw the limitations on truth? Should we push forward with no or little regard for the consequences or should we stop when someone begins to show signs of being upset? With ufology truth is a very difficult commodity to work with, because someone always gets upset no matter what is said or by whom. During the years that PROBE have been conducting investigations into alleged UFO sightings, our terms of reference have altered, and our approach has undergone some radical changes due to a kind of 'growing up' through experience. It has to be said here that much of that growing up is attributable to SCUFORI (Swindon Centre for UFO Research and Investigation) who had already reached a level of maturity that far surpassed anything that we as members of local UFO groups had previously encountered. (How overworked that word has now become). With an element of guidance PROBE tried to emulate the work being carried out by SCUFORI and it is fair to say that we as a team think we fared OK over those years, but certainly not forgetting that there is always room for improvement. Anyway, that aside, it increasingly became obvious, that by applying more rigorous and thorough parameters in the investigations, more and more initial 'UFOs' vanished and were replaced by funnel clouds, plastic aluminium laminate balloons and aircraft amongst many other explanations. Yet these reports were no different than the ones that we used to receive when we all worked under the name of UFO INFO EXCHANGE LIBRARY, a now-extinct group originally based in Trowbridge, Wiltshire. They were more or less identical in nature, ie, the letter or completed sighting report form contained accounts of brightly lit discs that moved quickly and silently across the sky and it couldn't possibly have been an aircraft or else the witness would have heard it, (and so it goes on). Not taking anything away from the witness who in all honesty may have perceived the object as so, but whereas we would have published the account verbatim in early years and not looked into alternative explanations other than a definite UFO, the latter understanding of the work that we were involved in showed that some of these could be identified, and not only tentatively so. In some cases, a more thorough check would have positively identified some of them as aircraft and astronomical objects, I'm

sure. Of course, not all of the reports that were received then, or even now, could be explained - it isn't as simple as that. But the point being made is that, whilst we were printing every case put in front of us, we thought we were amassing tremendous volumes of evidence to support the theories that UFOs really did exist and that they were solid, tangible objects occupying our time and space.

But slowly, at the realisation that everything was not as it at first seemed, that somewhat diminished the enthusiasm for the subject. But, afterwards it became more apparent that this was perhaps the best way to get involved with ufology and tackle it at root level. For some, once the magic and romance of a mystery is gone, it never seems quite the same. Paul Begg I'm sure has ruined the Bermuda Triangle for many people. Hilary Evans restored some sanity into the Dyfed stories of a few years back by diligently starting at the beginning and tackling the problem from the roots. It wasn't because these people wanted to destroy modern-day concepts, but because as dedicated students of ufology they wanted to know the truth. PROBE wanted to know the truth over the circles that appeared in the westcountry. We investigated them and applied logical explanations to them - not because we wanted to get up peoples' backs - but because we wanted to discover the truth behind them. And what happens? PUFORG call me suspicious, devious and sinister and accuse me of operating a cover-up. (See SIGNALS) Jenny Randles, whilst addressing the BUFORA AGM last December put forward good arguments which postulated that many UFO sightings may be subjective experiences caused by the mind lapsing into a semi-dream state, initially called the 'OZ Factor'. This theory wasn't put forward to vanquish UFOs, but to offer some thoughts for further research and serious debate. Yet, one gentleman stood up and accused her of working for the Government and out to depress UFO reports.

So how far must one search for the truth? I feel that we must delve even deeper despite upsetting what were former friends. PUFORG will no longer support our work because they feel threatened by what we are achieving. They refer to the mystery circles work as 'tedious' which reflects their total rejection of it. What we are doing as an investigation team is hopefully of benefit to ufology by offering reports that have been thoroughly checked out. If we put forward reports that could easily be explained, that would make the authorities even more amused.

In the meantime, we must endure the abuse that comes from some quarters, and carry on with the job, no matter who it upsets. So the answer to the questions asked at the beginning seem to be to push ahead and hang the consequences.

Because the truth ruins someone's afternoon tea party, what does that matter? If people wish to ignore what is offered, and answer back in a scathing manner, so be it. If any of the PROBE team put forward a plausible explanation for an alleged UFO sighting that puts it into the ranks of 'Identified', that does not make us anti-UFO. If we are able to eliminate a so-called 'UFO' from a report, is that operating a cover-up, working for the Government, being

anti-UFO, or just plain telling the truth? I'm sure some of you will ponder that question for a long time to come.

Somebody once said 'Scepticism is a malady which carelessness and inattention alone can remedy'. I have no intention whatsoever of being careless or inattentive.



Ian Mrzyglod (phonetic - Mazz-ee-glod)
Editor

INTRODUCING...

From this January 1983 issue, THE PROBE REPORT is entering a new area and is now being officially distributed to all EUFORA members as part of their membership subscription. That means that any EUFORA members who are also subscribers to this journal need not renew with us again, or, if you still have issues to come on a current subscription, you can write and obtain a proportionate refund. This will not be an automatic process - ie, you have to contact us as we do not have an inkling who is and who isn't a EUFORA member. PLEASE write to the address on page 1:- not to EUFORA.

It should also be pointed out that letters of comment, articles for submission and any other matters concerning THE PROBE REPORT should be sent to the editor at the same address.

Back issues of THE PROBE REPORT are also available from this address, at the prices shown on the back cover, and are not inclusive of the EUFORA membership fee. This covers issue Vol 3, No 3 onwards. Frequency of publication is

quarterly and it is usually mailed to all subscribers in time to coincide with the 1st day of the publication month. However, EUFORA will be distributing this journal in a manner which best ties in with the other EUFORA publications that also have to be dispatched, and minor delays may be experienced. All EUFORA enquiries are still to be sent to the normal EUFORA officers.

So, with that out of the way, your editor takes this opportunity to welcome the new readers, thank the older ones for sticking with us... and to apologise for the major goof that crept into the last issue. Pages 11 and 12, although printed in correct numerical order, were in fact numbered wrongly and p12 should have been read before p11. Try it that way!

To further confuse everyone, the April issue will be published in early March because I won't be in this country during the whole of April. Please continue to forward letters, exchange journals and anything else to this address, but don't expect a reply until May.

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**CASE
CLOSED**

SPECIAL -

THE ALIEN AMONGST US

MARTIN SHIPP

The Man-In-Black 'syndrome' has been with us for many years now, allegedly plaguing UFO investigators to the extent that many gave up their work and destroyed all their documents, books and magazines on the subject. With threats of death thrust upon them, that were seemingly genuine, this course of action was not wholly unreasonable. Yet these accounts of death threats and messages of warning were always considered to be happening more on the other side of the Atlantic, and really to be a thing of the past. So it is fair to say that when such a case came to the westcountry, no-one was really prepared for what was to ensue. Martin Shipp chronicles the events.

The most famous Men-In-Black case on record is that of Albert K. Bender, an American UFO researcher who formed the International Flying Saucer Bureau in April 1952. As the IFSB rapidly grew, with branches all over the world, including Britain's branch the British Flying Saucer Bureau, which is based in Bristol, it suddenly closed down. Bender claimed that he was stopped from making known his knowledge of UFOs by threats from Men-In-Black (MIBs). In September 1953, Bender, after finally securing the missing pieces for his theory as to the origin of flying saucers, wrote down his thesis and sent it off to a friend he felt he could trust.

The following day three men appeared at Bender's door and one of them held the thesis. The men, dressed in black - hence the name - told Bender that he had the correct answer to the UFO enigma. They gave him additional information and then told him to close down the IFSB and tell no-one of his findings.

"They were pretty rough with me", Bender said. "Two men did all the talking, while the other one kept watching all the time. He didn't take his eyes off me."

Bender's wall of silence after the visit convinced others that he was

telling the truth. However, he wasn't the only UFO investigator to have the company of the MIBs. For a few months later, Edgar Jarrold, organiser of the Australian Flying Saucer Bureau, reported being visited by men dressed in black who persuaded him to stop his research. According to some researchers, there are hundreds of people who have been visited by 'ominous' strangers bringing threats and warnings.

It seems that MIB visitations were not the only method used to deter the investigators. Jack Robinson, editor of SAUCER NEWS in 1967 claimed to have received mysterious telephone calls.

"On two occasions an electronic-type voice, definitely not human, has told me to stop all saucer research. It sounded like the strange kind of 'voice' that might be produced by a Voder machine. Each time the phone calls have come, the message has been the same - stop all saucer research."

SAUCER SCOOP editor Robert Stiff was also harassed by a series of telephone calls warning him to cease all his UFO investigations into a particular case, and direct his energies elsewhere. The caller was both threatening and sarcastic.

"I would suggest you drop your investigations into certain so-called UFO reports," the voice said with a trace of mockery.

"Who is this?" Stiff demanded. "That doesn't matter," the voice told him, "But do as I say for your own good."

It appears that most early prominent UFO investigators were the victims of MIB visits, threatening telephone calls or letters of warning. This also seems to have been a product of the 1950 - 60s as today, reports of MIBs are practically unknown. The 1950 - 60s was a period of time when it was the considered opinion of most ufologists that UFOs were flying saucers or spaceships being piloted by alien beings who were surveying the Earth. It could then be said that most ufologists thought they

were investigating alien spaceships and therefore the threats to try and stop their research must have come from either the 'aliens' themselves or 'government officials' trying to cover up the truth.

Today, a completely different picture can be painted. The contemporary ufologist is, in the majority, an objective, down-to-Earth, unbiased investigator. He has no preconceived ideas as to the origin of UFOs, but feels that a phenomenon exists that requires scientific research and analysis. The ideas of 'flying saucers', 'spaceships', 'MIBs' and so forth, are nothing more than a product of two to three decades ago. Therefore, when an Men-In-Black-type case was suddenly thrust onto a serious UFO research and investigation group in 1980, it seemed as though the past was coming back to haunt.

The Swindon Centre for UFO Research and Investigation (SCUFORI) is a six-member group, and that membership is arrived at by invitation only. We use all our resources, both financial and otherwise to investigate reports of UFOs. Over several years we have managed to build up a good reputation for identifying many cases presented to us and such explanations range from hoaxes through to misidentifications. SCUFORI has no corporate views as to what UFOs are or where they originate from. With this attitude, it is not surprising that when we were inundated with a series of threats, we believed that they were nothing more than the work of a crank or joker. SCUFORI hold their meetings every Monday at 7.30 pm to discuss the latest on the reports being investigated, and various other matters to do with UFOs. It was on Monday 18th August 1980 at 5.30 pm when SCUFORI member Charles Affleck noticed, as he came home from work, a shrivelled-up plastic bag on his doorstep. It was about the same size as a small envelope, and the plastic appeared to have been subjected to heat causing it to wrinkle. Charles saw that there was a piece of paper inside which had the letters 'SCUFOR' written on it. He opened the bag, took out the paper and carefully unfolding it, saw that there was a message written on it. It simply said:

CEASE UF STUDY
DO NOT MEDDLE OR ELSE

The writing was followed by a jumble of squiggly lines which resembled Arabic-type lettering. All the other writing was in block lettering and the entire message was written in yellow floures-

cent ink. Charles naturally was surprised at this, and thought that it must be a joke perpetrated by one of the other members of the group. However, he telephoned this writer and the other members, telling us that something was up, and to get around to his house as soon as possible. At about 7.00 pm, all grouped around the table, we examined the message. It was clearly in the same vein as other MIB-type messages, and was obviously a warning, with the "or else" added to mean that more was to come if we did not stop our investigations.

We had absolutely no intention to stop any of our UFO activities - threats or no threats. Anyway, we thought that this was nothing more than a joke and we laughed at the way that it was giving the impression of something mysterious. Nevertheless, gauging everyone's reactions to the message, it seemed obvious that it was no-one in the group leg-pulling. As nothing else could be done, and we intended to continue our investigations, we could only wait and see what, if anything, might happen next.

Two days later a further message arrived at Charles' house. This time it came through the posting system and the postmark was of Swindon. The message, in the same style of writing and ink colour stated:

BEWARE WE ARE WATCHING YOU ALL
DO NOT INTERFERE
WE WILL MEET

Again, we could do absolutely nothing except wait. We all assumed that we would receive details of where and when to meet and find that it was one of our colleagues or friends playing a joke. Letters were one thing, but telephone calls were certainly another. Especially the type of calls we were receiving.

It was the following week when we received the first of many phone calls. These were at my house and also Charles' house and they consisted of three 'bleeps', then a jumble of extraordinary weird electronic noises, followed by three further bleeps. The bleeps sounded like the sonar used by submarines. The telephone calls lasted between 10 and 20 seconds and appeared to be from a public call box. They meant nothing whatsoever but we immediately assumed they were part of this bizarre joke - if indeed it was a joke.

September 3rd saw the arrival of the third written message. This time it had been posted from Newbury and again talked of a meeting. It read:

IT SEEMS THAT YOU INTEND TO
CONTINUE TO INTERFERE
WE MUST MEET AT DESIGNATED PLACE
TWO REPRESENTATIVES TO BE CHOSEN
WEAR PROTECTION
TAPE REPLY
PLACE TAPE EXACT MAP REFERENCE

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A typical example of the envelopes that were posted to 'SCUFOR'. This one was postmarked 'SWINDON'.

The writer obviously wished for us to reply to this request by means of a tape-recorded message, and that this message was to be left at the given map reference. Perhaps we were going to sort things out for once and for all, as these messages were beginning to disrupt our meetings. However, what kind of protection had to be worn? From what we were to be protected from the message did not say. It was quite obvious that they were trying to play on our minds by giving impressions of danger.

We visited the location the next day, in daylight, and it turned out to be a field just outside of Swindon. Nearby was a lane and a public footpath ran from this through the field. The area was isolated and very quiet. We searched around for clues and also to find a place to leave our reply. Eventually we decided to fix the cassette case to a fence-post near to the footpath. But we still had not decided what to put in our reply, yet we agreed that it would be better to write a message and place that into the cassette case. This would show that we were not doing exactly what we were being told to. Finally, we decided that we had chosen two representatives (although no names were given) and asked what protection they would have to wear. In addition to this, a question about their reasons for their actions was included.

Before leaving the reply, we felt that further surveillance of the location was needed. Therefore, on 5th September at about 10.00 pm we drove out to the spot. It was very dark and the place was completely deserted. We parked our cars on the grass verge to the side of the road and decided to conduct a search of the immediate area hoping that we might get a lead. Looking back, this visit was probably a little foolish, as the chances of finding something in the dark were very remote. And if someone had been waiting there, we would have played right into their hands. However, the search went ahead, and SCUFOR members Charles Affleck, Marty Moffatt and Raymond Smithers, armed with torches, set out to investigate some nearby woods. I remained behind to look after my wife and Charles' fiancée who were both sitting in the car.

The three were only gone several minutes when there was suddenly a very loud bang - like a gunshot. It came from the same direction in which the others had headed. This noise was immediately followed by some shouting and the rustling of bushes. I don't know what went through my mind during the next few seconds, but I must admit I was frightened. Maybe the perpetrator of these messages was a crank, and he had been lying in wait - ready to pounce? Suddenly I heard voices and saw silhouetted figures moving about in the woods. As they broke into the clearing and back onto the road, I breathed a sigh of relief, as the three of them stumbled into view.

When questioned, it turned out that there was a house nestled in the woods and someone from it had been shooting at pigeons - at 11.00 pm! With nothing left to do and our nerves slightly on edge, we left for home at around 11.45 pm. Charles arrived at his house at 12.15 am only to find that there had been another telephone call. This one had occurred at exactly midnight and was taken by his mother. The difference between this telephone message and the previous calls was that we had this one recorded on a cassette tape. Charles, earlier in the week, had set up a cassette recorder alongside the telephone and at last, we had a recorded message to listen to.

The recording was immediately played back, but it seemed to be the same type of gibberish ending with three bleeps. The next day, Charles and myself listened to the tape over and over in an attempt to make some sense of it. Then to our surprise, we heard something which made us listen even more carefully, for we had heard a word! Amongst all that

electronic noise we picked out the word PRIMITIVE. The voice was weird, almost frightening. It sounded inhuman, mechanical and seemed to blend in with the other noises and distortion. Once we had picked out that word, it opened the floodgates as our hearing adjusted to pick out what we were now after. Soon we made out more words, then a sentence and eventually most of the message. It said:

YOU ARE PRIMITIVE - WE ARE HERE TO WATCH YOU - YOU THINK YOU CAN DO WHAT YOU LIKE..... WE WILL JUDGE WHAT WE WANT. YOU ARE TOO CLOSE.

Naturally, we were somewhat taken back by this. We had absolutely no doubt that this was the same person or persons who had been sending the written messages. At the next SCUFORI meeting it was decided that, as the whole issue of these messages might possibly get out of hand, the local Police department should be notified to see if they could help. Therefore, armed with the written messages and the cassette tape of the telephone call, we paid the police a visit. The police were not at all interested - probably because it was connected with UFOs - and they did their obligatory piece by recording the complaint. They did not even listen to the cassette recording.

Several days later a further message was placed in the bush outside his front door, and it read:

DO NOT GO TO THE AUTHORITIES AGAIN OR ELSE

How they knew that we had been to the police, we did not know, but obviously they did not like it. As SCUFORI was not to receive any official assistance we decided to set out to solve this problem for ourselves. We had been invited to leave a message at the location and thus felt that this was an opportunity to get some answers. To this end, we wrote down several points on a sheet of paper, basically asking them who they were and what they wanted. We also told them that we had chosen two representatives, (bearing in mind that no reply had yet been left at the designated site because of the abortive attempt), and that they should contact us through the post.

The paper was folded and put into an empty cassette case. We went back to the location and fixed the case with clear sticky-tape to the fencepost. That was on Sunday 7th September. The following day at the regular SCUFORI meeting, with most of us present, we received a further tele-

phone call. Again it was recorded, but this time the message was far clearer. It still sounded very unusual and frightening. It said:

YOU DO NOT TAKE US SERIOUSLY
WE ARE WATCHING YOU
WE ARE WATCHING YOU NOW
WE ARE WATCHING YOUR CARS
WE KNOW YOUR NAMES

Charles interrupted the voice and told it that we had left a message as requested at the given map reference. The reply to this can only be described as a mass of electronically distorted noise. Then the line went dead. We like to think of ourselves as very level-headed people with open minds, but these messages were slowly beginning to scare us as we did not have any idea as to who could be behind these messages. A joker perhaps, or a crank, or even a mentally-ill person. Whoever was responsible, someone had gone to extreme lengths with the messages, especially the telephone calls. The normal activities of SCUFORI came to a virtual standstill and our investigations were beginning to suffer, so it became a problem that needed urgently solving.

The following day, several SCUFORI members visited the location to watch the cassette case in a hope to catch them red-handed. Obviously it was not possible to keep a continual vigil, and the cassette case was taken at about 3.00 pm on Tuesday 9th September - when no-one was watching. Wednesday 10th, and a letter was received at Charles' house. It was from Swindon and, again, addressed to SCUFOR (continuously dropping the 'I'). Charles opened the letter to find that it was the same piece of paper with our questions on it. Below the questions, it simply said:

WE WILL CONTACT YOU

The writing was in the same block lettering, but this time it was in ordinary blue ball-point ink as opposed to the bright yellow. We assumed that they were probably arranging a meeting place for us and we would get the details shortly. Nothing happened for the next two days and it crossed our minds that perhaps it was all over; the joker had had his fun and had now given up.

But our hopes were shortlived when the fifth written message arrived through Charles' letterbox. There was no mention of a meeting and the tone of the message appeared much tougher. They were obviously trying to apply the pressure by frightening us. The writing was in black ink and it read in the main:

had been looking for only several minutes when Raymond gave a shout and pointed to an object which was lying on the grass several feet from him. Marty immediately ran across and picked up the object. To their astonishment, it was the cassette case that had been strapped to the fencepost at the very first location. It still had the cello-tape on it. Opening the case they found it contained only what appeared to be a blank piece of paper. However, on one corner, written in tiny blocked lettering were the words:

THIS MESSAGE USE U/V LIGHT

It was guessed at that a message had been written on the paper that could only be read under ultra-violet light. Returning home, Charles found a blue sugar-bowl and holding this up to the ceiling light found that the message could be read. It stated, in the same block letters, that as it seemed that we were not going to do as they had asked, then they would meet us to show that they were not cranks, and that they wanted to explain the reasons for their actions. The message further said that they were arranging a place for us to meet, and that further details would be given to us in the near future.

We were obviously suspicious about this especially when they said that they would prove that they were not cranks. However, it was a chance that we could not really miss, as perhaps they really intended to come this time. All we could do for the time being was again wait for the details of the rendezvous to be sent to us.

Two days later, on 20th October, Charles recorded another telephone message. Most of it, when played back, was inaudible, with the voice being drowned in a mass of electronic noises. However, towards the end of the message the voice became clearer and it was giving us another map reference. All but two of the figures were easily picked out - and it was obvious that we were to meet them at that reference, but we still did not know when. The first part of the telephone message had probably given the details, but we could not make out at all what it had said. We hoped that they might telephone again.

It was not until one week later that we did hear, but it was not on the telephone. We were at a meeting around Charles' house when we all distinctly heard a noise which sounded like someone calling through the letterbox. No words

- just a noise, akin to a cry. Jan, Raymond and myself immediately rushed to the front door to find no-one there. Jan ran down the street but to no avail. Then Raymond suddenly noticed a piece of paper on the path outside the front door. It was crumpled up and looked like nothing but rubbish. Yet, after picking it up he noticed that it was actually an envelope and it was addressed to SCUFOR (again). Raymond called Jan and myself as he opened it and took out the message. The paper inside was blank and we immediately assumed it was only visible under ultra-violet light. By now, the other SCUFORI members had come out to see what was going on. We all went back into the house and arranged the U/V light test. To our surprise there was only one word on the paper:

HALLOWEEN

We guessed that on Hallowe'en (ie, 31st October 1980) we were meant to meet at the map reference given in the telephone call. The only problem was that we still could not decipher two of the numbers of the reference.

Saturday 31st October came and we had been continuously working on the numbers. eventually, we thought that we had the right numbers and looking at an Ordnance Survey map, found it to be a small wood or copse known as Westwood. It was again not too far from Avebury and very isolated.

It was roughly 10.00 pm when SCUFORI members Bob McGregor, Raymond, Charles, Jan and Marty arrived at Westwood. It proved to be a very difficult place to find. The wood was pitch-black and it was very difficult to see where they were going. The five of them were very apprehensive as they approached the edge of the wood. The place certainly seemed to have an atmosphere. They made their way in through the trees, the muddy ground slowing their progress. Each person strained his eyes to see if anyone was there, trying to pierce the blackness. The further they moved into the wood, the more frightening it became, and Bob was all for returning to the cars. Yet they pressed on, and were suddenly startled when a white shape moved across their path only yards in front. Before they could react, the shape just vanished without them knowing what it was.

Eventually, after waiting for a further hour, and with Bob's nerves really on edge, they gave up feeling that they were being played with. To Bob's relief, they left the wood and headed

home. I spoke to Bob on the Monday after, and he was still frightened when he thought back at the experience. He told me that if the next message mentioned anything about him being scared he would believe that there was definitely something strange going on.

That is exactly what happened. On 3rd November, a telephone call sarcastically talked of their scaring McGregor. In an attempt to catch anyone delivering a message to Charles' house, we set up a trap one Monday evening. While we were in the meeting, Charles sat in a house across the road. We were in communication with him using walkie-talkies, thus if any person went to the front door, he would be seen by Charles, who would let us know and we would rush out and catch him. Despite the fact that in the past, on several occasions, messages had been left on Monday evenings, this time it was not to be the case. In fact, we did not even get a telephone call that night.

During the next few weeks, no further meetings were arranged. We did receive many short telephone messages of which some were no more than electronic noises. In the main, they told us that we were being watched, and one said that if we did not stop our investigations, they would destroy our homes.

Sometime in this period Marty and I revisited the police station, on the assumption that as we had so much information, they would take some action. Once again, they just made a note of it and told us they could do nothing unless the threats were carried out. Our requests to trace the telephone calls were met with a look of surprise. Feeling somewhat helpless we decided that a re-examination of all the messages to see if we could find any sort of pattern was needed. It did seem strange that the person or persons sending the messages knew an incredible amount about the group and its activities. It began to dawn on us that perhaps someone in the group was indeed passing out information, despite the fact that we knew each other so well.

Marty, Charles and myself talked about this privately and it became increasingly obvious that one member, Raymond, was the only one not present when we were receiving the telephone calls. He was also very interested in electronic gadgets. In addition to this we noticed that it was Raymond who had found the messages at Avebury and outside Charles' front door, despite everyone else locking. Could it be that he had planted the messages when our backs were turned?

It seemed impossible that Raymond could be responsible as he reacted to all the messages with genuine surprise. He must be an extremely competent actor. We did not mention these feelings to him, but decided to continue as normal. However, several events which Raymond claimed to have happened suddenly changed our opinion that he was not all he seemed to be.

Firstly, he produced a polaroid photograph of a huge ball-shaped object which was sitting in a field. He told us that he was taking a dog for a walk when he saw the object land. Rushing indoors, he grabbed his camera and with the last picture on the reel, took a photograph of it before it took off. He reported the sighting very sincerely. We looked at the photograph and, as with all polaroid pictures, they are numbered 1 to 8. This picture had number 6 on the back and therefore could not have been the last picture as claimed.

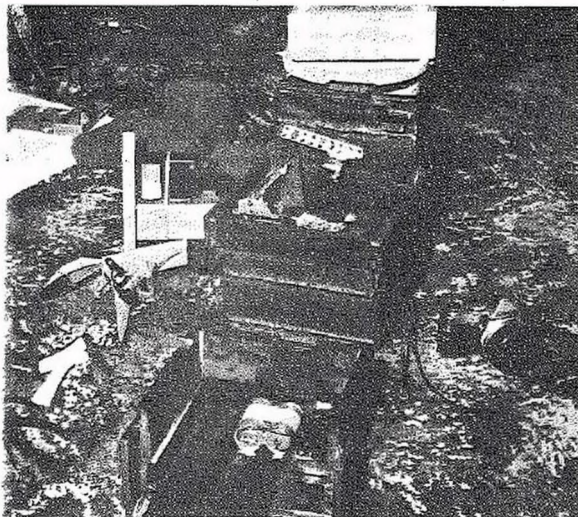
It was felt that a visit to the location might reveal some answers. We could not believe it when we arrived at the spot. The ball-shaped object was still there! It was part of a new sewage system that was being installed for a new housing estate. We did not tell Raymond about this.

Secondly, on 1st December, Raymond said that, whilst on his way to the meeting he was stopped by a man dressed in dark clothes. This man touched his arm which produced a rash. What was even more astonishing was that Raymond had the cassette tape with the telephone messages on, in his pocket. This pocket was on the same side that he was touched and when he took the tape out, the case had melted. The tape was ruined. When he told us, we simply did not believe him.

With our original suspicions now fueled by these events, we set about catching either Raymond or possibly his accomplice. If we decided to accuse him out-right, he would certainly have denied it, on the basis that we had no proof. The best evidence in our opinion was a photograph of him being caught in the act.

Charles, himself clever with mechanical and electronic devices, started to build a trap. The idea was that we would leave a cassette case (supposedly containing a message) at a location for him to collect. The case would be placed on top of a micro-switch, which with wires was connected to a camera (Olympus OM10) and a flashgun. The camera was protected by being completely

sealed inside a steel box. The box had a shutter on the front which opened and closed, through which would be focused the camera lens when fitted. The whole contraption was fitted to a steel pole which in turn had huge blocks of cement on the other end. A hole was dug in the ground and the blocks of cement would thus be buried. The flashgun would be fixed to a wooden post and this itself would be pushed deep into the ground. Both the flashgun and the camera were designed so that they pointed towards the spot where the cassette case would be. They were also several yards from it and hardly visible inside the grass.



The camera-box under construction.

We hoped that the cassette case, when picked up, would operate the micro-switch which would then result in the camera and flash going off, taking a picture of whoever set it off. The shutter on the steel box, originally open, would close in such a way that the box would be impossible to get into thus protecting the film from any damage that might be inflicted upon it. Additionally, as the entire device was so heavy, it would not be possible for anyone to carry it away. Therefore, the photograph would remain intact.

However, before setting such a trap, we felt that we would need to win the confidence of the messenger(s). To this end, we wrote down some questions and put them into the cassette case. This was then left at a remote spot just outside Swindon. We decided that when they next telephoned we would tell them that we had left a message and give them a map reference. A few days

later the telephone rang with another stupid message. Charles interrupted it and, shouting over the top of the noise, told them that a message was going to be left for them. The line immediately went quiet then Charles heard music like a choir singing. Listening, he realised it was the Christmas carol Silent Night, but very distorted. The conversation went as follows:

YOU WILL BE VISITED

"Hello."

WE WILL BE WATCHING

"Now listen here, old chap. A message for you. We're going to leave a message for you this time. We will tell you when. You have not convinced us that you are extraterrestrial. You may claim you are extraterrestrial. Try to convince us. What do you say?"

(Long gap of silence)

Then the distorted Silent Night music came over the telephone.

"We have complied with all of your requests in the past..."

(Silent Night still playing)

"Very good carol song. Hello? What is meant..?" The line went totally dead.

The telephone call received after this was one which unnerved us, for it clearly contained the words:

YOU WILL BE KILLED

The remainder of the message was undecipherable, but the context of the message as a whole was made clear enough.

Another telephone call followed not long after, although this time starting off with a loud noise resembling electrical feedback:

WE KNOW YOU CAN HEAR US.
WE WANT TO (GARBLE).
YOU WILL DECIDE TO LEAVE A
MESSAGE AND YOU WILL LET US KNOW
WHERE YOU WILL LEAVE IT.
YOU ARE NOT SAFE.
WE WANT ACTION NOW.
WE SHALL KEEP IN CONTACT.

This telephone call gave the impression that they initiated the idea, yet they were playing into our hands. Another telephone call days later allowed Charles to give them the map references where the cassette could be found. He must have got through as several days later, on revisiting the location, we found the cassette case had gone. We waited anxiously for a reply. Eventually both the cassette and a message

was pushed through Charles' letterbox one evening.

When this message was returned, the cassette case also contained some type of electronic device which the message claimed was a transmitter. It implied that they could locate the case wherever we left it and we need not inform them when and where it could be found. This message also ironically contained a warning not to set traps. It read:

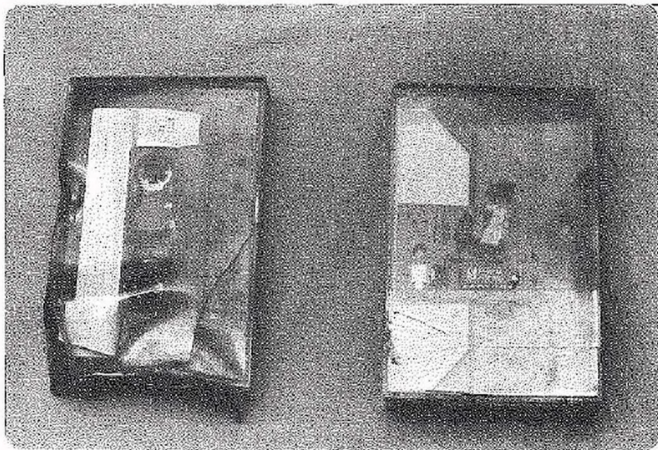
DO NOT DISMANTLE THE DEVICE GIVEN YOU WE HAVE CONSTRUCTED OUT OF YOUR KIND OF MATERIALS FOR THE PURPOSE OF LOCATING FUTURE WRITTEN MESSAGES PUT IN THE BOX. WE WILL INJECT A SIGNAL THROUGH ITS CIRCUITRY TO LOCATE. YOU HAVE NO NEED TO INFORM US

ONE OF OUR PEOPLE WILL VISIT ONE OF YOUR AGENTS. WE WILL WARN YOU AND HE NOT TO SET TRAPS. HE WILL ACT AS MEDIATOR UNTIL IT IS TIME FOR US MEET

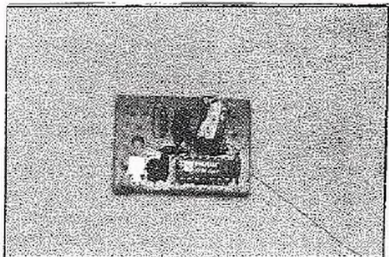
exact location purely because Raymond was present at all these discussions. We went to great lengths to show him the precise spot on the map to make that he knew where to go. We were certain therefore, that 'they' would collect the cassette case.

As a matter of fact, the electronic device was analysed at a later date and it was suggested that it came from an X-ray scanning machine, probably from a hospital. Raymond worked in a hospital.

The message we left in the cassette case asked for clarification on a few points, especially as to who they intended to contact. Their last reply to us stated that "One of our people will visit one of your agents.... He will act as mediator until it is time for us meet." Our question, amongst others, was, "Who is the SCUFORI representative you are going to contact?"



Two cassette cases:- on the left the one that melted when Raymond Smithers was allegedly stopped in the street by a darkly dressed man. The other case contains the device that was supposedly an electronic homing mechanism.



The device removed from the case.

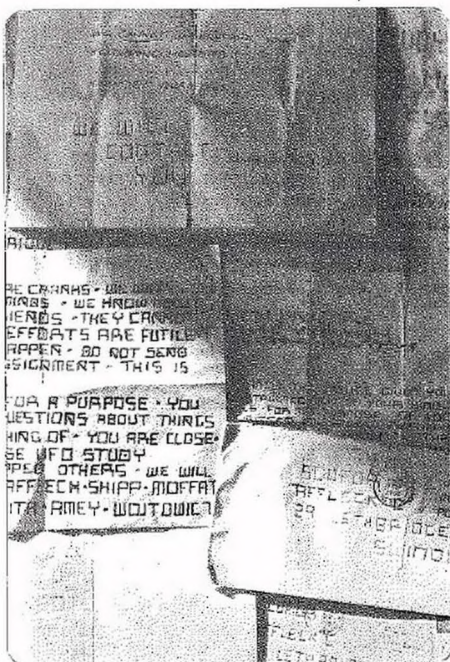
We were very pleased with ourselves as they obviously were co-operating with us. The position was now that we could leave a further message, but this time we would connect it to the trap. It was certain they would collect it.

Another remote spot was chosen and after several hours of work the device was set up. It was tested several times, and we left, praying that it would work, so ending four months of harassment. We just waited.

It must be stressed here that at no time did any of the SCUFORI members consider that the electronic gadget given to us could have been anything remotely like a homing device. We assumed that 'they' would know of the

A few days later, on 11th December, Raymond telephoned Charles but he was at work, so he left a message with Charles' mother. Raymond claimed that he had received a further message from the 'aliens' instructing him to go to the location and move the cassette case to a another site. This immediately sounded suspicious and we guessed that Raymond had triggered off the trap and produced such a tale to explain what he doing out there moving the cassette. He had realised that a photograph had been taken and was taking steps to cover his actions. He knew he had been trapped.

Before we spoke to him we drove to the prepared location and found that the camera-box had been triggered off, torn



A collection of letters, replies and envelopes - just a sample of what was closed in those months.

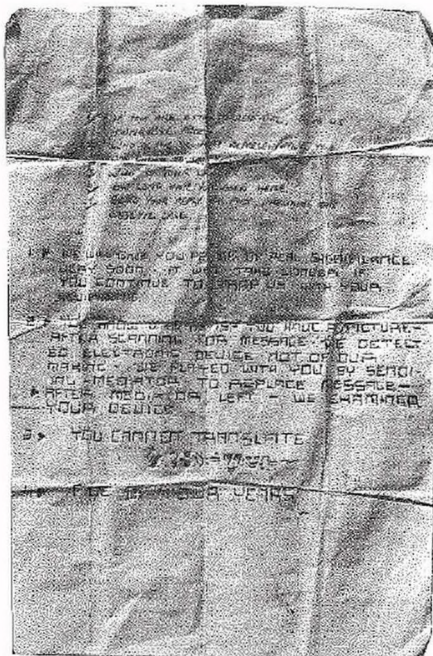
out of the ground and incredibly dragged several yards. The flashgun had also been pulled up and thrown to the ground. However, as the shutter on the box had closed, the camera was intact and the box had not been damaged by efforts to get inside. It appeared that as he could not get at the camera itself, he had attempted to carry the entire device off - but failed. We opened the box later and took the film to be developed.

During the wait for the films to be finished, we said nothing to Raymond about the incident. However, one day the cassette case arrived through Charles' letterbox with a message.

This message; a reply to our listed questions, was nothing other than a last-gasp effort on Raymond's part to cover himself. It read, in answer to our question about the SCUFORI representative, as follows:

YOU KNOW WHO HE IS - YOU HAVE A PICTURE - AFTER SCANNING FOR MESSAGE - WE DETECTED ELECTRONIC DEVICE NOT OF OUR MAKING - WE PLAYED WITH YOU BY SENDING MEDIATOR TO REPLACE MESSAGE - AFTER MEDIATOR LEFT - WE EXAMINED YOUR DEVICE

So Raymond knew he was caught. He tried to convince us that he was the SCUFORI representative they were contacting, and that he had gone to the site purely to move the cassette case after they had 'detected electronic device not of our making', in other words, the camera-box. The message also tried to make us believe that the 'aliens' had dragged the box out of the ground merely to examine it. All of this sounded like a poor effort of a worried man.



The final reply in which Raymond Smithers attempts to cover himself with a poor story.

The film was finally developed; amongst the test prints of Charles triggering off the camera, was a single print that showed the clear profile of Raymond. Unfortunately, as the camera lens had been exposed to the cold December weather for a few days, condensation had fogged-up the lens. Also, as the camera had been triggered off in the morning, estimated at roughly 8.00 am, there was plenty of ground-frost which added to this problem. On top of that, we assumed that it would be triggered off at night, hence the flashgun, but it happened in near daylight. But we had the necessary proof and presented Raymond with our evidence at the next SCUFORI meeting on 15th December, and after a great deal of interrogation, he broke down and admitted he was responsible for the whole thing.

He claimed he too was being being harassed by someone and, unless he could force the closure of SCUFORI, his life would be made unpleasant for him. He could not, of course, provide any evidence for this. Naturally he was asked to leave the group and the messages stopped immediately. What is surprising is that Raymond was training to be a State Registered Nurse and a Special Constable in the police force, and thus considered a very responsible person.



This test-shot was one of several taken to ensure that the camera would capture the culprit on film should anyone move the cassette. Charles was 'caught in the act'.

It could be postulated that if maybe those famous MIB cases from the 50s and the 60s had been investigated in a similar manner and frame of mind, the results would have shown the same kind of result. The difference, I believe, lies with the UFO investigator or UFO investigation group as a whole. A gullible, sensationalist set-up will interpret such events as mysterious and possibly of extraterrestrial origin, as we were meant to think. Perhaps the earlier 'flying saucer' researchers who gave up their work accepted these messages and threats without question and thus took them to be real.

UFOs are themselves a big enough problem for the ufologists already and the subject can well do without interference from cranks and hoaxers.

Raymond Smithers, (whose name has been altered for the purpose of this article) spent a great deal of time in concocting up messages written in strange script. He went to great lengths to manipulate sounds until they produced a frightening electronic background noise. He somehow manipulated his (or an accomplice's) voice so that it sounded truly inhuman. For a long time he worked in with SCUFORI and thus gained the confidence of all the other members of the group.

We cannot explain why he did this to us; all we can say is that he did it. Some people reading this might latch on

The frame that told it all. Although of poor quality, this photograph was conclusive proof that Smithers was the perpetrator. The outline was unmistakable. Had he triggered off the mechanism at night, no doubt a better clarity could have been obtained.

What SCUFORI has is a unique record of a typical Man-in-Black case; one of few to occur in Great Britain. However, the difference between this case and others from the past is that this one was solved. We proved that with determination and initiative we were able to identify the perpetrator.

to the idea that Smithers was under pressure from some higher authority to force the closure of SCUFORI, but this can only be interpreted as a last-gasp attempt by him to save his face. There was, and still is, no evidence to suggest he was under threat. What is more, SCUFORI still functions as an

investigation group - we are still here and so is Smithers - still in one piece. He is no longer a Special Constable, but has since gained promotion within the Health Authority. No contact is

exercised with him so it has thus been accepted that the background and reason for the Mystery Messages will never be uncovered.

SIGNALS

Letters to the Editor



Dear Editor,
Let me be frank, Ian. I read your review of our book (UFOs Over Plymouth, reviewed last issue) at our last meeting and while the group acknowledges your right to say whatever you think, we felt you went a bit over the top. It's just a book of UFO sightings, which we have investigated that we can find no explanation for. The sightings themselves rule out misidentifications (they do? Ed.) so we didn't want to drone on about what they weren't. UFOs are real and these are reports of what we consider UNKNOWN flying objects. There are enough anti-UFO bods about and we think that those who know UFOs to exist SHOULD SAY IT, and not let the antis run the show. Your own mag takes the "scientific" approach yet what have you ever said? Not a great deal for UFOs. Take for example the articles where you intend (are you really that authoritative? (sic)) to kill off the Warminster UFOs for good. That is a very suspicious thing to say but very interesting that you think you are capable of doing it. As in the now tedious explanations for the saucer nests there seems to be no acceptance on your part that these circles could have been caused by UFOs. If these circles had been anything other than nearly perfectly circular or had been found anywhere other than the Warminster area we could accept your suggested explanation. (They were in Winchester and Westbury, Ed.) You sound too much like the "Horizon" programme the other week, and now you are going to try to minimise Warminster's importance in the UFO scene. Because of this we know that you are suspicious. Your disbelief and antagonism are too transparent. You see, although I'm not an expert on Warminster I have had a personal daytime, low-level, close range sighting on Cradle Hill, have taken a UFO photograph there and on a group trip a couple of years ago we saw five positive unidentifieds. So some may fantasise but surely you can spot these. To paint Warminster as a non-event shows serious shortcomings in your supposedly impartial, objective position, but more to the point, we know you are wrong. In how many other cases are you totally

wrong? With the evidence you must have from Warminster, you have got to know that what you say is wrong. Which leads on to the question, what's your game? Are you the clean upstanding, fearless pursuer of Truth which you claim? Or something a lot more devious and sinister? Because of these strange anomalies the group feels that to support your mag would not be supporting the cause for the advancement of public knowledge and awareness of UFOs.

Yours sincerely,
Bob Boyd,
PUPORG,
Plymouth,
Devon.

(How does one reply to a letter like that? To start with, where on Earth did I ever make a claim that I was clean, upstanding fearless, etc, etc? In short, your letter reeks of paranoia, cover-ups, men from Mars, the grand Warminster UFO Mecca and many other concepts that were left behind by serious students of ufology many years ago. Ufology has grown up to the extent that it has left some behind, stuck in their childhood where the world of fairy tales and science fiction is reality. These people don't want to face the outside world of real science, where they're not allowed to play anymore. To be totally honest Bob, your letter does more to show us what's wrong with ufology today, than I or anyone else in a lengthy article could. Ed.)

Dear Ian,
George Adamski deserves a much closer look than that given him by Geoff Bird. Indeed, Geoff has cast no more than a glance in Adamski's direction. A close examination shows that it is not difficult to 'form any sort of conclusion' regarding Adamski. He was a fraud, and the only 'experience' he had was that gained in years of peddling his home-spun philosophy. Geoff's superficial and uncritical article, in which

Adamski and Elizabeth Klarer are unaccountably mingled, adds nothing to our understanding. It is a pity that you found it necessary to publish such rubbish, and I enclose an article that will set the Adamski record straight. I know very little about the Klarer case, but I am sure that there are no genuine contactees.

Yours sincerely,
Stewart Campbell,
Edinburgh

(First off, thank you kindly for the Adamski article. I shall publish this in the next issue with any luck. As for printing Geoff's contribution, I can make no excuses for publishing Geoff Bird's article, as he initially gave me the idea and after agreeing on it he set to work, presenting it just a few days before going to print. Much of it was cut out to allow it to fit into the space left and that may have damaged the content somewhat. Nevertheless, it has sparked off a response and thus it has proven worthwhile. Ed)

Dear Ian,
THE PROBE REPORT Vol 3, No 2 was very interesting and I am relieved to hear that it shall continue. I am writing to the letters section to inform readers of PUF0IC's (Plymouth UFO Investigation Centre - not my other friends. Ed) plans in January 1983, which potentially may turn out to be a milestone in British ufology. Since September 1982, PUF0IC have been investigating a possible abduction case in Devon which happened during April 1981. Our investigations will end in mid-January, when the witness is returning to Devon for regressive hypnosis in order to hopefully establish two time/memory lapses on two consecutive days. I must stress

that the regression hypnosis is being performed by a registered hypnotherapist under medical supervision. Our investigations so far have resulted in a few surprises, being oddities on two photographs taken at the area of the incident. One being taken by the witness, the other by ourselves, in black & white film on 19th September 1982. The PUF0IC photo shows an object on it, just above the ground in the background. This was not visible when the photo was taken and the photograph is still being examined by photographic experts. The regression hypnosis sessions are being video-recorded for comparison and evaluation with other sessions of abductees that have also been video-recorded in the past. We have allocated two full weeks in January 1983 for these sessions and conclusion of the main investigation. After this, our summary on the case will hopefully be completed by the end of February. This summary will be 'in depth' and we have decided to produce copies of it for readers. There will be no charge for it, but we do ask people wishing to receive a copy to forward an SAE to minimise the cost. This case has brought PUF0IC tremendous excitement and is our most interesting case in our history.

Best wishes,
Eric Morris,
PUF0IC,
17 Wilkinson Road,
St. Budeaux,
Plymouth. PL5 1DF.
Devon.

Comments and opinions on anything to do with ufology, in particular with regards to THE PROBE REPORT, are invited for publication. Please address all letters to: SIGNALS, THE PROBE REPORT, 16 Marigold Walk, Ashton, Bristol. BS3 2PD

THE CURIOUS OBJECT DOWN ON BIRDFIELD FARM

JENNY RANGLES

(Based on a detailed case report submitted to BUFORA by Richard Adams and Paul Fuller.)

DATA: 21st January 1981. Birdfield Farm, Ridgeway, Sheffield.
07.00 GMT CE II (L) (Tr).

Introduction: Landing cases which involve physical traces are few and far between, so the BUFORA records would indicate. Even less common are situations where the investigators are well qualified individuals with a knowledge of geography and geology, as

indeed is the circumstance here. As will be evident, this is not an ideal case - so very few are - but at least the two investigators were able to attempt a very thorough appraisal of what information we did have available; and present an excellent and well structured case report which deserves summary in this publication.

Initial Events: The investigators were first alerted to this case by Mr K. G.*, a technician in the university department where they worked whilst taking degrees. He knew

J. H., one of the participants personally. Unfortunately this was 13 months after the events (ie during February 1962) and although a full investigation was undertaken the traces were no longer present and so maximum follow-up was not achievable. Nevertheless, the investigators interviewed all the participants several times and obtained the following basic story:

Birdfield Farm is a smallholding on the South Yorkshire/Derbyshire border close to the B6054 road. Its owner is Mrs A.W., who is approximately 60 years old. She is a forthright and very precise lady, and runs the farm on her own. On Wednesday 21st January 1981 Mrs A.W. rose at about 07.00 to make breakfast. It was a cold and overcast morning, but dry and with just a slight wind. Looking out through her kitchen window, which faces south-east across sloping ground towards a ploughed field which belongs to a neighbouring farmer, at a point just to the left of the tree (see photograph) she observed a puzzling object on the ground.

© R. Adams & P. Fuller



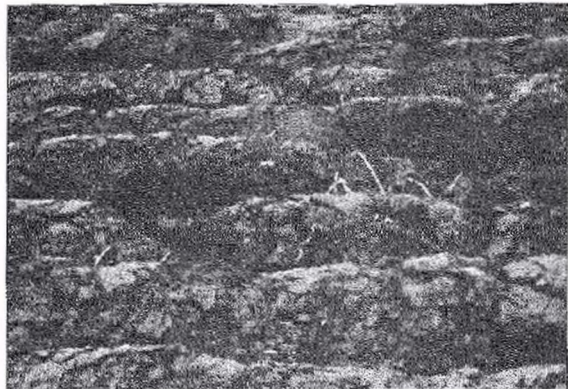
She watched this strange object quite intently during the next three-quarters of an hour, but not continuously as she had other chores to do. She was too busy to actually go and approach it, and from her outside position whilst feeding the animals, she was not able to see it all due to the lie of the land. She was certainly very baffled by it, but at no time regarded it in any alien or exotic terms. She describes what she saw as shaped somewhat like a tent, but more conical in structure and with a single apex. It was metallic grey in colour and with no visible markings. The estimated height was about 8 feet. In front of this cone were three 'blotches' which were about 3/4 feet in diameter and seemed to have the appearance of 'sacks' or 'eggs'. They were pure white, apparently attached to the main object, in front of which they stood. At first Mrs A.W. took them to be lumps of snow, until she realised that there was absolutely no snow anywhere else. She concluded that she must have been viewing a large tent of unusual design but could not understand why anybody

should place it where they had.

At about 08.30 she had to leave to go into town for shopping. Returning at 10.30 there was no trace of the object and she was by now rather perturbed, so she called the farmer who owned the field and asked if he had either some unusual equipment there or had allowed any campers to pitch tent. To both questions the answer was no. He had no idea what she could have seen. Two days later, Mr J.H. (the communicant of the story to the investigators' contact) visited Mrs A.W. with a view to purchasing vegetables, which he often did to sell wholesale. He has for some years had an interest in UFOs and has collected a scrapbook of cuttings referent to local cases. Immediately he suggested that Mrs A.W. had seen a UFO and, in fact, according to her testimony, had to explain the term to her. She had never heard of a UFO. J.H. led her to the field and she pointed out the rough 'landing' spot. It was at this juncture that they discovered the 'traces', virtually at the precise location Mrs A.W. had directed them to.

The Ground Traces: The field itself was still muddy from rain prior to 21st January (only 0.5 mm fell in the period 21st to 25th January, according to records from Weston Park Met. Station). An area of roughly 11 feet by 11 feet in the ploughed field was clearly disturbed. The furrows were crushed and indented at this point and there were 3 depressions (about 4 inches deep). The central area allegedly showed signs of sifting.

Unfortunately, whilst J.H. has the presence of mind to get a camera and take immediate pictures of the markings, he omitted both to take any clear shots of this 'sifting' or to include anything in the frame to verify scale. The only clue comes from the furrows themselves. J.H. kindly supplied a number of these prints to the investigators; one included in this report. J.H. also did not undertake a proper site survey



of the markings, and so we only have his testimony and that of Mrs A.W., recorded over a year after the events. However, both insist that there were no other traces in the mud to indicate footprints for example. This makes it hard to understand how, if it were a tent, it was carried through mud to the point where it was first seen.

Other Events: Several anecdotal stories, of varying relevance, were offered by Mrs A.W.

- 1) 'Two days' after the above events, at between 16.00 and 17.00 she was talking with a friend at the front gate when a 'high-pitched squeak' came from overhead. This lasted several seconds and repeated a number of times during a two-minute period. It was very piercing, but Mrs A.W.'s friend allegedly heard nothing.
- 2) Mrs A.W. and J.H., who are personal friends as well as business colleagues were watching TV during the first week in February 1981. Suddenly some tiny crystalline multi-coloured lights flashed and glittered in the places on the screen where there were characters' faces. This lasted for two minutes and they disappeared just as suddenly. There was no sound distortion. The set was a two-year old Panasonic.
- 3) That same week (possibly 6th February) Mrs A.W. was being driven back home in a car owned by a Mr H.M. They had left Clowne, Derbyshire, at an unspecified time in the dark, and were travelling along the A616 near Barlborough. Suddenly a brilliant object with a tail moved across their field of view and was lost in a matter of seconds. It was surrounded by a mass of lights, described as blue green and red. No sound was heard above the car engine which was not affected. H.M., concentrating on driving, saw nothing. Mrs A.W. thinks the basic shape was round. The object moved south, is apparently following the line of the M1 motorway which was very close to them at that time.

Conclusions: The investigators are satisfied that the witness described a real primary event involving a solid object on the ground beside her farm. They undertook various reconstructions and other exercises to ascertain size and distance from the farmhouse. These need not concern us in this summary, as they still leave the matter subjective and basically allied with her testimony. As for the subsidiary events, the investigators are not willing to lay stress on them. They point out that electricity pylons run in a line virtually above the farmhouse and so could have had a hand in the TV interference. The secondary UFO sighting they also feel might well have been an aircraft, although Mrs A.W. says it was nothing like one. Light aircraft often do follow the line of motorways at night as a convenient directional marker. But what of the primary object witnessed?

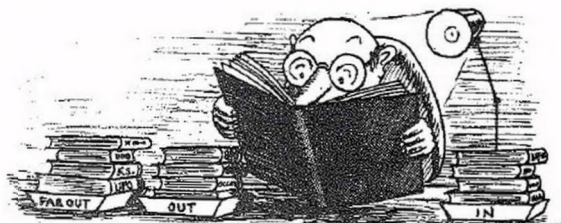
Were the traces associated with this? That does seem reasonably probable, but merely verifies the objectivity of the phenomenon, rather than affirm what it really was. Three principle options were considered by the investigators for the cause of this report:-

a) A tent... This fits the description to some degree, but does not explain the three 'lumps' in front of it (which may correlate with the three depressions found at the site). It also does not explain the lack of footprints leading to the pitch site. Whilst there is a footpath running across this field from the B road, there are many other locations far better suited to the pitching of tents all around this point. Not only was this field muddy, but it sloped downwards, thus carrying the water from the road to the tent. It was also heavily ploughed. Putting a tent there in mid-January would seem illogical, especially without permission from the landowner. And getting what was evidently quite a hefty contraption to this point without alerting either Mrs A.W. or the landowner would have been very difficult. All in all, the tent hypothesis, whilst attractive, is hard to equate with the facts.

b) Farm equipment... Presumably this must have originated from the farm owner. If so, there seems no obvious reason why he should deny its presence to Mrs A.W.

c) A meteorological or test balloon... This option is a possibility, the tent-shape resembling the metallic covering of the balloon; itself and the three 'lumps' possibly being instrumentation attached to the device. This fits the fact that despite her long period of observation Mrs A.W. saw no movement associated with the object(s). One would assume, on this hypothesis, (no material support for which the investigators found, incidentally) that the owners of the device arrived to take it away whilst Mrs A.W. was shopping. Even so, this begs the questions as to the lack of footprints in the mud and why the people concerned failed to ask for permission from the farmer. Perhaps, of course, they took this to be Mrs A.W., as her property bestrides the field. Not finding her in when they came to retrieve their equipment, they may just have decided to take it and leave. Thus neither she, nor the real landowner, would have known about the object that had come down in their field.

In summation the investigators conclude: "This really is a fascinating case. It is a pity that we did not learn of it until over a year after it happened... Something was there. The photographs suggest that it was a very large object. I (Paul Fuller) suggest that this object should be classified as UNKNOWN."



BOOK REVIEWS

EARTH LIGHTS: Towards an Understanding of the UFO Enigma. By Paul Devereux. Published by Turnstone Press, 1982. 256 pp, illustrated, £9.95.

A glance at the price of this book may make one think twice about buying it, despite the attractive cover. Do not succumb. The W.H. Smith bookclub ENCOUNTERS took it as their main choice for the winter 1982-83 season, and not without due reason, for this is undoubtedly a milestone book - a book worthy of considerable merit. Paul Devereux may not be known as a ufologist but he may very well be recognised as perhaps the world's most prolific ley hunter, editor of the respected journal of that name and author of several books on the art of tracing ancient trackways or understanding megalithic mysteries. Here, he turns his thoughts and his background to the subject of UFOs, and comes up with a most interesting synthesis of ideas. It is not, as the publicity blurb tells us, a startling new theory, not does Devereux ever claim it as such himself. But it is nonetheless impressive, as a piecing together of latest research (in some seemingly diverse areas) and ending up with what just might be the breakthrough we have been seeking. Just how does Paul Devereux succeed where many others have failed? Firstly, by not being dogged by having to believe in UFOs in a strictly mechanical way. This weight which most of us who get interested in the subject carry into our studies (thanks to the fact that this is how the media always interprets UFOs) was easier to remove from a non-ufologist. What is more, Devereux began his quest (as he begins this book) with a personal UFO encounter that merged into his later ideas very gently. This encounter with a fuzzy orange blob in Kent which 'miraculously' changed into a human-form up in the sky, became the focal point for all his later theorising. For it told him that a) there was a physical energy stuff there, and b) this stuff could be moulded like plasticine into various diverse, weird and wonderful shapes.

From this starting point the book discusses a large selection of potted case histories which suffer from the fact that they are extracted from the data not at random, but presumably to fit the theory. Undoubtedly many of them seem to do so... but I suspect there is an element of 'cheating' here which is subtle in the effect it has.

of, before tackling broader and more avant-garde theoretical studies within ufology. Most of these date from the past decade or so, and include Vallée's speculations plus (I was pleased to see) quite a lengthy examination of the views which Peter Warrington and I expressed in UFOs: A British Viewpoint. Indeed, British Viewpoint seems to have had a hand in the development of Devereux's basic principles, since he uses it as a means to evoke the concept that CE3 and CE4 cases should be regarded as a separate phenomenon from other UFO events. I am not sure that it is reasonable to dismiss events from further discussion in this way, as neither Peter Warrington or myself are totally satisfied that this is necessarily true. What does (to us) seem proven (and here we would endorse Paul Devereux all the way) is that some UFO events should be divorced from the rest and studied in isolation. In British Viewpoint we speak of atmospheric phenomena and call them UAPs, (Unidentified Atmospheric Phenomena), a term which Devereux echoes our call for widespread adoption.

EARTH LIGHTS moves on now with the assumption that it is discussing all UFO events bar the troublesome small number of contact cases, which it has dismissed, and makes the highly contentious statement that there is but one explanation for the remainder of the data. I suspect what EARTH LIGHTS is really concerned with is a part of the residual data (the UAPs). Just how important a part, remains to be seen. Paul Devereux would have it, that it is all that remains. I suspect it is a highly significant proportion, but not necessarily all. You may have very different ideas, but will find it very hard indeed to deny the strength of the primary argument - that there is an unidentified natural phenomenon acting as a major component in the unexplained UFO data.

The book concludes by tying together strands in an effort to find this natural phenomenon. It talks of fault-zones, the piezo-electric effect, ionisation in the atmosphere and other mechanisms by which natural energy from the Earth itself might be seeped into the atmosphere from 'active' locales - which would of course be our long-familiar 'windoes'. Statistical proof is offered and does seem very suggestive. The reason why Warminster would be a 'window', on this basis, is shown for example. What is more, predictions (in accord with local geology) are made

The author continues with a discussion of standard theories, easily disposed about those parts of Britain where windows should be. In most instances these correlate with a (somewhat suspect) basic study made of BUFORA records for selected years. One of the few puzzles, (a postulated window according to theory where the records seemed not to confirm), was stated as being the Pennine hill area between Manchester and Leeds. The omission was due to the patchy nature of the BUFORA investigator network (especially in earlier years) - hence my reason for suspicion about the status of this statistical work. Nevertheless, Paul Devereux wrote this without the apparent knowledge that the window did exist and has been recognised and studied by local UFO investigators since 1972. Indeed, I had already written THE PENNINE UFO MYSTERY (Granada, Spring 1983) before EARTH LIGHTS appeared, and this fills in the missing jigsaw piece with surprising closeness.

Where EARTH LIGHTS is truly revolutionary is not merely in discussing the work of geologists (such as Brian Brady) and psychologists (such as Dr. Michael Persinger), who postulate an Earth-fault-induced superfield, affecting the mind of the witness, but in adding an apparent correlation between stone circles and UFO sightings. Devereux goes on to conclude that perhaps ancient Man knew about, and utilised, the Earth energy... and from here to suggest that the UFO shapes are psychokinetically moulded out of the Earth energy by the witnesses; somewhat in the manner that was discussed in British Viewpoint. This last point is bound to be subject to great contention, and many of the tenets remain as yet unproven, although strongly suggested by the data in this book. But Devereux's principle argument, that there is an Earth-related natural phenomenon, is to me now well established... and EARTH LIGHTS goes a very long way to effectively displaying this important realisation.

Arising out of this book is a new British study, code-names GATA, which has been worked out by a number of people (including myself) to develop Paul Devereux's ideas. Our hope is that this three-part study (which will involve statistical analysis of a sophisticated kind; fully organised and pre-planned sky-watches and actual physical/geological experimentation) will either prove or disprove once and for all most of that postulated by the Devereux theory. If this succeeds in any measure then EARTH LIGHTS will rightly become regarded as a classic of UFO literature. A book

that actually solves a part of the whole UFO mystery. In my opinion that may be rather more than a wild dream.
(Jenny Randles)

THE CATALOGUE OF UFO PERIODICALS by Tom Lind. A SAID OF SAUCERS publication. 281 pp, large format, spiral-bound. \$14.95 plus \$ postage costs. Available from P.O. Box 711, Hobe Sound, Florida 33455, U.S.A.

At last, available for ufologists is the essential catalogue that lists together information on over 1,100 titles of current and former journals, newsletters, and magazines dealing with UFOs and associated topics. Because of the great areas of overlapping by many periodicals, topics such as Ancient Mysteries, the paranormal, the occult and space exploration are also covered. Tom Lind embarked on this project years ago, contacting every address known to him and requested information on the various publications currently issued, and on those that ceased many years ago. The catalogue is of course not a book that you would sit down and read from cover to cover, or read at bedtime, unless of course you were an avid collector or researcher after specific information - and that is where this catalogue is aimed.

It fills a long-existent gap that no-one had really ever wanted to fill because of the long hours and months of typing and preparation required once the data had been collected. But now everything any ufologist ever wanted to know about who-produced-what-and-when is available in one cover - but more to the point, it gives names and addresses of current publications that far surpasses any other guides on the market. What is more, Lind will be mailing updates at periodic intervals to those who have the catalogues (price details not yet known) to maintain its accuracy.

The only snag I can foresee is that of adding additional entries such as new journals entering onto the market - so far, each entry is listed in an alphanumeric sequence, so there might be a problem in numbering a new journal that fits in between two listed ones; and this problem is bound to occur. Still, that is Lind's problem and not yours.

For UK readers, there is the very distinct possibility that PROBE may serve as an outlet for THE CATALOGUE OF UFO PERIODICALS thus alleviating the problem of sending Money Orders abroad. More on that next issue. But anyhow, a vital addition to any ufologist's library, and well worth shelling out for. (I. Mrzyglod)

THE SCIENCE IN SCIENCE FICTION. Edited by Peter Nicholls. Published by Michael Joseph, 1982. 208 pp, illustrated. 11½" x 8½", large format. £10.95.

For value for money, readers will have to search a long way to top this fine book, for it is lavishly illustrated throughout with top quality colour photographs and diagrams, covering every aspect of concepts that are brought into typical science fiction stories. Although it may seem odd to review a book that deals with a subject often unwillingly allied with ufology, the reasoning becomes clear when you consider that such elements as long-distance space travel, time travel, ancient astronauts, flying saucers, life on other planets, the hollow Earth, alien intelligences on Earth, and Man's contact with aliens are all given critical examinations. Although far from being part of every ufologist's areas of study, these concepts are nevertheless very popular with the media and with many 'fringe' societies such as the Aetherius Society, who champion the beliefs of space travel to other planets and the existence of intelligent alien life on them. THE SCIENCE IN SCIENCE FICTION thankfully applies science to these ideas and by restoring sanity to them, effectively demolishes them as such. The section of most interest (though this book is extremely fascinating and entertaining throughout) is under chapter 11, entitled 'Flying Saucers'. This brief analysis of the UFO situation as a whole is very informed and benefits by being written from an objective point of view. A paragraph of great significance reads;

"There are still sightings which cannot conclusively be accounted for; but the debate is not really a rational argument over what, if anything, this evidence amounts to. The reasons people have for holding fantastic beliefs about UFOs actually have nothing to do with evidence; UFO enthusiasts deal with evidence only to give their beliefs whatever gloss of respectability can be obtained by their pastiche of scientific method. For the most part, they do not care whether the stories they quote are true or not, as is shown by the way that known hoaxes are still repeated, in book after book. Those UFO enthusiasts who do try to observe reasonable standards of evidence in their enquiries will try to reject those who do not as members of a 'lunatic fringe', but even the most superficial investigation shows that it is the Hynek-style sceptics who are the fringe, while the real heart of the UFO phenomenon lies with the uncritical

believers." That paragraph sums up the true current predicament of the UFO world, and just illustrates how this book has intelligently tackled the wide range of topics featured.

DIE NAGORA FOTOSERIE by Klaus Webner. 32 page privately printed booklet. Illustrated with photos & diagrams. 15 DM including postage.

To some, the real bread and butter of ufology can be found in the small privately printed booklets that never experience the wider publicity and acclaim afforded that of professional big-name offerings. The amount of effort put into these works is strenuous and often unrewarded, and it is vital that everything should be done to spread the word of their existence. DIE NAGORA FOTOSERIE KRITISCH BETRACHTET (The Nagora photos, a critical view), is a splendid attempt to analyse the alleged UFO photographs taken by Rudi Nagora on 23rd May 1971. The photos received wide coverage and were treated as authentic. Webner did not agree with that view and set about conducting his own experiments in reconstructing the manner in which the photos could have been originally conceived. His results are fascinating and throw fresh light onto the validity of the series of 12 snaps. Although the text is in German, this booklet is well worth owning even if the reader does not bother having it translated, for the very clear illustrating shows how Webner went about his work and how he interpreted Nagora's famous frames. Write to Klaus Webner, Zugspitzstrasse 56 6200 Wiesbaden, West Germany.

THE DIRECTORY OF POSSIBILITIES Edited by Colin Wilson and John Grant. Published by Corgi, paperback, 303 pp, illus. £2.50

This alternative-to-the-norm way of presenting a book is both intriguing and frustrating, for this book goes much further than a dictionary by way of including whole sections by well-known contributors on a myriad of topics all within seven main areas of enquiry. The seven areas are; Mythology & the Ancient World, The Occult & the Miraculous, Strange Creatures & Unusual Events, Time in Disarray, Inner Space: The Universe, and The World of Tomorrow. Within each of these topics is a short alphabetically arranged directory of minor subjects that fall into these categories. It is frustrating because of the constant changing of topics - just as you get into its stride - yet the overall effect is entertaining. This book is one that belongs alongside the 'great mystery' compendiums - a good addition.

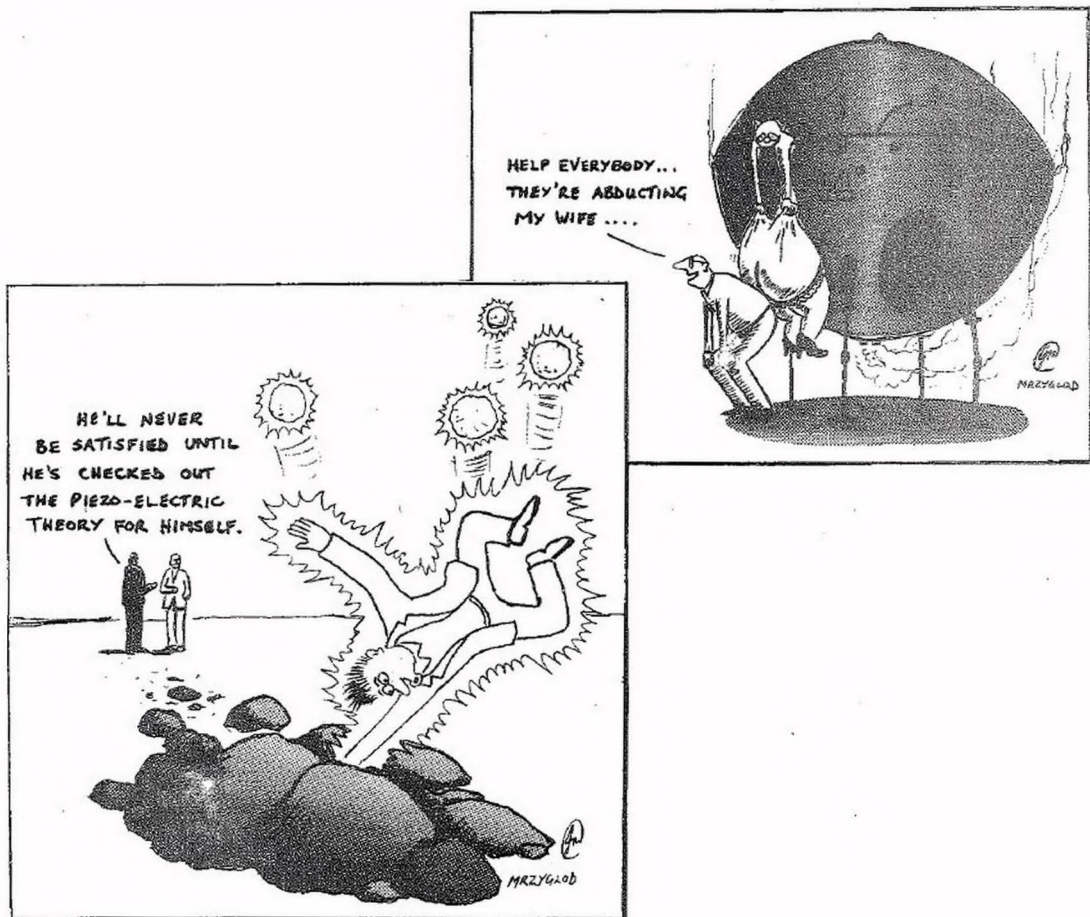
.. AND FINALLY ..

Northern UFO News this month celebrates its long stint by reaching issue No. 100. The journal which reports on the activities of those participant in the Northern UFO Network marks this occasion by being litho printed, expanded in page number and improved in quality. It also sheds (at last) that awful depressing cover. It is a landmark issue that should be snapped up - not only for its content value, but because it is an extremely rare event for a privately produced UFO journal to make it this far. Subs are £4.20 for 4 litho issues plus 2 duplicated A4 issues. Apply to Jenny Randles, 9 Grosfield Road, Somerville, Wallasey, Wirral. L44 9EH.

Colin Birch has, at the disposal of the readers, a VHS video recording of the HORIZON documentary on UFOs. This can

be borrowed for private viewing and Colin only requests that full postage costs are paid for. Enquire to Colin at 2 Berryman Court, Lethbridge Road, Wells, Somerset. BA5 2FF.

BUFORA have announced further speakers for the third International UFO Congress which is to be held at The Lorch Foundation, High Wycombe, Bucks from 27th to 29th August 1983. So far scheduled are: From the USA - Dr J. Allen Hynek, Dr Stanton T. Friedman, and Dr Harley Rutledge. From the UK - Hilary Evans, Dr Susan Blackmore, Jenny Randles and Paul Devereux. Also listed are Dr Alex Kuel (Austria), Bertil Kuhlemann (Sweden) and Per Andersen (Denmark). Contact John Shaw at 5 Vardens Road, London. SW11 1RQ., for further details.





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BACK

ISSUE SERVICE

PROBE has available several back issues of THE PROBE REPORT, some still at the old price level. Vol 1, No 3 and all of Volume 2 can still be obtained at the old 50 pence price, plus 20p towards postage and packing. Volume 3 issues are more expensive, each costing 85p plus the 20p costs as above. Of course, as more issues are ordered, the postage costs are reduced accordingly, so 1 magazine will be 20p, 2 will be 30p, 3 for 40p and 4 and above, 50p. There are only SIX copies left of Vol 1, No 3, so please order quickly. Apply to the address on page 1 inside.



Also available is the SCUFORI/PROBE joint publication -

UFO/IFO: A PROCESS OF ELIMINATION

Priced at 80p plus 20p postage and packing (Overseas please remit by International Money Order). From, SCUFORI, 29 Lethbridge Road, Swindon, Wiltshire, ENGLAND.