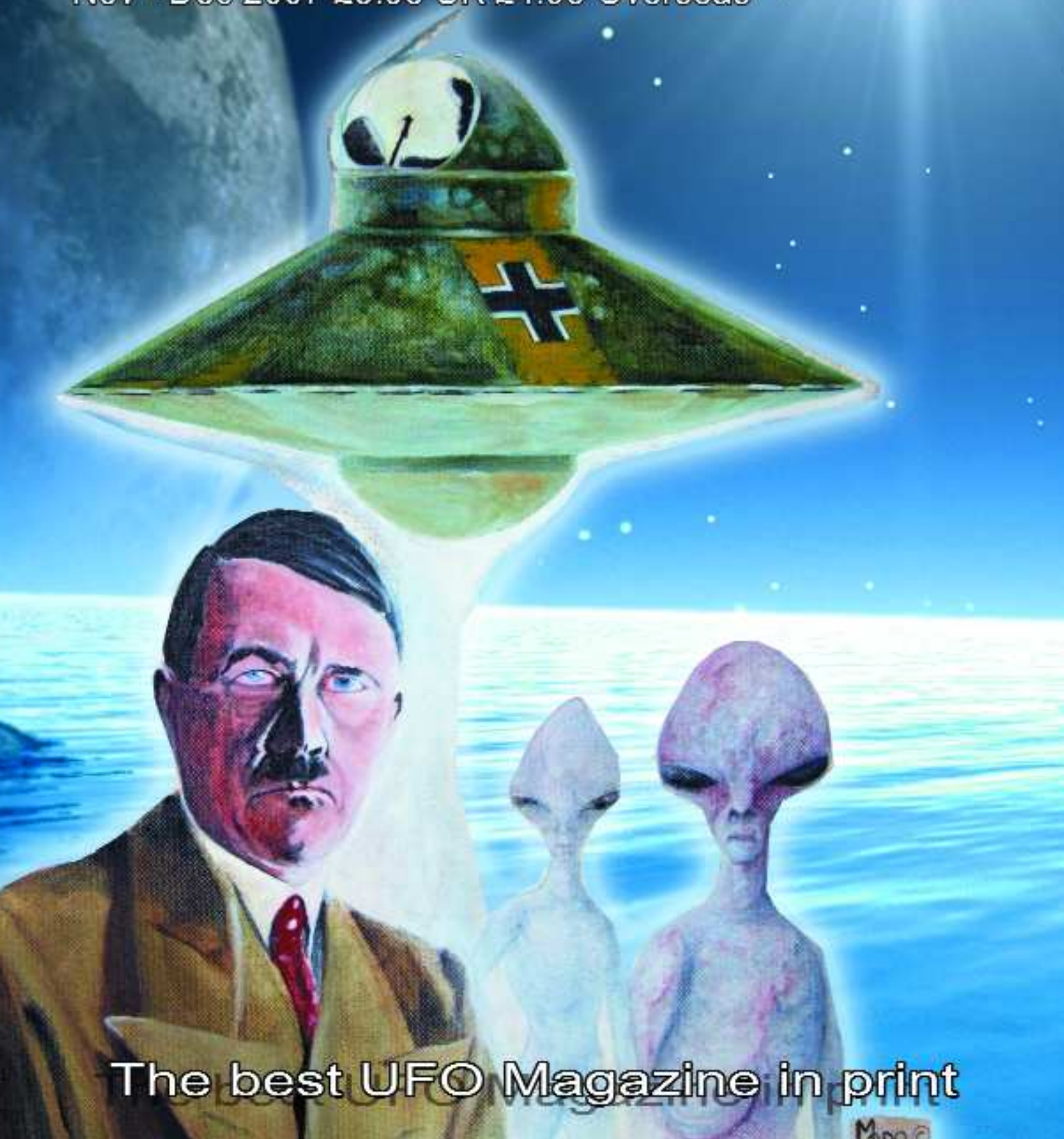


UFODATA MAGAZINE

Nov - Dec 2007 £3.95 UK £4.95 Overseas



The best UFO Magazine in print

TWO YEARS IN PRINT. SAME OLD QUESTION



Is there anybody out there...?

UFO DATA Magazine celebrates its first year as a glossy magazine and its second year in print with this issue.

Thank you all from everyone here at UFO DATA for your continued support.

We have a very special announcement to make with this issue, but more about that later.

It has been an interesting year, with several significant UFO events taking place:

Sixty years of Roswell is a major milestone and one celebrated at our 2007 conference (review inside).

Commercial pilot, Ray Bowyer, reported seeing a huge unexplained object over the holiday island of Guernsey and several good sightings from around the world.

Thanks to our varied team of associates, UFO DATA gets the opportunity to publish articles that rest on the fringe of ufology or the unexplained and we hope to continue to publish similar reports and research in the coming years.

Christmas is coming, so make the most of it as we look forward to your company in 2008.

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UFO DATA MAGAZINE®

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UFO discovered in military training film

(BBC NEWS Online host film clip)



It has not gone unnoticed that, in recent years, UFO sightings have not been as prevalent as in years gone by.

That said, this subject is not a predictable science. Sightings, encounters and reports happen when they happen and, in some cases, that can be years apart.

Even less in abundance are sightings accompanied by quality film evidence and even rarer than hen's teeth are those sightings caught on camera whose source is undeniable. I think back to all the wonderful NASA events captured out of the blue by enthusiasts such as Martyn Stubbs or Jeff Challender.

Well, the images above are confirmed still frames from a military training exercise, recorded over Israel. We know the footage is authentic as it was acquired by the

BBC to be included in a news report. That report can be viewed online in its entirety at the BBC News website or via YouTube.

Links to the clip will be published at the end of this item.

The case was brought to my attention by a sharp-eyed researcher, Ben Lydiatt, from Oxfordshire, and then the frame analysis was done by our own Steve Johnson.

When Brett rang me, I viewed the footage whilst he was still on the phone. He pointed me to the two sequences that appear to show an unusual object flying close to the high-speed jet fighters.

The camera that was used to record the clips was mounted inside the cockpit of one of the jets. I was wary not to get too excited by what the film showed, simply because the camera was filming behind the curved, glass canopy of the plane and I immediately thought of reflections or distortions of the images when filmed this way.

However, on watching the sequence

carefully, other objects shot through this canopy show little distortion and are easily recognisable as other aircraft. So what are we looking at?

Initially, UFO DATA's Steve Johnson posted a link to the clip on a different area of our forum and at that point, he too suspected distortions through the canopy, but on further examination of the film, frame-by-frame dissection revealed an aircraft clearly passing in front of this cigar-shaped object.

One thing that was mentioned in the news report was that at the end of the actual mission, the flight would jettison spent fuel pods from their aircraft.

Remember, the film is a training mission, so it would be extremely wasteful dumping fuel pods in the desert, not to mention dangerous to release them in the flight path of other members of your squadron. Whatever we are seeing in the film makes for interesting viewing, but please see the clips for yourself at the following addresses:

www.ufodata.co.uk/forum

www.bbc.co.uk/player/nol/newsid_7000000/newsid_7005800/7005856.stm?bw=bb&mp=rm&nol_storyid=7005856&news=1

Let us know what you think...

SETKA

'a secret soviet UFO
research program'...



By Paul Stonehill & Philip Mantle

Since the fall of the Soviet Union, researchers have made many claims about the former regime and its UFO secrets. Hollywood even got involved when former James Bond, Roger Moore, fronted the absolutely terrible *KGB Files*, a 90-minute documentary claiming to blow the lid off UFO secrecy from behind the Iron Curtain.

What transpired was the producers of the show offered hamburgers and US Greenbacks to now streetwise Russian citizens, who had very quickly learned how to become mini-capitalists and were selling anything and everything they could get their hands on. It's a wonder Lenin's moustache wasn't put up for auction on eBay, because you could buy most other things.

However, there is one UFO researcher that has managed to keep a level head since his country's new-found freedom happened. In fact, he now resides in the United States. Paul Stonehill is a good friend and co-author with our features editor, Philip Mantle, and it is that partnership that brings this feature article to *UFO DATA Magazine*...

SETKA: A SECRET SOVIET UFO RESEARCH PROGRAM

DAWN OF THE SECRET PROGRAM

By Paul Stonehill & Philip Mantle

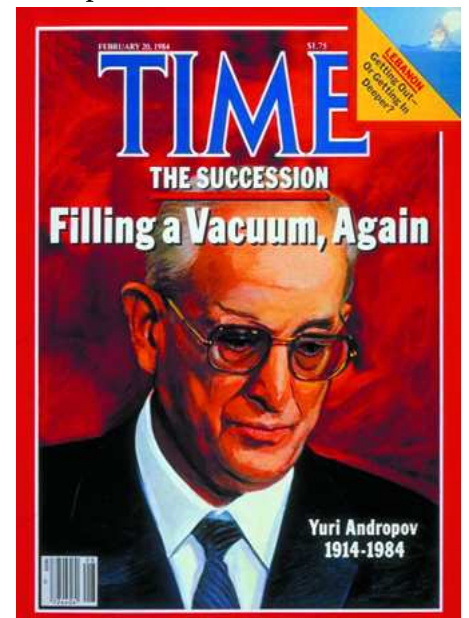
A sharp increase in UFO activity in 1977-1978 (especially, the Petrozavodsk Case) had forced appropriate departments within the USSR Academy of Sciences to agree to a research program for anomalous atmospheric phenomena. The code name for this program was SETKA-AN (Akademii Nauk Set'--Academy of Sciences Net, or AS-NET.)

The Soviet Ministry of Defense embarked on a similar program, dubbed SETKA-MO (Ministerstva Oboroni Set').

Reportedly, it was the Military-Industrial Commission that had ordered this research. The powerful Military-Industrial Commission decided to create two UFO research centers, one in the USSR Academy of Sciences, the other in the USSR Defense Ministry. Both centers aided each other's research and exchanged information. But we are not com-

pletely certain; there have been reports from Russia that Yuri Andropov, the chairman of the KGB from 1967 to 1982, and the General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union from 1982 to 1984, was extremely interested in the UFO phenomenon (specifically, in one case investigated by SETKA researchers). He had enough power to give impetus to the creation of the secret program.

And so, at the end of 1978, anomalous phenomena research in the



USSR Academy of Sciences became the subject of a special scientific research program designated as SETKA-AN. Its functions were distributed among different departments, and a number of Soviet research institutes of the USSR Academy of Sciences received tasks to research various aspects of the anomalous phenomenon issue.

On the 18th of October 1978, a meeting took place in the Academy of Sciences, USSR. Those present included Vladimir Vasilyevich Migulin, Georgiy Stepanovich Narimanov, Rem Gennadiyevich Varlamov, Victor Petrovich Balashov, Vladimir Ivanovich Volga, A. N. Makarov, Inna Evgraphovna Petrenko, Evgeniy Pavlovich Chigin, Dmitry Aleksandrovich Men'kov, Zaytsev (a colonel of the Soviet anti-aircraft forces), Lev Mironovich Gindilis, Inna Gennadyevna Petrovskaya, and Yury Victorovich Platov.

By the way, according to Dr. Fomenko, a famous Russian UFO researcher, a group of 10 or 15 researchers who later formed the SETKA core, regularly met outside their work to discuss the UFO phenomenon.

In 1981, the SETKA research program was given another name, Galaktika (MO and AN designations), and in 1986, the name was changed to Gorizont MO and AN. After the program ended (right after the failed Communist, anti-Gorbachev attempted coup in 1991, although Colonel Kolchin, a noted Russian UFO researcher, mentioned the year of 1990), a group of experts remained in the Department of General Physics and Astronomy of the Russian Academy of Sciences where they analyzed incoming reports until 1996.

THE PLAYERS

We know today that at the historic meeting Migulin and Platov represented the Izmiran (the Academy of Sciences USSR Institute of Terrestrial Magnetism and Diffusion of Radio Waves). Narimanov and Petrovskaya represented the Academy of Sciences USSR Institute for Space Studies. Varlamov repre-

sented the Moscow Technological Institute. Balashov and Volga represented the secret military unit 67947. Makarov represented the Department of General Physics and Astronomy of the Academy of Sciences USSR. Gindilis represented the Shternberg State Astronomical Institute. We are not sure who the other participants represented at the meeting. This was the genesis of the SETKA programs, a fundamental research of anomalous phenomena in the Soviet Union. The main agency of the research was to be the Izmiran. Platov was to be the chief executive at the Izmiran for the SETKA-AN. We cannot quote the complete document here, but we need to mention several crucial points. The Ministry of Defense was worried about the effects of anomalous phenomena; such effects interfered with its work. Balashov mentioned that the priority of research should go to the periodically generated phenomena. He later said that there was no confirmation of sightings by either Soviet or American cosmonauts or astronauts (they observed containers, he added; meaning that the objects they saw were not UFOs).



Discussions about the organizational details were, too, very interesting (an HQ is needed at the Academy of Sciences; Platov, the CEO, was to provide it; Migulin promised to "organize" rooms in Moscow; Gindilis mentioned the central archives and the catalogue in one central place). Varlamov mentioned that there are 3000 reports coming in each year from general population. Migulin was against Gindilis's idea of

a central storage place of the data. Volga stated that the sources of primary information included the Ministry of Defense, the Ministry of the Interior Affairs, and TASS.

According to Dr. Fomenko, Migulin was chosen to lead the program while he was absent...no one else wanted to touch the dangerous subject.

In 1978, it was K. Ivanov, the deputy chief of the General Staff of the Soviet Navy (and chief of the Naval Intelligence) who was ordered to research the UFO phenomenon.

THERE ARE NO UFOS...

One of the first acts of the SETKA-AN (according to Yuri Striganov, well-known Russian researcher) resulted in official sanction of "anomalous atmospheric phenomena" as a descriptive term instead of the forbidden "UFO." The censorship chains on the UFO subject were removed in 1989.

The well-planned tasks of the SETKA programs had a terrifyingly effective impact. According to Stroganov, the "Academic Commission" did its best to prove there are no UFOs, only errors in observation of rocket launches, or at the very least, ball lightning.

SETKA-AN served as a powerful cover, creating a distraction away from the workings of the Ministry of Defense, whose SETKA-MO is said to have been, or is, more serious in its investigations than the academic group. Despite the SETKA's nonchalance there had been occasions when "anomalous phenomena" had led to the unauthorized launches of mobile missiles, and on other occasions, the appearance of UFOs during military training exercises had resulted in the breakdown of radio communications and equipment malfunctions.

There had also been reports from military personnel including senior officers, about the strange conduct of UFOs over Soviet missile bases and cosmოდromes.

Scientific arguments regarding the nature of UFOs had been the least of the military researchers' concerns;

they did, however, pay close attention to the hypothesis that UFOs are manifestations of an ET civilization. Most of all, they have been concerned with UFOs' impact on military technology and on personnel; such impact could be quite unpredictable.

INSTRUCTIONS AND APPEALS

The Guidelines for the Soviet Navy had been dated March 7, 1980, and signed by Deputy Commander of the Main HQ of the Navy, Vice Admiral Saakyan. A well-known Russian ufologist, Valdimir Ajaja, who at the time had problems with the Communist ideologues and officials because of his UFO research, was given protection and work by his friends in the Navy; he helped with the writing of the Instruction.

Instructions regarding the procedures to collect information about anomalous phenomena data collection in the atmosphere and space were sent to various Soviet departments and organizations. The order came from the Department of General Physics and Astronomy of the USSR Academy of Sciences. Nedelya newspaper published an appeal by V. Migulin and Y. Platov to those who have sighted unusual phenomena to first determine on site whether the observed object was not an astronomical or another familiar object. If it was not conventional in nature, then to describe the object thoroughly, and send the report to the Department of General Physics and Astronomy of the USSR Academy of Sciences.

As Y. Platov and B. Sokolov state in their History of State-directed UFO

Research in the USSR, a decision was made to keep the programs secret. The justification was a necessity to ensure "abatement of public response". There were three reasons for that, according to both apologists for this Inquisition-like approach to UFO phenomena research:

Programs formally belonged to activities pertaining defense-related subjects; initial assumption that there is a high probability of military-technical origin of the observed strange phenomena; and possibilities that in case of successful completion of the raised tasks some of the UFO characteristics could be used for military purposes.

CONTROVERSY

We do not believe that Platov and Sokolov's publication is truthful. For example, look at their insistence that there were virtually no reports of anomalous phenomena from military objects at or next to secret testing areas and ranges. This is simply not true, for Soviet UFO researchers reported a number of such sightings. Y. Platov and B. Sokolov (the latter had somewhat different opinions when he discussed his work with George Knapp, a noted American journalist in 1993) were official participants and leaders of the programs. Also, both authors admit that because scarce funding was available for their programs, and necessary equipment to research such phenomena as large-sized plasma structures in the atmosphere was not available, their methods could not be foolproof.

Basically, information was collected, and analyzed, and some physical models of observed phenomena were developed. But even this assertion seems to be untrue. Their publication was criticized by Russian and Ukrainian ufologists, and applauded by seasoned debunkers. There is obviously an agenda to denigrate independent UFO research, and not some "secret KGB files", as the authors state in the publica-

tion. It would be very decent on their part to inform Russian and other former Soviet ufologists as to where their archives are located (if there are any left), so that perhaps a joint commission could be formed, and reports researched again. We are not asking that a foreign representation be included, for there may be defense secrets in the archives of reports that spanned over 13 years. But we do not think that Platov and Sokolov should be allowed to dismiss Soviet and CIS UFO phenomenon with their publication. Actually, such prominent participants in the programs as Colonel A. A. Plaksin (liaison between the military and the academic programs) have recently confirmed the UFO incident in 1982 (when a nuclear war was almost triggered because the launch codes for the Soviet ICBMs had been bafflingly enabled just as the gigantic UFO appeared over the secret ICBM base in Ukraine). Although Boris Sokolov for years reported the same, he has later changed his story. We believe it is A. A. Plaksin who should be the authority in the cases investigated by the military SETKA program; or the head of the program, General Balashov. By the way, Colonel Plaksin nowadays is the leading paranormal phenomena expert of the Russian Defense Ministry.

REVELATIONS OF COLONEL PLAKSIN

And he is quite outspoken about the SETKA program (September 8 and 15, 2000, REN-TV program titled *Voyennaya Tayna* or *Military Secret*). A most curious article was published in *Komsomol'skaya Pravda* newspaper on 31st May 2002. The author was Andrey Pavlov, and its title is *UFOs helped Americans create super weapons*. Aleksandr Plaksin, who was interviewed, is called a military geophysicist. In the article Plaksin "reveals" several interesting developments.

1. Many recent achievements of the American military-industrial complex have been generated in the labs dedicated to the research of paranormal phenomena.
2. "Aliens" have nothing to do with American advanced technology (i.e., *Stealth*).
3. In his 15 years of UFO research A.



KLAS TV reporter, George Knapp
outside the gates of Area 51

Plaksin had never obtained direct proof that there are alien civilizations active on our planet.

4. Americans have researched UFOs since 1954 (U.S. Air Force), and since 1974 they have operated a secret scientific research center to study anomalous phenomena and UFOs through the use of a special Earth-based station. Hence, they (the Americans) were able to create a super weapon.

(A. Plaksin goes into terrifying details, but basically his aim is to denigrate American HAARP, future U.S. policies, etc.)

5. A. Plaksin describes the creation of the Soviet program(s) to study the anomalous phenomena from 1978 on.

6. A. Plaksin goes into fascinating details; the information after all, came from Soviet military branches, the Navy, the border guards, anti-aircraft units, etc. Some of the information revealed in the interview in *Komsomol'skaya Pravda* contains fascinating details of a sighting from the Borisoglebsk airfield (the immobile black cloud). This case is described below.

This is of great interest; there have been other very strange "clouds" over the former USSR and Russia; such cases are mentioned throughout *Mysterious Sky: Soviet UFO Phenomenon* (2006).

7. A. Plaksin mentions the infamous and very dangerous 1982 case (and gives the correct date; it was the 4th of October, not the 5th; and nothing other than a UFO almost triggered a nuclear war).

8. A. Plaksin states that there were no UFO crashes in Kazakhstan in 1978; no secret storage for UFO fragments in Mitische (Moscow area), no super secret storage in Novaya Zemlya.

A. Plaksin also mentions that the laboratory he worked with after 1978 was created at the military scientific research institute TSNII-22. He started there as a junior scientist in 1979, and gradually became its supervisor, until 1991, when the program was disbanded due to the lack of funds. It would be great to compare his information to that provided by such respectable former Soviet

military officers as Gherman Kolchin, Lev Ovsischer, and others. Gershtein, Subbotin, Chernobrov should also be heard, for their research skills are diverse and vast.

9. A. Plaksin is of the opinion that the unidentified objects ("20 percent", according to him) are of physical origin that is still unknown to us. Our laws of physics cannot explain such objects. The rest of the cases have to do with UFOs that are of the plasma formation, quite natural in origin. The methodology used by Soviet military scientists allowed them to juxtapose Sun's condition and the timing of UFO appearances. They had determined that under certain conditions a stream of solar radiation penetrates the Earth protective magnetic field and assumes very diverse forms, causing influence on measuring devices and people. He mentions two fascinating episodes (1977 and 1981).

10. Although A. Plaksin states that most likely there are no aliens on Earth, he also mentions that because of military secrecy he cannot reveal everything he knows.

11. Among other projects carried out by the military UFO research lab A. Plaksin worked in was the creation of the USSR anomalous zones map. There have been dozens of such zones. The most important ones were in the Ust'-Koksin area of the Altai Mountainous Autonomous region; the Zarevshan area; the Borisoglebsk area; the Plesetsk area of the Arkhangelsk region; the Dzerdzhinsky area of the Nizhegorodsk region; the Shatursky area near Moscow.

12. The military institute authorized to study UFOs had cooperated with other institutes of the Russian Science Academy to create a number of super sensitive equipment for UFO research. The equipment allowed them to estimate the size of UFOs, density, and their speeds. According to A. Plaksin, the Soviet military scientists also learned to predict UFO waves.

13. They never worked with any contactees. They were only interested in the official reports from Soviet military units; the reports were to be

measured by military technological equipment. Plaksin, obviously, is revealing more information, piecemeal. There is more to be learned from him, we hope, in the future.

Scientists in the Novosibirsk "Akademgorodok", a powerful science center in Siberia, conducted the first data processing of UFO sightings by Soviet computers. The actual calculations were performed in the Institute of Mathematics of the Siberian Branch of the Soviet Academy of Sciences. They used EVM ES 1022 computers. This was done in the framework of the SETKA-AN. Mikhail Gershtein has a copy of this historic attempt to study UFO data; the report consists of 45 pages of graphs and formulas.

Plaksin never discussed the mysterious "Arkhangelsk Dust" in his interviews, but he knew about it, as does V. Fomenko. Soviet scientists from the SETKA, as well as Novosibirsk came to Arkhangelsk to study the phenomenon. Arkhangelsk Region is situated in the North-West of the European part of Russia. Its shores, three thousand kilometers long, are washed by cold waters of three Arctic seas: the White, Barents and Kara Sea. We could not get more details of the mysterious event. We do know from Mikhail Gershtein's interview with V. Fomenko that Plaksin gave the elderly researcher some notes and information he had kept in his apartment

Overall, Russian ufologists are not certain what had actually been "caught" by the SETKA-MO. The Instructions signed by Saakyan mention two military units where the most serious UFO data collected was to be telegraphed to immediately: Unit 67947 (Mitichi city, Moscow region), and Unit 62728 (Leningrad). "Serious" data concerned the following: physical traces of anomalous phenomena, death of military personnel (as a result of contacts with the anomalous phenomena), and breakdown of technology.

We are not certain about the fate of the Krasny Kut unidentified phenomena secret archives of the Ministry of Defense that (according to retired Colonel Gherman Kolchin, a respected UFO researcher and

author) were kept at the secret testing site in the Saratov region. According to Kolchin, Colonel Sokolov had burned those reports that were not sold (400 most intriguing cases) to the American ufologists who visited Moscow in 1993. Also, according to Kolchin, back in 1997, one of the scientists involved with the program had confirmed that Migulin's commission virtually stopped its activities. The same situation was in the Ministry of Defense.

And yet, Russia of 2007 is very different from Russia of 1997. President Putin and his government may have a radically different view of the UFO phenomenon and its effects on the Armed Forces. Perhaps, some day we will find out whether other programs are active now. Nikolay Subbotin, an active Russian UFO researcher from the RUFORS organization, mentioned that in the summer of 2002 he discussed the subject with a captain from the strategic rocket forces. Captain Murtazin mentioned that in 2001 he had seen a special registration log for anomalous atmospheric phenomena (the same one that the SETKA had introduced in the late 1970s). That log contained recent entries, and the watch officer very efficiently sent the reports to a special military center that only he had information about....That means that the research program was either revived...or was never really terminated.

SOME OF THE SETKA CASES

1974, BOROSOGLEBSK AREA

The area is also named by A. Plaksin as one of the most important anomalous zones of the former USSR. That year a very interesting case took place at the Povorino airfield. A motionless black cloud appeared over the site. It was hovering at the altitude of seven kilometers. It was approximately a kilometer and a half long. The radar below indicated that it was an aircraft. A jet was sent to intercept it; there were two fliers aboard. As soon as they entered the cloud, a sharp siren pierced their helmet's earpieces. The sound was powerful, above "pain threshold". At the same time their onboard device illuminated the "dangerous altitude" reading, and the aircraft started shaking violently. The pilots were

barely able to shut down the power and with great difficulties guide the aircraft out of the cloud. The cloud hovered over the airfield for four hours, and then disappeared. The Soviets were never able to determine what that "cloud" was or consisted of.

1981, Mukachevo, Ukraine
Again, we have A. Plaksin to thank for the information about the case. It took place on September 14, 1981. A MIG-23 jet was conducting a training flight. And a fiery sphere appeared from nowhere, right in front of the aircraft. The front part of the jet was destroyed. The pilot had time to eject himself from the cockpit. A. Plaksin claimed that such incidents were never explained by his military UFO research.

October, 1982

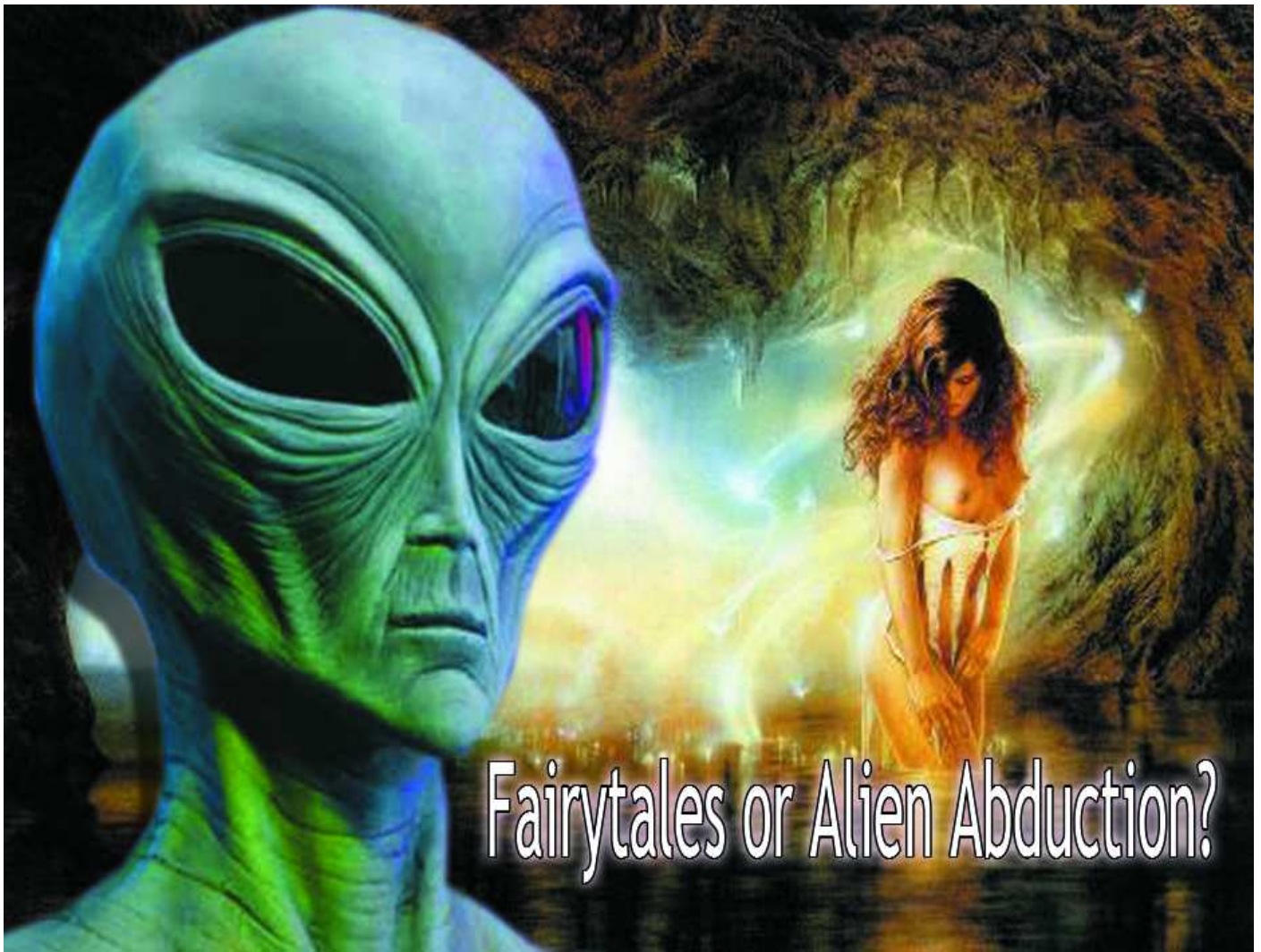
Reports received from Russia indicate that Soviet Colonel Boris Sokolov investigated the case, and on October 5, 1982, he was sent to Ukraine. Sokolov knew quite a lot about UFOs, as he was involved in the information collection and analysis per the Instruction. The reason he was summoned to the Soviet Ukraine was an urgent report from an ICBM base, sent to the Chief of General Staff. On October 4th, a UFO was observed in the area; it remained there for about four hours. But the control panel indicated that an order came in to prepare launch of the base missiles. Lights actually lit up on the panel, and launch codes enabled the missiles; there were many officers present that witnessed the incident that could have started a nuclear war. Apparently Boris Sokolov's team came to the conclusion that it was the UFO that bears responsibility for arming Soviet missiles. In the year 2000 Sokolov changed his views, perhaps under direct pressure, and came out against UFO hypothesis in this and other cases.

This case became famous in the West years later. A transcript from ABC News Prime Time Live dated October 5, 1995 describes the segment about the KGB files. David Ensor, a well-known correspondent for the network, conducted a five-month investigation of the Soviet UFO files. Dozens of Russian scientists, military and government officials had been

interviewed. Ensor found out about forty major incidents, including one that prompted fears of starting an accidental nuclear war. Ensor's team also found out about the Instruction. They viewed awesome footage of a huge triangular UFO filmed by a Soviet propaganda film crew (most likely, it was the so-called Riga UFO, 1961 incident). Other reports confirmed by eyewitnesses proved to be important. The incident that almost unleashed a nuclear war took place in 1982, on October 4. The event in question took place in the Soviet Ukraine. That day a huge UFO of perfect geometrical shape and 900 meters in diameter hovered over a nearby ballistic missile base. Numerous eyewitnesses confirmed the sighting to David Ensor. So did Lt. Colonel Vladimir Plantonev (we are not certain if this name was spelled correctly by ABC news), a missile engineer. According to him the UFO was a noiseless, disc-shaped craft; it had no portholes, its surface completely even. It made turns, like an airplane would. The missile silo at the base contained a nuclear warhead pointed at the United States. It was dismantled in the early 1990's. But in 1982 it was fully functional. Plantonev was in the bunker that fateful day in 1982. The room contained dual control panels for the missile, each of them hooked to Moscow. As the UFO hovered overhead, signal lights on both the control panels suddenly turned on, for a short period of time. The lights indicated that the missiles were preparing for launch. Moscow could have initiated such launch, by its transmission of special orders. But no order came from Moscow, and no one at the base pushed any buttons. For 15 long seconds the base simply lost control of its nuclear weapons. Moscow was very much alarmed, and sent an investigation team to verify the incident. A member of the commission, Colonel Igor Chernovshev (we are not certain if this name was spelled correctly by ABC news), corroborated the 1982 incident to David Ensor.

*Paul Stonehill and Philip Mantle
Co-authors of Mysterious Sky - Soviet
UFO Phenomenon (2006) now available
via Amazon.*

The authors can be contacted via email at: philip@mantle8353.fsworld.co.uk & rurcla@hotmail.com.



Fairytales or Alien Abduction?

The Abduction of the Reverend Robert Kirk

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This article is adapted from a chapter in paranormal researcher and author Brian Allan's new book entitled, *The Hole in The Sky*.

Note The abduction of human beings by non-terrestrial entities is a far from recent phenomenon and one such case involved a 17th-century Scottish Presbyterian minister, the Reverend Robert Kirk. Although he seems to have been born, lived, married and died in a conventional manner, what actually became of this enigmatic man is still shrouded in mystery and speculation, and the tales concerning his ultimate fate deserve attention.

While many assumptions have been made concerning the nature of so-called 'portals' and 'window areas', in the context of the UFOlogy they are

generally assumed to be entry points into our version of reality for extra-terrestrial spacecraft, and upon occasion beings, from parallel dimensions. However, this is obviously not the only answer and since there is more than one explanation for the existence and nature of extraterrestrial spacecraft, there may be a link with more traditional interpretations of these 'doorways'. Therefore, they might also be viewed as magical openings into which people and animals either enter by mistake, or are taken by entities, that in this context are assumed to be fairies and elves or some other variation on these magical creatures. One thing to bear in mind though is that in this matter context is vitally important. Before considering the Rev Kirk, perhaps we should think about a character who appears in a popular traditional children's tale, i.e. the 'Pied Piper of Hamelin'.

In June 1284, on being swindled out of his agreed fee by the officials of the municipality of

Hamelin after ridding the town of a plague of rats, the piper entranced the local children by playing his pipes and led them into a cavern in the nearby Koppenberg Mountains. Neither the children nor the piper were ever seen again. The portals in accounts such as these take the form of caves, fissures and other points of access below the surface of the earth,





but they also appear as fairy rings and other naturally occurring, if unusual, types of vegetation. This variant on contact with non-earthly beings tends to refer to them by the ancient term of the 'good folk', one of many facts comprehensively documented by the Rev. Kirk in his seminal book, 'The Secret Commonwealth of Elves, Fauns and Fairies', sometimes called 'The Secret Lives of Elves and Faeries'. Originally written in 1691, this volume is a meticulous appraisal of the creatures, mythology and history surrounding fairy lore. In many ways the lasting effects of the Rev. Kirk's book is similar to that of Sir James Fraser's splendid twelve volume anthropological opus, 'The

Golden Bough'. Both of these books give valid reasons to question many of the so-called truths and dogmas created by both science and religion.

Although Rev Kirk, who, interestingly, was a seventh son, is commemorated by a grave in an old cemetery just outside Aberfoyle, a pretty town in Stirlingshire, Scotland, where he was the minister, tradition insists that although there is a grave there he is not in it. Instead, local legend maintains that the 'good people' took him to a local fairy hill, led him inside and there he still remains. The use of the term, 'good people' may be a deliberate attempt by out forefathers to ward off possible repercussions from these entities should they inadvertently describe them in anything less than complimentary terms. The precautions derive from the allegedly capricious and sometimes malign nature of these entities.

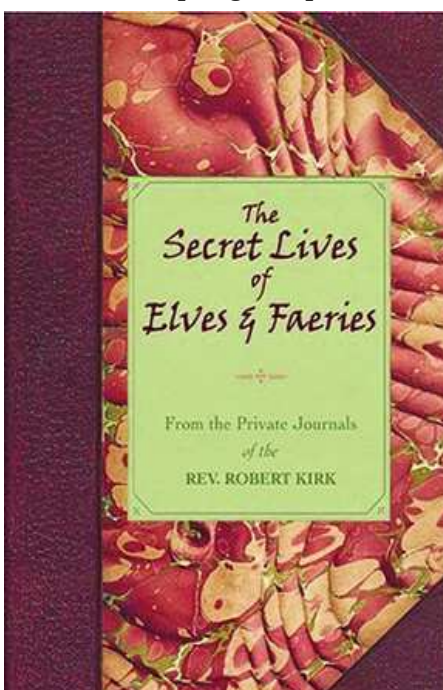
An account written by his replacement in the parish, the Rev Grahame, goes some way to corroborate this tale and reveals that in 1692 the Rev Kirk was walking on the local fairy hill when he collapsed and was taken for dead, in fact the same fairy hill to which the 'good people' took him. At his funeral he reputedly appeared to one of his relations requesting them to contact the aforementioned Rev Grahame and tell him that he was not in fact dead, but held captive in fairyland. He said

that he would appear again at the christening of his as yet unborn child, (presumably his wife was already pregnant before his death), and the only way to secure his release was for the officiating minister to throw a knife or dirk over Kirk's head.

The story goes on to say that he did indeed appear at the ceremony, but the clergyman was so surprised that the knife was not thrown and Rev Kirk vanished forever. This has obvious similarities with the Pied Piper legend and implies that the same unfortunate fate that befell the children and the Rev Kirk awaits anyone unfortunate or foolish enough to venture (or be taken) into the world of the fairies. It is probably no accident that Kirk reputedly possessed psychic talents, something of which he was certainly aware, because in addition to his claim to be a seventh son, traditionally a portent of psychic potential, it was his contention that the 'fairies' lived and moved freely in the world of men. They were, however, invisible to all but those with the gift of second sight and Kirk claimed that he could see them. This echoes with the proposition that non-terrestrial entities move freely among us at this very moment in plain sight, but are so utterly and completely alien that they have no need of concealment because we cannot see them due to the fact we have no frame of reference against which to compare them.

This concept is not so bizarre as it might at first appear since it is on record that Captain Cook on his voyages of discovery was once confronted by a tribe of islanders who, although they could see Cook, his men and the rowing boat that they came ashore in, could not see the ship that they came from although it was only as short distance offshore. All they could see was that there was 'something wrong' with the ocean. They could not see the vessel until they were taken out in the rowing boat and touched it. The same is true of Native Americans, who, at first, could not discern paintings when they saw them; all they could see was a confusing multicoloured swirl of colour but no image.

In addition, the reverend was also reputedly able to heal by touch alone,



a talent rendering him something of a faith healer. Curiously enough, many of those who allege abduction by non-terrestrial entities also claim to possess enhanced psychic abilities; a facility that if not present prior to the abduction frequently develops after the event. The properties of the 'healing touch' have been attributed to many prominent figures in antiquity; not least several royal houses, but particularly the semi-mythical 7th century Merovingian dynasty in France, the so-called 'Sorcerer Kings'. It is especially interesting to note that while swimming in the sea and already pregnant by her husband, King Clovis, the mother of Merovee, the founder of the dynasty, was reputedly either raped or seduced by a 'Quinotaur', (literally five horned), an apparently aquatic, hybrid creature with implied extra-terrestrial origins.

In some manner the human and non-human DNA mingled and the birth of Merovee (sometimes called Merovech) was the result. Further compounding the mystery is the later involvement of a shadowy and secretive group known as 'The Priory of Sion'. First popularised in the book, 'The Holy Blood and The Holy Grail', they were reputedly founded to restore the deposed Merovingian bloodline to the throne of France. Although there have been several attempts to discredit this organisation, somehow it still continues to appear like some pallid, orphaned spectre at the periphery of several enigmas. Before leaving the legend of Merovee, it is interesting to note that other tales linking allegedly semi-aquatic extraterrestrials with the human race comes from the Dogon people of Mali, who claim that they received specific knowledge of the star, Sirius B, which they called the 'Digitaria star', from a non-terrestrial, fish-like race known as the Nommo, and the Babylonians who claimed that their civilisation was founded by a race of space travelling 'fish gods'. While extremely tempting to speculate upon, especially the apparent non-terrestrial genetic interference, whether or not this is all part of a long standing, obscure, extraterrestrial plot still remains to be seen.

Regarding Kirks disappearance into

fairyland; it has often been said that those who have been there have no sense of time passing, which resonates powerfully with the properties of faster than light (FTL) travel, where the person in the spacecraft is propelled to the stars at a speed greater than the speed of light, and in relative terms for them time passes as normal, but for those on earth time accelerates. Should the person on board the starship return after what was, subjectively, a journey of a few weeks or perhaps months, they would have aged by exactly that amount while those on Earth might have aged by many years or could even have died of old age. This, reputedly, is exactly what happens to the human beings taken (or abducted) by the fairies.

The implications of this are obviously far reaching and strongly insinuate that, once again, there is little or no difference between ET's and fairies, and of course their use of highly exotic technology. It may be this very anomaly that we are unable to recognise as technology in action, because it is, like their appearance, totally alien to our concept of what technology is and how it should function. This may be the result of centuries of conditioning spent applying and using Newtonian principles in day-to-day life, e.g. the absolute concept of cause and effect and that technology must be reducible to its component parts, and this includes electronic functions, as a purely mechanical process. Electronic function is included in this because it still involves movement, although in this case of electrons.

However, as we can see, when dealing with non-terrestrial and non-human entities these rules may not apply, because it is possible that non-terrestrial races have developed under unimaginably different circumstances and possess knowledge totally unlike our own. It is at this point where opinions sharply differ, the widespread assumption is that alien technology must, by implication, be superior and this is not necessarily so. Just because non-terrestrial technology is different does not necessarily mean that it is better than our own; it is just as I said: it is different. Taking the opposite stance, it could be argued that an alien being

might be equally overawed by terrestrial technology in its sheer scale and by the human race for its never-say-die attitude and sheer bloody-minded stubbornness. Perhaps it is these factors that make us an object of curiosity and therefore worthy of study, or maybe they seek to exploit and adapt our technology for their own use rather than the other way round. We might also consider why human beings find the eerie songs and unearthly lights of the fairy dance so hypnotic and irresistible; it exactly parallels nautical legends of the melodies sung by mermaids and sirens (a possible link with the Quinotaur and other aquatic races?) luring sailors to their watery graves. Is this the deliberate use of lights combined with sound frequencies employed to either repel or attract human beings, much as we use them on animals and insects?

Another curious part of Kirks story is specific mention of the use of a knife or dirk to free him from the fairy's grasp; this may be highly significant. The use of metals, water and salt, which, along with bell, book and candle, were all part of the traditional arsenal used by exorcists and others who deal with manifestations of ghosts, spirits, apparitions, poltergeists and of course fairies, is no accident. The use of all three substances suggests that there may a strong link between manifestations of this kind and the presence of electromagnetic fields, for iron and salt water are excellent natural electrical conductors, and depending of their deployment could make the successful use of electromagnetism very problematic.

One possible element of the 'mechanism' used to open portals may well be powerful electromagnetic fields. However, the standard explanation for the use of salt in such ceremonies is the fact that salt was frequently used as preservative and was therefore, by association, anathema to unclean or demonic spirits. In addition, the water was usually blessed or holy water, which for obvious reasons was assumed to provide an additional layer of protection. The use of iron is not quite so obvious other than in terms of strength, but it may be that since iron, or steel for that matter, is largely carbon based it

might either disrupt electromagnetic fields or even dissipate them, both situations are less than desirable for any entities relying on exploiting the properties of electromagnetism for their own purposes. As it often the case ancient spells and techniques are founded on sound scientific principles, although those who originally employed them did so purely because they worked and for no other reason.

The nature of fairy rings is in itself suggestive of other more conventional portals, as is the nature of how the fairies seem to operate the ring. Traditionally the fairies are seen to dance and caper in a circle around the perimeter of the ring, in other words there is rotation, something that seems vital to the physical creation of an energy field. In the conventional generation of electricity there is movement, normally circular, as a turbine or dynamo rotates with a metallic, magnetic core rotating inside coils of wiring. The rotation induces an electric current in the coil, which is then tapped off for use and the rotation of fairies at the perimeter of the ring seems to provide an analogy of this.

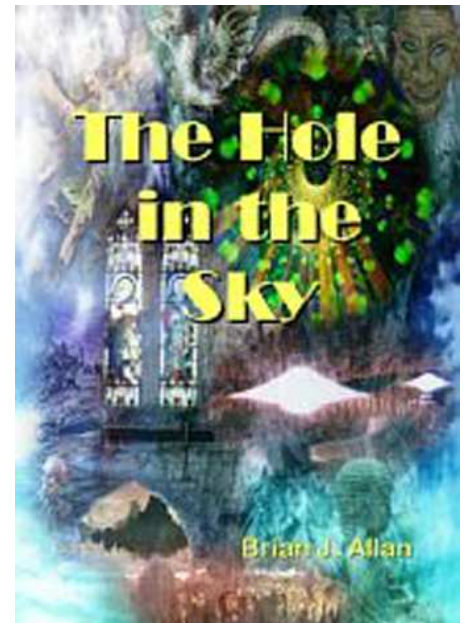
The idea of fairy portal finds similarities in books such as 'Alice in Wonderland', by Lewis Carroll, when Alice enters Wonderland through a portal, in this case a rabbit hole. In the case of the Steven Spielberg film, 'Poltergeist' (1984, dir. Tobe Hooper) the 'portals' are a television set and a cupboard, and in the book, 'The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe', part of the Narnia series of fantasy novels by C S Lewis, and later filmed as 'The Chronicles of Narnia', (2005 dir. Andrew Adamson) it is a wardrobe. In the cult horror film 'Evil Dead II', (1987 dir. Sam Raimi) the portal is a seething, rotating maelstrom, a literal 'hole in the sky', which carries the hero to a strange, medieval, demon haunted parallel world, where magic, (or alternative technology?), is in common use. Staying with older concepts of the methods designed to make contact with a mysterious 'Otherworld', we once again find stone circles like those at Stonehenge and Avebury, and contemporary with that era, beautifully preserved burial mounds like the Neolithic graves at Newgrange in Northern Ireland and

Maeshowe in Orkney. It is also likely that other sites, like those of the ancient oracles, could be regarded as portals, they were certainly used for that purpose, i.e. communication with the departed in the 'Otherworld'.

Whether or not there is any validity in these claims is obviously open to question and rather like the acceptance of the entire subject of UFO's in general, it is a matter of faith...except for one thing. Even to day, surrounded as we are by an increasingly technological world with its professorial prophets of rationality. There is an insidious backlash that defies both the dogmatic logic and the best efforts of these eminent sceptics. Strangely enough, the very people whose work should support the sceptics supply the tools used by those who have the courage to drive and participate in the backlash, by this I mean the theoretical physicists whose arcane formulae and calculations have created what amounts to a modern class of alchemists and magicians.

These physicists are themselves producing evidence of oddities and anomalies suggesting that faster than light travel and time travel are possible. There is also evidence that we are surrounded by an infinite number of realities, some slightly different from those alongside and other utterly and completely alien to what we consider as 'normal'. There is even verifiable evidence emerging suggesting that physical death really is not the end and consciousness can and does survive the process. If this is the case, then in what form do we survive, are those who have gone before us perhaps the very entities that we seek, are we, or at least what we were, the fairies, elves and goblins of folklore. Whatever the answer is, we can only hope that when the truth does finally emerge, as it surely must, that the deniers have the good grace to accept defeat and admit that they were wrong all along. Perhaps we shall yet discover that the Rev Robert Kirk and other like him really are still alive in some reality just beside our own.

Brian Allen



You can buy brian's book at the following web address:

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'ROSWELL 60'
The Parkside Hotel,
Pontefract, UK
20th-21st October, 2007

"The Rebirth of British Ufology"

A new, larger venue and a line-up of top speakers saw *UFO Data Magazine's* annual conference go from strength to strength. Pontefract may not be the UFO capital of the world, but the small, Yorkshire town's Parkside Hotel hosted the largest UFO conference in the UK for

years. Over the weekend more than 500 delegates passed through the doors and they enjoyed all of the lectures that were presented by our host, *UFO Data Magazine* features editor, Philip Mantle.

The first speaker on Saturday morning was **Nick Pope**. We all know Nick as the former head of the Ministry of Defence's UFO desk in the 1990s. His talk asked the question What Would Happen if Roswell Occurred Today?

we possibly stand up to beings that possess the technology to travel between the stars? Nick thinks not. He believes that we would stand no chance against such an advanced species if they came here with belligerent intentions.

What about a peaceful first contact scenario? Nick reckons that such a meeting would inevitably be under their terms and not ours. What could we possibly offer them? What could they want from us? Nick believes that such a summit would result in an exchange of technology, cultural information and examples of human and alien art.

Nick believes that first contact will most likely happen via the Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence (SETI). Professor Ian Morison of Jodrell Bank might disagree with that, recently suggesting that direct contact is most likely to happen with a physical landing rather than a radio message, like the kinds for which SETI are looking. That said, Nick believes that SETI and ufology should work together. We are both looking for the answer to the same question, after all: Are We Alone?



Nick Pope takes question time...

Is there a contingency plan for UFO crashes? According to Nick, no there is not. He finds this very disturbing, that nobody in government appears to have even considered what to do in the event of the crash of an extra-terrestrial vehicle.

How would we deal with an alien invasion? Could

According to SETI, if a real, extra-terrestrial signal was found and verified by several different observatories, there would be no cover-up - everybody would be told about it. We'll see. One question is: Should We Send a Message Back? Should we expose ourselves to the outside universe? Well, we've been doing that ever since we first began transmitting radio and television signals so they know we are here anyway.

So, what would happen in the event of the crash of a UFO? Well, it would depend on where the crash happened. Nick said that the official reaction to the crash would be different if it crashed in a heavily-populated area rather than a more remote region. He said the first to respond would likely be the police and emergency services, as they would be the ones called by any witnessing members of the public. The area would be cordoned-off and treated like any 'regular' plane crash. Essentially, it would be treated as a crime scene and unauthorised people would not be allowed to tramp around the area, destroying or removing evidence.

At some point, the military would be called in under a protocol known as 'Military Assistance to the Civil Power'. Armed forces personnel would operate under the jurisdiction of the civil authorities. There could be a potential biological hazard from extra-terrestrial germs or even the aliens themselves, if any are present. Would we be able to interact with them physically? Would we have any resistance to the micro-organisms they may carry? Bio-hazard and/or radiation teams should be brought in, just like in the event of a chemical/biological terrorist attack or other emergency.

Nick believes that contingency plans should be drawn up using common sense and all the available scientific data. If no plan is available, any situation could quickly run out of control because of inadequate preparations. A standard operating procedure (SOP) should be made available to all civil authorities.

On the part of the Ministry of Defence (MoD), the UFO desk would probably be brought in first, depending on the time of day, although

there are no plans for what would happen after that! We have an SOP for plane crashes, but not for UFO crashes. Why not? Nick asked.

The government, Nick said, operates under a creed known as 'A Culture of No Surprises'. This means that politicians need to be told about what is going on. This is why whenever something happens, there is always a politician (usually the 'on-duty minister') on the TV or radio news ready to comment, perhaps albeit briefly, and appear to have the situation under control.

A briefing would then be given to ministers, senior civil servants and high-ranking members of the military and a document would be drawn up detailing the known facts, any recommendations and presentational issues (how will it look in the media). This document may be made available to the public or it may not.

Nick believes that the public would be informed, mainly just so that the government appear to be in control of the situation. Information would be released to the relevant departments with answers to certain questions laid out. There would also be what are known as 'If Pressed' responses. This would be information that the government would rather not disclose, but would if a particularly eager journalist demanded it.

The phrase 'extra-terrestrial' would likely not be used in any early statements, with more generic terms about the crash and the actions undertaken. A decision would have to be made about notifying the Queen and the possible recall of Parliament, if it is not in session.

Nick thinks that a cover-up

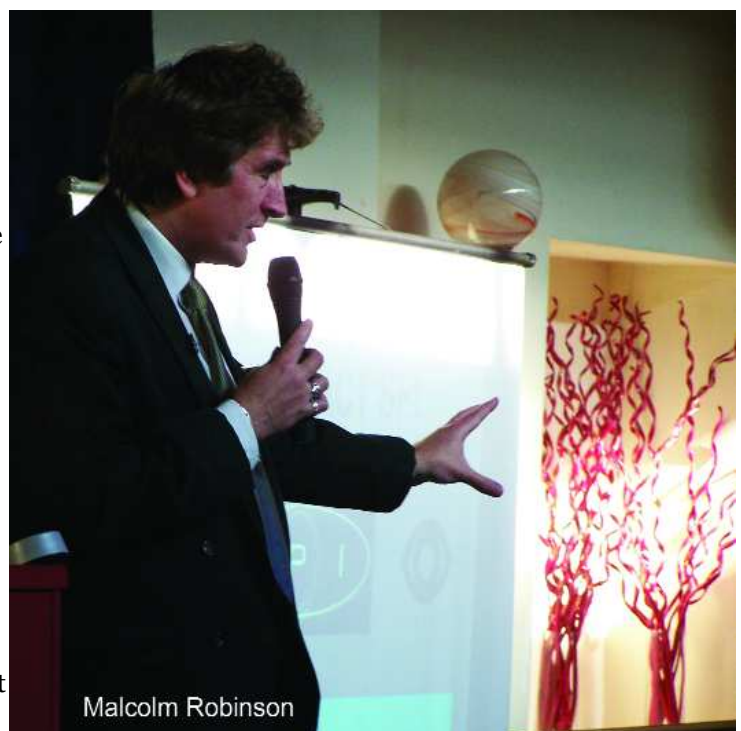
would not happen, although he admitted that, if it were up to him and depending on the scenario, he might try and keep it from the public. The technology that the crashed object contained would be invaluable to the national interest. If we could study and develop it for our own use, we could be the dominant power on the planet. Scary thought!

In all, Nick is of the opinion that these issues need to be resolved and that proper procedures need to be put into place for a Roswell-style event. He has considered drawing up a plan himself and offering it to the government.

Nick's talk got the conference off to a terrific start.

After a short break, **Malcolm Robinson** took the stage. A popular speaker, Malcolm's sense of humour always pleases the audience. Today, he was talking about one of the most famous cases in British ufology: the Robert Taylor case from Livingston in 1979.

Bob Taylor was a gardener from Perthshire, Scotland, and he had also been a tank driver in the Second World War. After the war, he helped in the building of Livingston New Town, in West Lothian, and lived there until he died on March 14th, 2007. He had no interest in UFOs whatsoever until the 9th of November, 1979.



That morning, he set off with his red setter, Lara, in his Land Rover pick-up to check on the Dechmont Woods, where he was a forestry worker. He had made the same journey innumerable times, but today would be different. He parked the van and set off into the woods with Lara. As he entered a clearing, he saw, twenty to thirty yards away, a domed or circular-shaped with a flange running around the centre. At times parts of the object appeared to become invisible. Lara was barking like crazy, but Robert stood, transfixed by the bizarre contraption. He said that everything went quiet - a motorway ran close by and he could no longer hear the cars or any noise from the forest.

Suddenly, two round balls dropped down from the UFO, hitting the ground with a strange, sucking sound. They resembled those spiky sea mines from the war that are now to be found in many seaside resorts with kids clambering all over them. They rolled towards him and extended rods which hooked into his trousers at the hips, ripping the thick, serge cloth. They then began dragging him towards the UFO! As he lost consciousness, he remembered an acrid, burning smell and an odd whooshing noise.

When he came round, the UFO, along with its spiky companions had gone. Bob had a terrible headache and he was extremely disoriented. He staggered to his truck and tried calling for help on the radio, but found he couldn't speak. Leaving the van, he made his way home on foot and was in such a state that his wife thought he had been attacked (which he had, but not in the way she thought!). He told her he had been attacked "by a spaceship."

He called his supervisor, Malcolm Drummond, who went to check the area of the incident. He found a series of depressions in the ground of two types. There were two rows of ladder-like marks and these were surrounded by two trails of holes, forty in all, one extending clockwise and the other trail going anti-clockwise. The tracks were depressed into the grass of the clearing, but they made no marks on the ground. The holes were shallow and in several

areas, grass around the holes had been sheared off. Drummond was convinced that something had landed in that clearing.

The local police looked into the case and they were baffled. They checked all types of machinery that might have left the marks in the clearing, but drew a blank. No helicopters had been in the area and no forestry work had been undertaken. They accepted that Bob believed what he saw, but they were at a loss to explain it. His case was treated as an assault, due to the cuts and grazes he had suffered and his torn clothing, and sent the trousers to the forensic lab. All they could confirm was that the cloth was not torn by any forest debris, such as broken branches, or by barbed-wire fencing.

Malcolm then played a video from a Scottish television programme about the incident. It was called *The West Lothian Question* and was recorded just before Robert died earlier in the year. We heard from Bob himself and also from his local doctor, who vouched for the forester's integrity.

Malcolm then told us of the debunking attempts by Stuart Campbell, a former member of BUFORA. Campbell first tried to pin the blame on ball lightning. When it was pointed out that the weather that day was not conducive to the appearance of ball lightning, he came up with the theory that what Bob saw was an astronomical mirage of Venus and Mercury!

Although Venus and Mercury were above the 'official' horizon at the time, Malcolm found that they were not visible from the clearing where Bob's encounter took place. Campbell also suggested that the mirage caused Bob to suffer an epileptic seizure, resulting in his blackout. There has been no history of epilepsy in Bob's family.

Fortean researcher, Duncan Lunan, posited that what Bob stumbled across was a 'wheelbarrow' bomb disposal device. These can run on caterpillar tracks and some have legs. Clearly this is not likely. What would one of those contraptions be doing in a Scottish wood?

Some time after the incident, Livingston Council installed picnic tables in the forest and used the UFO incident in an attempt to popularise the area. In 1992, Malcolm's organisation, Strange Phenomena Investigations (SPI) assisted with having a plaque commemorating the event being placed on the site. Numerous plaques have been set onto the cairn there, but they keep being stolen!

In the same year, 1992, a psychic visited the site and claimed to see the face of a Grey alien in the trees and a red ball moving through the forest. Psychometry, the psychic reading of objects connected to an event or person, was tried on Bob's trousers. One psychic, admittedly familiar with the case, described Bob's experience in detail. Another, also with knowledge of the event, saw three people coming towards Bob. They stuck a needle in his eye and he dropped to the ground. Lara, Robert's dog, was also rendered unconscious. They also warned Bob about something that would happen in six years.

The final psychic, who had no familiarity with the case, held the bag that had contained the trousers and said that Bob had 'fought for his life'. A ball and a Land Rover were seen and Bob was dragged towards something. He hit his head on something and was raised into the air and pinned to a tree. Bob was traumatised and lost the power of speech. Malcolm admitted that this psychic got some things right and other things incorrect.

Robert later moved to another village, but strange events seemed to follow him. A crop circle appeared in a field close by and UFO sightings increased in the area, although Bob did not report any. Malcolm is convinced that Robert Taylor was telling the truth about his experience and that something truly bizarre happened to him.

Malcolm's lively and entertaining talk ended and it was time to break for lunch. As our delegates enjoyed their break, there was a change going on in the conference hall. Sunlight streaming through the ceiling windows had obscured much of the screen upon which slides and videos were projected. So we moved the

stage and rearranged all of the seats so that this would not be a problem for the rest of the conference.

Popular German researcher, **Michael Heseemann**, hit the stage at 2pm. The subject of his talk was 'KGB UFO Secrets'. This had nothing to do with the popular television special that was hosted by Roger Moore. Michael said that this was a complete fabrication and he provided an explanation: One document used in the show described the 1968 deaths of scientists after a UFO crash. The document was marked with 'Russian Federation'. In 1968, it was the Soviet Union, not the Russian Federation. The video of the Soviet retrieval team depicted Hummers. This kind of vehicle did not exist in 1968. In fact, they did not enter usage until 1985. UFO footage reportedly from a MiG fighter actually came from an F-16. The 'top secret medical facility', where an alien autopsy was filmed, was actually rented for the television show.

Michael spoke to many Russian officials, including Colonel Marina Popovich. She was one of the Soviet Union's top test pilots and was married to cosmonaut, Major-General Pavel Romanovich Popovich. In 1991, KGB UFO files were released to her husband and Michael received a copy of these files from her. The files included lots of UFO reports, including many over Soviet nuclear facilities with many credible witnesses.

Michael then showed the conference some video evidence. The first was from the filming of a musical concert. As a lovely, young lady sang a song, the cameraman was intrigued by a strange object in the sky. Another video from 1990 captured a cigar-shaped object and another from 1993 captured a strange light. Photographs of a UFO from a northern rocket base were also shown.

General Popovich described how, in 1978, he saw a white triangle while flying over the Atlantic at 36,000 feet. The speed of the object was estimated at 900kph. A clip of the object was played and the triangle is clearly visible.

In 1981, Salyut-6 cosmonaut, Vladimir Kovalyonok described



sighting a UFO as he orbited over South Africa. An elliptical object flew in front of their craft before 'exploding' into golden light. Then two golden spheres appeared in a different position. As they crossed the terminator into night, the objects vanished.

In 1991, Mir cosmonauts filmed a cigar-shaped object during the approach of their support capsule. The crew were convinced it was not part of a man-made spacecraft or any other form of space junk.

In 1990, during a Soyuz mission, Gennady Strekalov saw a sphere for about ten seconds. He described it as glittering like a Christmas tree decoration. He reported it as 'a strange phenomenon', rather than as a UFO. Other Mir missions have also reported UFOs flying in formation above the Earth.

Marina Popovich has found over a hundred reports from high-ranking military officers. One pilot encountered a UFO and requested permission to open fire. The object approached the jet fighter to a distance of only 100 metres. Instead of opening fire, the pilot shot a photograph of the object. Then the UFO flew vertically at great speed. The

pilot described it as being about 100 metres in diameter.

The commander of the Soviet airspace between the Urals and the Pacific, a vast area, spoke of numerous UFO encounters by his pilots. UFOs were picked up by automatic weapons systems, but when they locked on, they failed and became inoperable. UFOs were also seen to jump to different positions in the sky just as Soviet jets attempted to open fire.

Michael explained that the Soviet Union had many official study groups devoted to UFOs. Their task was to find out how these objects operated and to see if such technology could be incorporated into the national defence. Unfortunately for them, they were unable to accomplish this, but they continued to log reports by military personnel from all over the USSR. Michael said that all branches of the Soviet military had studied UFOs at some point. General Popovich confirmed that UFOs were considered to be a real phenomenon.

UFOs have been seen over top research centres and contact had been achieved by gesticulating towards them! As witnesses pointed

in certain directions, the UFOs would copy the motion, changing shape as they did so. While this sounds fantastic, Michael made the point that these reports come from highly-respected and reliable witnesses. Their word is to be taken very seriously and cannot simply be dismissed. One thing is clear, the Soviets thought there was something to the UFO phenomenon!

After a short break, Roswell researcher **Donald R Schmitt** took the stage and gave an impassioned lecture. He noted to the audience that as the years went by, more and more of those present during the Roswell Incident of 1947 were leaving us due to old age.

The first atom bomb test was in 1945 in New Mexico. Did it send a beacon to any curious extra-terrestrials out there? Did they come here from many, many light years away or are they from somewhere much closer? Whatever the answer, just two years after that first explosion, the modern age of ufology began.

After 1947, it seemed that a veritable alien invasion had begun and pilots were sent up with camera mounted on their P-51s to try and catch images of the 'flying discs'. The term 'UFO' did not enter the vernacular until 1952, by the way. Scientists mused about the possibility that these craft came from Mars or Venus. Of course, this was long before we sent probes to those planets and learned of their inhospitable natures.

When the crash at Roswell happened, the military had no idea how to handle the civilian witnesses. It was a completely unprecedented event (note Nick Pope's lecture earlier in the day!). Sheriff Wilcox was the first authority figure that William 'Mac' Brazel went to see about the debris he found on the Foster Ranch. It was Wilcox who suggested that Mac contact the military.

The 509th Composite Group, based at the Roswell Army Air Field (RAAF), was comprised of the best military personnel in the world. The finest officers were assigned there, as would be expected for the only atomic bomb group on the planet. They



Don Schmitt

easily knew what a weather or research balloon looked like.

Don told us that Sheriff Wilcox had kept a box of the crash debris for himself and the rest was sent to the RAAF. The military used Wilcox to control the civilian element in this unfolding incident. His daughters would later describe what happened when the armed forces descended upon the Roswell city jailhouse. Military vehicles surrounded the building and Military Police (MPs) flooded inside. They grabbed Wilcox and pushed him to the wall, holding him roughly, with his arm behind his back. They asked him where the rest of the debris was and, on retrieving the wreckage, left. Wilcox was never the same again. He never stood for re-election as sheriff. Why would the military act this way to a civilian of all that was in the box were scraps of a weather balloon?

Don read a quote from a guard at the P-3 hangar on the base. This was his usual post, but as he approached one night to take up his assigned position, he found himself being warned away by other guards, who told him that if he came any closer, he would be shot dead. A weather balloon

under lethal armed guard?

Don then showed a photograph of the alleged crash site of the UFO. It is a bluff some two and a half miles from the debris field on the Foster ranch. Timothy Proctor was seven years-old at the time of the incident. Although young, he was an excellent horse rider and often helped Mac Brazel on the ranch. One day, he came home, after having seen the debris field, looking very shaken. He refused to talk about it for many, many years into adulthood. He would even scarp from the house if he saw Roswell researchers such as Don approaching.

One day, when his mother was ill, he took her out in his pick-up truck to the bluff some miles from the debris field. This site is about forty miles north of Roswell. Proctor said to her: "Mom, this is where Mac found something else."

Don said that there were many stories from officers and men of the RAAF about being ordered to keep quiet about what they had seen - even if they hadn't seen anything! One said that he accompanied the 'bodies' out of Roswell and that there

were actually three crash sites. The cover story for the huge amount of vehicles used was that the general's furniture was being moved to Fort Worth. A bunch of furniture transported under heavily-armed guard?!

Don noted that the debris field was actually located in a different county to Roswell, so why would Chavez county people be sent out to a site in Lincoln County?

Roswell fire-fighter, Dan Dwyer, and his daughter, Frankie, both saw the famous 'memory metal'. This was tinfoil-like material that could not be cut or burned and when wadded, it would unfold without a crease. Such materials are not even available today, let alone for a weather balloon target in 1947! Frankie described the arrival of the military at the fire-house and how the children were bundled into one room and the parents into another. She recalled one officer speaking to the adults, hitting his hand with a baton, and threatening to kill the kids. Then the children were also threatened and told that they would never see their parents again if they ever spoke of what they had seen. Frankie recalled that the officer had a Brooklyn accent.

Don sent Frankie ten photographs of officers, after discovering that the 'baton man' was a Lieutenant Arthur Philbin. She picked him out of the selection, saying: "That was the man who threatened to kill us!"

Frank Joyce, the manager of KGFL Radio in Roswell, was told by Brazel about a terrible smell at the crash site. Joyce suggested that what he had found were monkeys, used in some sort of test gone awry. Brazel was adamant that what he saw were not decomposing monkeys! Don added a note that there were three sites: the debris field, a secondary body site and the final crash site.

Walt Whitmore Sr., owner of KGFL, conducted a recorded interview with Brazel at his (Walt's) home, where he learned that the rancher had seen bodies. The next day, military personnel showed up, grabbed Brazel (who had spent the night) and confiscated the interview recordings.

While General Roger Ramey was

explaining to the press that all that was found was a weather balloon, Brazel was held for five days and forced to endure interrogations and invasive medical procedures. Before he was released, he was taken over to the KGFL station by MPs, where he told radio listeners that it was just a weather balloon he found. Afterwards, Joyce asked him why he changed his story. Brazel replied to the effect that he and his family had been threatened.

"What happened to the little green men?" asked Joyce.

"They weren't green," was Mac's famous reply.

Later, after heavy rains, Mac's son, Bill Brazel Jr., would drive out to the debris field and find many tyre tracks, large and small. Obviously a huge operation had gone on here - all for the recovery of a weather balloon. Bill Jr. also saw the gouge in the earth, covering a huge area. A weather balloon does not leave a huge tract of ripped-up earth when it comes down. Years later, archaeologists rediscovered the gouge, measuring the differences in soil density.

Don also made the point that one of the incident's most elusive players, Sheridan Cavitt, the counter-intelligence officer at Roswell, had admitted that what came down could have been a 'flying saucer'.

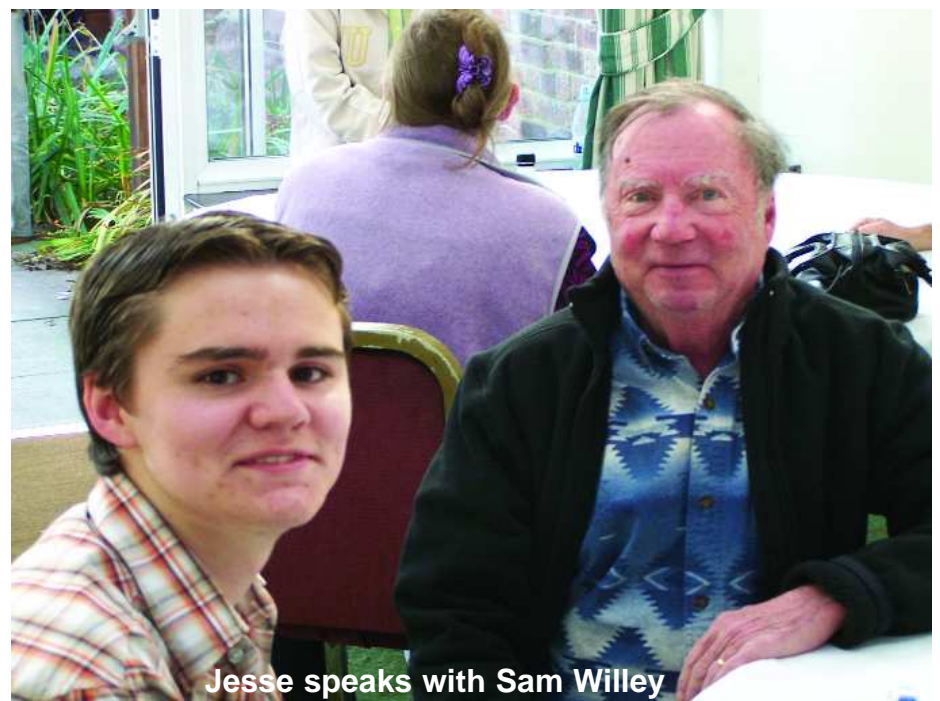
Don closed his talk with the story of

how the Brazel's ranch house was turned inside out by the military, searching for any remaining debris, even going as far as ripping up floorboards. This happened in 1949, two years after the incident. All this for a weather balloon?

Following on immediately from Don Schmitt's excellent lecture was the undoubted star of the conference weekend, **Dr. Jesse Marcel Jr.**

Speaking for the first time in the UK, Jesse told of how his father, Major Jesse Marcel, came home one night and got him out of bed. He didn't know what time it was, but guessed it must have been around one in the morning. In the kitchen there was a pile of junk on the floor. Jesse didn't recall if the term 'flying saucer' was used, but he knew that that was where they thought this material was from.

They searched the debris for signs of technology, vacuum tubes, wiring, that sort of thing, and found nothing. His dad told him about the 'memory metal', but he did not see it for himself. He described the famous I-beam with purplish symbols inscribed onto the inner surface. It was not toy store tape on balsa wood, as had been claimed. He also saw a black, plastic-like material that has been likened to bakelite. He affirmed that it was not this common material, but only looked like it. In all he saw this wreckage for about fifteen minutes before he helped his father carry it



back out to his car. Jesse saw several more boxes of the stuff in there, but didn't get the chance to examine it. The next day, when he awoke, his dad had gone, taking the boxes of debris with him and he never saw it again.

Jesse then told of the low-level flight to Fort Worth, in Texas. The plane was unable to fly at altitude because of the armed guards in the unpressurised cargo hold. He also told of the switch that had taken place in Ramey's office and that what his father was photographed holding was not what had been in the family kitchen. On returning home, Major Marcel told his family to never speak of the incident again, although years later, Jesse recalled he and his father seeing articles on newspaper stands about the incident and his dad saying that they both knew the real story.

Dr Marcel said that the story first got out to the public in 1978, when Stanton Friedman found his dad. After Jesse Sr.'s death in 1986, Jesse Jr. began getting all of the attention. He decided to write his new book, '*Roswell Legacy*', while in Iraq, where he was a flight surgeon, and, being surrounded by the chaos of war and the death that accompanies it, thought it was time to get his experiences down before he passed away.

In 1984 or 85, Major Marcel visited the area of the debris field with a television crew. They asked him if any debris might still be found, but he told them that the whole area had been vacuumed clean.

Jesse then told the strange tale of being contacted by somebody in Washington DC. They wanted to see him in a secure room, deep underground. Jesse attended the meeting, where he was told that Roswell was real (not that he needed to be told that!). The mystery man asked if Jesse had ever been threatened, to which the answer was no. The man told Jesse that he may yet be, but that he would try and stop that happening. A bizarre addendum to the Roswell story, I'm sure you will agree.

In 1997, Jesse visited Roswell (he now lives in Montana) and was

handed some pieces of a radar target. The man that gave them to Jesse was confident that what Jesse handled that night as a child was nothing more than pieces like these. Jesse could not dissuade the man and reaffirmed that he saw no Scotch tape, flowery patterns or balsa wood that night. In fact to suggest that his father could mistake parts of a balloon array for a flying saucer was utter nonsense. Major Marcel had been to radar school and knew precisely what radar targets and balloons looked like.

One of Jesse's passions is astronomy and cosmology. He believes that it is as a result of his Roswell experience that this interest has grown. He showed slides of some beautiful Hubble Space Telescope images. He also quickly reviewed some possible exotic propulsion systems, including Star Trek-style warp engines. He also showed the famous 'Ramey Memo', the piece of paper that the general is holding in his office and has been blown-up and analysing, with the words 'victims', 'crash' and 'disk' being discovered.

Taking questions from the audience, Jesse said that his mother had never spoken of what happened back then. She was an old-fashioned lady and because his dad had told them never to speak of it again, she had done just that. Jesse also pointed out that back in 1947, his school friends had talked about the crash with him and, later, he had also talked with many officers about the incident.

Asked how it felt to hold something that had been manufactured on another world in his hands, Jesse said he felt humbled. To know that you are holding something that came from another civilisation is an astonishing experience. Finally, Jesse was asked, with all the threats that had made to others, if he felt that it was worth the risk in publishing his book. Jesse gave an affirmed yes to that question. It was worth the risk.

Jesse Marcel Jr.'s lecture closed the proceedings for Saturday, but that was not the end of our day. Joined by over a hundred delegates, the Speaker's Dinner was a great success. The hotel provided a carvery service and very nice it was too. It gave

everybody the chance to let their hair down a little and get to know our speakers a little better (I found out Malcolm Robinson is a huge Beatles fan, for instance, while Don Schmitt prefers Elvis Presley. Then they asked me who I liked and the conversation quickly moved on to other matters... heh heh.). At the dinner, Malcolm paid the conference organisers a huge compliment and said that, in his opinion, the conference could mark "the rebirth of British Ufology."

Sunday began with new *UFO Data Magazine* co-editor, **Gary Hesel-tine**. Gary is a serving detective for British Transport Police and his talk focussed on how UFO reports should be investigated from a police officer's perspective. The lecture was called "The Police and the Nature of Evidence."

Gary said that he treats UFO reports in the same way as he treats any police investigation. When he set up his Police Reporting UFOs (PRUFOS) database in 2002, he had only 6 cases involving 10 police officers. Now that has risen to over 220 cases with about 530 police officers giving information.

Gary said that UFO reports consist of quantifiable data, like any other crime report that the police receive. The investigation must analyse all forms of evidence. They include:

Oral evidence - where a witness gives a verbal statement, describing what was seen or done.

Documentary evidence - where physical documents pertaining to the investigation are received.

Real evidence - the production of any physical article or thing.

Circumstantial evidence - evidence not directly associated to the case, but linked in a close way.

Direct evidence - Eyewitness testimony.

Circumstantial evidence can be used to build any given case and some cases are based entirely around circumstantial evidence. It could be that witnesses saw what happened

leading up to an incident, but did not see the incident for themselves. The actions of those accused leading up to the incident can be very important when witnessed by others. Witnesses may not have seen the incident, but perhaps heard something or realised that an incident had taken place by other means. A judge once said: "Circumstantial evidence can be excellent evidence providing the pieces of the jigsaw are highly compelling..."

Roswell, Gary explained, has a large amount of circumstantial evidence that makes the case compelling. There is also documentary evidence to prove that the military lied about the incident.

The police should respond in a proper manner to a UFO report and, if applicable, investigate it further. Gary said that in the past, it depended on the officer that took the call whether it was responded to or even taken seriously. These days, the large control rooms with recorded replies mean that every call is treated equally.

Turning to the Livingston case that Malcolm Robinson covered on Saturday, Gary said that PC Bill Douglas had treated it seriously, even saying other officers were afraid to handle it! PC Douglas took a statement from Robert Taylor, which constitutes documentary evidence. He also saw Bob's serious demeanour and realised that something was very wrong. This is anecdotal evidence.

The case had a physical 'scene of the crime' - the clearing where Bob had his encounter. The tracks and holes were physical evidence. PC Douglas could find no vehicle that might have made the marks and concluded that whatever it was must have weighed at least three tons. Gary mentioned later that the Bob Taylor incident is now used as a training tool for new police recruits.

With regard to the Ministry of Defence, the police may complete an MoD-designed sighting report form and forward it to them. If this is the case, the MoD must respond to the report. Gary noted that the form is quite disgraceful, with no room for full details of the incident.



One such report form was completed for a sighting in Bromley, Kent in 2003. The report tells us that a UFO was seen by police officers both on the ground and in a helicopter. The response from the MoD asked if the sighting represented a defence interest. They said that the object had not been detected on radar and therefore the sighting was not of defence interest.

Gary asked us to think back to the Cold War and imagine a Soviet aircraft was seen to hover close to a nuclear facility. Military police would look high and low for evidence. All witnesses would be required to give statements, whether military or civilian, and evidence in the form of radar contacts would be seized. After all this, the conclusion would be that it was a major event and definitely in the national defence interest, so much so that it would likely be stamped 'Top Secret'.

Ring a bell? Gary just described parts of what happened at Rendlesham in 1980. That incident was handled differently because UFOs are deniable. Hey, they don't exist, so who cares, right? Yeah, whatever...

Gary then showed some video clips. First up was the Belgian encounter of 1990, when F-16s were dispatched to intercept a triangular UFO. Here we have physical evidence in the form of

radar and video footage, there were many eyewitnesses and there is official documentary evidence that the incident took place.

Then we saw a clip from Anthony Woods' remarkable footage from his home in Portsmouth. This was the 'Big Red' craft that glided through the daytime sky with flashing lights. Here we have physical video evidence as well as eyewitnesses.

The Fleetwood footage of 2003 saw several orange lights appear in the night sky. They manoeuvred into several formations before blinking out. Again, we have video evidence and eyewitnesses.

Finally, Gary showed a clip from a camera on board a police car. As the car drives along a road, a bright light appears near the horizon, winking out and reappearing. This is evidence from a police camera and police eyewitnesses.

The rules of evidence available to the police should apply equally to UFO sightings as they do to any other incident they investigate.

At 11:30, Philip Mantle took the podium and introduced a surprise guest. **Spyros Melaris** would undoubtedly be the most controversial speaker of the weekend.



Spyros, a filmmaker and illusionist, claimed to be the man who created the *Alien Autopsy* footage distributed by Ray Santilli and Gary Shoefield. After years of silence, he has decided to go public and the Roswell 60 conference is his first opportunity to spill the beans on this contentious issue.

He visited Roswell in 1995 and heard of the UFO crash, but he was sceptical. He then visited an area that was said to have been the actual crash site and said that there was a certain energy there. He was convinced that something did happen there and filmed interviews with many people.

He began his talk by taking some tinfoil and wadding it into a ball. He then threw it into the audience. The ball was then thrown again by the man who caught it before Spyros asked the final recipient to join him on stage. On the podium, Spyros had an ice bucket filled with stones. He claimed these came from the Roswell crash site. He took one stone and wrapped it in a small piece of tinfoil. He handed it to the audience member, who reported that the stone was becoming very hot. Thanking the delegate, Spyros sent him back to his seat and then proceeded in handing out stones to the rest of the audience - two stones each. He then asked them to hold the stones together as hard as they could and concentrate

on the energy of the stones. Then they were asked to pull the stones apart. Some people could not do this, although some could.

Then he owned up, saying that it was simply a trick. The stones were not from Roswell, he had got them from B&Q and had no special properties. It was an illusion, just like the *Alien Autopsy* film.

Ray Santilli had approached Spyros, saying he wanted to make a documentary based around some footage he had. This would turn out to be the infamous 'tent footage'. Spyros told him that the film was patently faked and that he could do a better one. His version would look real. Melaris approached his friend, master sculptor, John Humphries, who would create the two 'corpses' required for the shoot. No claims would be made about the film, with the viewer to decide what they were witnessing. Then at a later date, the illusion would be admitted, along with an explanation of how it was achieved. Unfortunately, Santilli would not follow up the latter part of the plan.

Spyros said that the autopsy film required him to undertake lots of research. Every detail must be correct and there must be no anachronisms, items that are 'out of time'. One such object was the telephone, which Spyros claimed was a 'fuse'. A

fuse is a trick in which an object is placed in such a way that it causes people to take notice and question the film, only to find out that it is possibly correct. The telephone had a curly wire and many people pointed out that they were not available in 1947. Spyros, though, found out that the curly wire was available as an upgrade from 1947, but only those with a keen interest in the subject would have known that.

Spyros said the Ant & Dec movie, *Alien Autopsy*, was a pack of lies. He made everything for the movie, except the alien models. John Humphries played the surgeon and his girlfriend did most of the research. Santilli and Shoefield maintained that there was an 'original film' that was ruined, but Spyros said there wasn't. The 'original film' he was shown was the tent footage, a known fake. He completely designed and filmed the alien autopsy film.

As for the Kodak authentication of the film, that was achieved by Spyros purchasing a genuine 1947 reel of a baseball match. The leader of that film contained the necessary markers and all they had on were shots of a wall, a door frame and some steps. Spyros cut these out, based his set design on the walls and door frame, and spliced them to the beginning of his film. This leader was the part that was sent to be tested. When asked for more to be tested, it was claimed that they were unprepared to further cut up the film.

Santilli made the participants of the venture sign a confidentiality agreement. This made it clear that they would not speak about it until the hoax was made public or a satisfactory monetary return was achieved. With the release of the *Alien Autopsy* movie in 2005 and Santilli and Shoefield's claims that the film was manufactured, Spyros felt that the agreement had been broken and he was free to speak. He said that a book is being written about the escapade which would tell the true story of the *Alien Autopsy* film.

Spyros also claimed to have filmed the cameraman's statement, not Santilli. He said it was not supposed to be released. Spyros travelled to Los Angeles and found a tramp, paid

him \$500 and asked him to read lines as they filmed him. The tramp turned out to be a former actor and delivered his lines brilliantly. The statement was filmed in normal light, but Spyros turned down the brightness in editing. He knows the name of this tramp and the films he has appeared in. Santilli and Shoefield do not have this information.

A lively question and answer session ensued, with some members of the audience becoming vocally upset by Melaris' claims. Spyros said that he is concerned that because of his film that any genuine footage would be dismissed, but he is optimistic that by proper analysis, the matter of authenticity could be discovered for any piece of film.

Asked if he was acting as a 'double bluff', or not being who he says he is, Spyros answered by saying that he did make the film and that he has lots of inside information that only those involved would know. He also has documents relating to the production of the film, such as developing lab receipts.

Asked if he had any familiarity with the I-beams described by other Roswell witnesses, particularly Jesse Marcel Jr., Spyros said that he had no familiarity with them and that the 'language' on the pieces of debris in his film was totally invented by himself. One word was VIDEO and another was FREEDOM. He wrote a full back-story for the aliens, describing their appearance, their world and their language.

How much money did Santilli make? Melaris said that ray had told him that they had made very little money and that people were bootlegging the video. Spyros later found that Santilli and Shoefield had made millions out of the film. Some members of the audience became very angry and yelled at Spyros. He apologised if anybody felt conned, but he had set out to make a film, an illusion. He hadn't even considered the feelings of the UFO community at the time.

Michael Hesemann asked how he knew of certain information from the cameraman's statement that only came to public light after the release of the film. This included the story of

a fireball seen over Roswell on May 31st, 1947. Spyros said he had no knowledge of this and that that piece of information came from Ray Santilli, not him. Michael was clearly unimpressed with Spyros Melaris, something he would confirm to me in private later.

This brought the morning's lectures to a close and a buzz of adrenaline-fuelled excitement permeated the conference hall. During lunch, Spyros had many people around him, asking questions and probably demanding answers. Is this man telling the truth? I guess we will find out and be assured that *UFO Data Magazine* will bring you any news about this explosive development.

After everybody had calmed down after lunch, **Russel Callaghan** spoke of the evolution of *UFO Data Magazine*.

After *UFO Magazine* closed, Russ felt that some form of magazine be made available to those interested in UFOs. He helped Gary Heseltine start *UFO Monthly.com* and later set up *UFO Data* with Michael Buckley and Philip Mantle. It soon became clear to him that people wanted a physical magazine to hold and that was when *UFO Data Magazine* was born. The first year it was printed at *UFO Data's* office in Kippax using high-quality, colour laser printers. Then a risk was taken to have the magazine professionally produced at full size and in a glossy format. It was a huge risk, as the magazine is subscription-based and having full colour, glossy magazines printed is not inexpensive. The subscribers list has grown, though, and Russ is optimistic that one day *UFO Data Magazine* will appear on the newsstands.

Russ was proud to announce that Gary Heseltine has joined with *UFO Data* as co-editor of the magazine and this can only mean the mag will go from strength to strength. Russ also gave thanks to our cover artist, Rob, who is currently unwell and our thoughts and best wishes go out to him.

On to video footage, for which Russ is famous for presenting, he said that the internet is both a boon and a

minefield for UFO footage. Each genuine clip on sites like YouTube is accompanied by dozens more hoax clips. Some of these are astonishing to watch, such as the recent Haiti clip and YouTube is replete with many such hoaxes.

Russ talked about some of the articles that have appeared in the magazine, such as the F-15 encounter with a strange object over the UK earlier in the year. The audio clip from the pilots was played and it's impressive stuff.

Thanks were also given to contributor such as our resident astronomer, Andrew Pike, and regular columnist, Nick Pope. Both regularly supply excellent articles that are enjoyed by all of our readers.

We were also reminded of the bright object that was seen over Leeds in February, 2007. It was captured on a mobile phone video and shown on BBC television. A superb photograph was snapped by Sacha Christie and included in the magazine. One explanation was that it was a sundog, an effect of sunlight refracting through ice particles in the atmosphere. This doesn't seem to be the case as it was in the wrong position in the sky. RAF Fylingdales was contacted and Squadron Leader Darling was asked if anything had been detected by their sophisticated equipment that day. She said that nothing had been picked up and they had no idea what is in the photograph. A genuine UFO!

Some clips were played, including the famous Haiti hoax, a video of some spheres, an arrow-shaped UFO which is probably a hoax and a recent clip from the Beeb, Israeli F-16s appear to be sharing the sky with two other disc- or cigar-shaped objects.

Russ showed a longer selection of clips from Anthony Woods' DVD, *The Journey*, including a longer viewing of the 'Big Red' object.

Paying tribute to the late, great Graham Birdsall, Russ drew his talk to a close and we had a short break.

At 3pm, **Don Schmitt** began his second lecture of the weekend,

focussing on the deathbed confessions of Roswell witnesses.

In the United States 'deathbed testimony' is admissible as evidence in a court of law and often more regard is given to these statements because they are usually the final words of a dying person.

As with any major event, different eyewitnesses have different perspectives and may see the same event in a different way, or recall it differently. The problem for researchers is in defining the facts from many discrete and sometimes conflicting statements - "Sifting the wheat from the chaff." While accounts can vary in general terms, they usually describe the same event, but seen from a different perspective.

Don said it is an insult to the participants of the Roswell Incident to suggest that they might forget it or get the time of the event wrong by several years, as was proclaimed in the official statement from the US Air Force. He went on to say that UFO researchers are held to a higher standard than those in other fields. The sceptics demand it. If the debunkers are a hundred percent convinced of their cases, why do they continue debate? Is it because they really are not convinced, perhaps?

The media always tends to side with the sceptical argument and the general public are inclined to accept the 'official line' without question. Governments cannot be trusted because they the record has shown that, time and again, they have lied to protect their own self-interest. Investigators should concentrate on the facts and decide for themselves what they should believe, not blindly accept what others say.

The notion that disclosure would send the world reeling into chaos is nonsense. The hundreds of people who were present at Roswell and witnessed things of tremendous import didn't commit suicide or go crazy or set off on riotous rampages. They got on with their lives. If people could do that sixty years ago, then they most certainly could accept the truth that we are not alone today.

Referring back to the deathbed con-

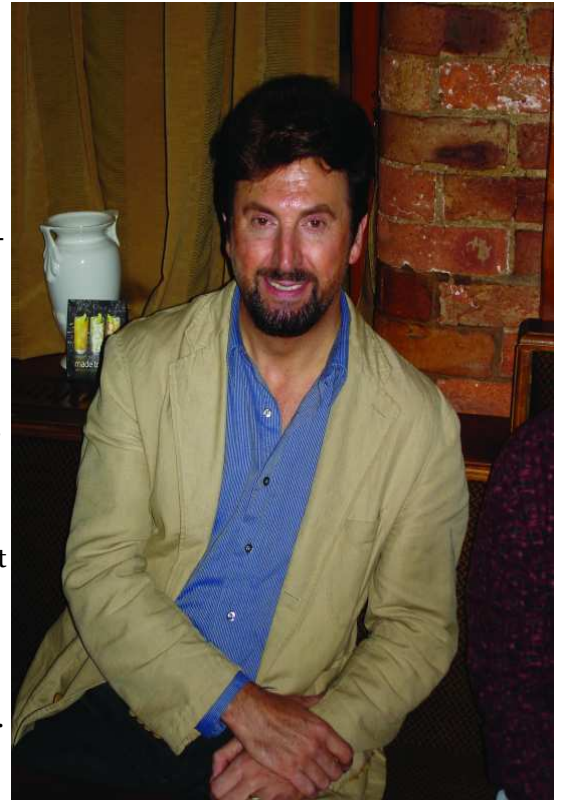
fessions, Don noted that not one of them made reference to a Mogul balloon! He said that his passion for this subject came from the people involved that he had come to know personally. They became his friends and he acted as an honorary pall-bearer at two funerals of Roswell witnesses.

Sheriff George Wilcox was the first authority figure approached by Mac Brazel. His granddaughter is Barbara Dugger and she lived with George's widow, Inez, before she died. Inez told Barbara that it was not a weather balloon that crashed and that the military's heavy-handedness was the reason that her husband had never stood for re-election. She also told her that George had visited the crash site and seen bodies before being escorted away. He was told that if he spoke, his family would be killed.

Don said that a special squad had been brought in to Roswell, similar to the atomic accident team known as S1. This group had the highest security clearance, but everybody at the Roswell Army Air Field already had top clearance, so why the need for this outside team? The squads at Roswell were also segregated during the incident, so that they did not know the men they found themselves with. This would, in theory, result in less chatter between 'buddies'.

Another confession came from a guard at the P3 Hangar 84 area. He said that he saw wreckage and bodies under canvas. Only the heads were uncovered and he described them as larger than normal. He told this to his wife just before he died in 1976.

I must apologise at this point in the review, because as Don Schmitt continued his fascinating talk, I was asked if I could drive Michael Hesemann to the airport. He had a plane to catch, obviously. As we headed towards Leeds/Bradford airport, Michael and I chatted about various things, including the presentation of Spyros Melaris. Michael confirmed that he was somewhat sceptical about the man's claims and I'm sure he wouldn't mind me



repeating that here, even though we were just chatting in the car. As Michael said, if Spyros' claims are to be believed, then he must have some solid evidence to back up his story. Michael was also sorry that he didn't get the chance to question him more in a public forum. Hopefully he will get another chance in the future, as Spyros reveals more of his account.

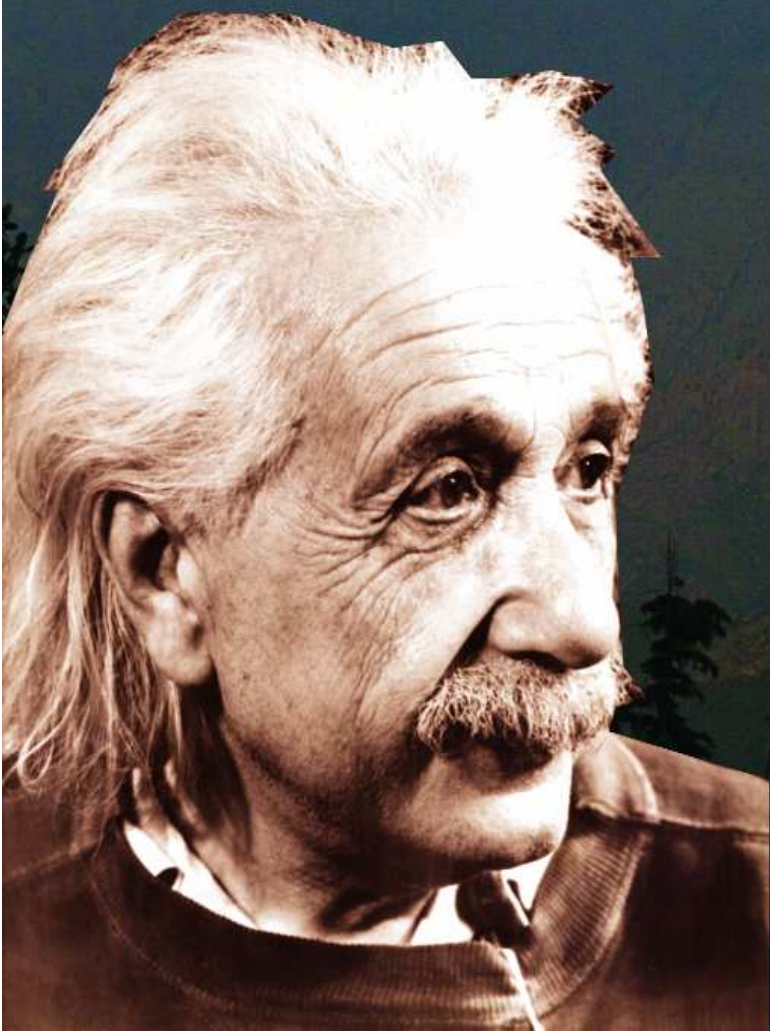
With Michael safely at the airport, I headed back and just caught the very end of the Speakers' Q&A session, with Jesse Marcel Jr., Don Schmitt, Russel Callaghan, Gary Heseltine and Nick Pope. It brought the Roswell 60 conference to a close and all present can be happy that it was a tremendous success.

UFO Data Magazine would like to thank all of our speakers for providing excellent lectures. Thanks go out to our lively delegates who must have had aching bottoms after sitting through all the fantastic lectures. All the staff at The Parkside Hotel deserve great credit for looking after us. Final thanks go to Russ, Mick, Philip, Gary, Rebecca, Danny, Tony and everybody who helped behind the scenes to put together what was undoubtedly the best UFO conference for many years.

Steve Johnson

Scientists & UFOs

Andrew Pike (FRAS).



There can be little in the way of argument when it is said the majority of scientists, especially astronomers, find UFOs a taboo subject. The relationship between ufology and science is an extremely complex one. However, from my experience it is a complex three way problem between ufology, scientists and the powers-that-be. Anyway, as I find myself in the final weeks of the 60th anniversary of modern ufology, I thought some attempt to address the matter, certainly between science and ufology, might be in order, with some military areas thrown in for good measure. I know this type of article will greatly irritate a small group of what I call 'True Believers' but that in its own way is part of the problem. Nevertheless what follows is based on personal experience as a scientist who has found himself involved in both the worlds of UFOs and science. If nothing else, hopefully it will be of interest to see matters from the circles I frequent.

Over the years I have noticed many parallels between the science/ufology and military/ufology relationships. The first must be that extremely simple set of letters - UFO. In reality this amounts to nothing more than the acronym for unidentified flying object, that's all, nothing else. In other words all that can be said of a UFO is it is an object appearing to fly which is unidentified, so as it stands we have no way of saying what it is. In practice, however, those three letters have a very different reaction within science and the military.

That in itself is problem enough but when we attempt to pin a label on the object in question that is when the problem becomes amplified and the real fun and games begin.

To many scientists, and members of government agencies like the MoD, admitting involvement with plain and simple UFOs is tantamount to confirming they believe in extraterrestrials visiting the Earth in space ships. For example, the MoD will tell you in no uncertain terms they do not investigate UFOs, all that ended with Blue Book, Project Condign and similar efforts. However, ask them if they investigate unidentified objects entering our airspace on defence grounds and they will say yes! By definition, therefore, the MoD do investigate UFOs! Likewise, ask a scientist if he would like to discover the identity of a strange object he saw flying past in the sky and he might well say yes, after all, science is in the business of discovering new things. However, ask that same scientist if he believes in UFOs and odds are he will say no. Indeed, as an astronomer, one of the questions I am most often asked is: Do you believe in UFOs? As it stands I can give no response to the enquirer

other than to ask them to define UFO! That is because, despite the simple acronym, I don't really know what is going on in the enquirer's mind when he, or she, says UFOs.

Now this might sound like nit-picking but from the scientific viewpoint it is anything but. That is because in science we all need to get our definitions right from the start. In other words, to stand any chance of a serious investigation of anything, ufological or otherwise, we need to all be singing from the same hymn sheet. With UFOs we find the ufologists, scientists and the military are often not even in the same church! Deciding on what we all mean from the start is important. Another example I can give is the word dimensions. To a scientist this is likely to be taken as meaning length, width, depth, time and the possible other dimensions wrapped up on the subatomic scales of String Theory. To a ufologist, or similar, it is more likely to mean a parallel universe or alternative reality. The two are not the same thing and as such both sides are not talking the same language or singing from the same hymn sheet.

However you choose to define a UFO

it remains a possibility they may well be natural phenomena as yet unknown to science, some certainly are natural phenomena, there is no doubt of that. Now, I know ufologists get very upset when I say there is a possibility ET is not visiting us at all, and as the evidence stands at the moment, and as a scientist, I have to say I believe they are not amongst us. I have seen no smoking gun evidence in science which supports such a view, there are no hints, rumours or secret documents in padded envelopes flying around to even suggest an alien autopsy or scientists running around crash sites. However, that is not to say there is no such evidence to be found so an open mind about alien visitations should be kept, but that would be tantamount to heresy in scientific circles. That said it would be bad science to go either way on the evidence we have so far and it certainly would do neither side any good if I was to support the extraterrestrial view just because I am expected to do so. Sadly, mainstream scientists have not even got that far except for a small few like myself, most, like the military, still have their knickers in a knot over the first hurdle of the acronym UFO let alone any sugges-



tion we should keep in mind the ET viewpoint as a possible answer. True Believers will, and have, attacked science, scientists and myself for the view that no evidence exists to support the ET idea, but in 27 years of looking at UFOs as a scientist, the evidence to me points to natural and military activity with an open door to the ET angle. That is often not enough for the True Believer. So, we now have our next problem. If ufologists want science in their subject they must accept what it says, how it works and the conclusions it draws even if it does not say what you want. That is not how many scientists see it happening and so they are put off UFOs. This has resulted in a double vacuum whereby many scientists know too little about the ways of ufology and many ufologists know too little about the ways of science. That is simply how it appears to me and other scientists.

Whenever I have said that I am denounced as a debunker, said to be condescending to ufologists or worse of all, shock horror, working with the powers-that-be in a cover up. It is not often seen as a statement relating to both sides. Now, from those who have read my work on the science of the Rendlesham Forest affair, I did work with a UK agency on that in a small way, and on a few occasions since I have been involved in other UFO work associated with some form of what might be called 'The Establishment'. But to those who know the true me (also a very few), they will tell you I do so with

extreme reluctance, I do not like the way MoD scientists work or the way they 'investigated' Rendlesham or UFOs generally; from official documents I have seen their scientists leave a lot to be desired. An example of this is to be found in the 2001 MoD Rendlesham File release. To take just one point from that paperwork, after reading the Halt memo it was decided nothing further could be gained from listening to the Halt tape, yet had they done so the mistakes that followed regarding radiation readings would not have been made! Why did they ignore something, the contents of which they could not have known? That is bad science, and bad practice. To me that is no different to a scientist dismissing UFOs simply because he says there is nothing in the subject without looking. Then there is Project Condign, well don't even get me started on that waste of tax payers money!

One exception I hold is Nick Pope who despite being gagged by the Official Secrets Act and having no formal scientific training has done his best to look at things in a scientific way, examples being his work on mapping sightings to find a connection and his work on alien abduction cases, at least he reviewed the files when he took up the job at the so-called UFO Desk. The abduction side of the subject, as I see things, is probably the only real avenue pointing to an ET connection, but here again scientists starts to irritate ufologists when they say it may be a nat-

ural phenomena based on how the brain works. The point is we cannot dismiss one avenue because it is unpalatable whether that be so to ufologists or scientists, yet too many do so, especially scientists with abduction cases. An example here is the outrageous way Professor John Mack was treated.

Having said that, I certainly support a cover up at the MoD and similar other agencies around the world. As I said a few years ago when I was interviewed by one of these 'lifestyle' magazines, it seems to be a cover up of black projects and worse of all ignorance of military scientists, not an ET connection. Taking Rendlesham again as an example, I and other scientists had a good working model of what might be at play complete with all kinds of science to back it up before the News of the World even broke the story in October 1983, so why were the MoD scientists still stumbling around in the dark years after that? We had found several similar cases world wide, had a theory of why the UFO was dripping molten metal and how pine forests react with nature. All this and more by 1982! None of it top secret stuff. As a scientist I have to go where the evidence takes me with an open mind on that avenue of investigation and possible other avenues which may take me elsewhere in my investigations, nothing should be totally dismissed simply because it is taboo. I don't cover up and I am not in league with the powers-that-be, if I was the MoD's

Rendlesham File would have been as big as mine, 20 plus files and amounting to a quarter of a million words, not a dozen loose minutes! Of course I have the luxury of having not signed the Official Secrets Act which gives me a good deal of leverage. True believer may think otherwise and have said I am involved in an official cover up which, I have to say, amuses me no end. Take this ufological reaction for example.

In 1999, the late Graham W. Birdsall, editor of *UFO Magazine*, sent me a video tape and one of the magazine's UFO sightings forms from somebody who had contacted him with a sighting. As the Astronomy Correspondent I gave it



priority over other work and took a detailed look. Within a day I had sent back a detailed two page report on the sighting. In a nutshell there was no doubt what the person had seen was Venus, it was in the right place at the right time and was in the correct position relative to another bright star Aldebaran. When the camera was placed on a tripod the steady image showed the familiar rise of the planet at just the correct angle relative to the horizon. In fact the video camera even zoomed in on the object at 20X magnification and the phase of the planet was even correct. Anyway to cut a long story short, the witness decided both I and UFO Magazine were in league with the government and its cover up policy. There is no scientific way to cope with a True Believer whatever the science says. That to many of my colleagues is extremely off putting and some, unfairly, tar all ufologists with that same True Believer brush.

Another unfair view held by scientists about ufology is the idea it is full of cranks and crackpots. In particular one of the most popular and most public of astronomers, Sir Patrick Moore, when asked about UFOs has said on several occasions "it's the open season for crackpots, these people are mad as hatters." On another occasion he said "UFOs should be left to housewives and policemen." That doesn't help in the slightest, especially from such a public figure. True there are such characters in ufology and maybe more than your average subject. I have encountered some, usually at conferences and usually carrying a padded envelope which contains secret documents for me to read or proof that Eienstein was wrong.

Despite what some believe there really are scientists interested in UFO activity, we have even introduced our own user friendly term, AOP (Anomalous Observational Phenomena), in the same way Project Condign used UAP (Unidentified Aerial Phenomena). However, they are few and far between and from my experience in recent years, getting fewer, even I have largely left the field writing only for *UFO Data Magazine* at present. This brings me to the next problem. There is no doubt scientists are put

off from UFO investigations because ufology gives an impression science is not welcome. Now that will be pounced upon by some in a negative way, but from scientists I have spoken to about this point there is no doubt in my mind bridges need to be built.

Reputation is another problem. Scientists do suffer by working in ufology. Stuffy old dinosaurs in higher levels of science, like grant awarding bodies, do not want their scientists dealing with 'little green men' and so we come back to that UFO definition problem once again. Will AOP and UAP do their jobs, no of course not, the stigma is too deep. Science will partly overcome this and scramble over its first big hurdle only when contact is made directly between ET and scientists. Some maintain that will be at a distance first of all, maybe through SETI (Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence), I agree with the distance but not the method. From my experience of what is going on in astronomy's less taboo areas of ET contact the first evidence that we are not alone will come from exoplanet research. Exoplanets are planets orbiting suns other than our own. Research and discoveries in this field of astronomy are racing ahead of SETI and it is only a matter of time before we find spectral evidence of a civilization on one of these planets, that is to say, we will detect the tell-tale signs of a polluted atmosphere due to intelligence.

There is a common myth that scientists will not believe something unless they see it for themselves. So, how many astronomers see UFOs? Again it is a complex question. Sir Patrick Moore claims that in almost 80 years of sky watching he has seen none. In just half that time I have seen 6 good sightings and probably twice that number in less convincing ones. I would say if Sir Patrick is correct he has been damn unlucky! One quick pole of astronomers about 20 years found 87% have seen some form of UFO (using the plain and simple definition). Others give various figures but no survey came up with 0%. Amongst my own sightings is the flying triangle which I have seen several times and at close range, it is every bit as eerie and real as

reported in many cases. However, I am also aware that the area of the UK I live in has a rich history of missile and drone research associated with the military dating to the 1950s.

After 27 years in ufology, 12 of it writing in UFO publications openly, I have seen some change, some good research and some bridge building, but too little and too often it has suffered from a hardcore element of bad apples. This brings me to the final problem I want to mention here. I have often been asked this question: Have I had trouble from the powers-that-be because of my involvement with UFOs? The answer is no, quite the opposite. As I said some years ago in the November/December 2002 issue of *UFO Magazine* I have experienced no problems from the MoD or similar. I made a point of saying so back then because I had just attended the 21st *UFO Magazine* Conference that year and it was one of the most asked questions from delegates, I even recall speaking about it to fellow scientist, Stanton T. Friedman, also present at the conference when we met up at the bookstalls, he too had a similar response when he had been asked the same question repeatedly that weekend. What I did not say then (in print), but will say now, is I have had a lot of problems from ufologists. I am glad to say it is a relatively small number of bad apples, but enough to cause damage and put those bridges we need to build on less stable foundations. Such problems have lost astronomers from UFO research and put off others from starting.

As an aside, that very same conference was to be Graham's last and the last for *UFO Magazine*, yet it attracted more scientists, particularly astronomers, than any other I can recall. That was something Graham was particularly pleased to point out to those gathered. Things have slipped somewhat since then, but maybe they will improve again. Only time will tell.

Andrew Pike

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Steve Johnson reports

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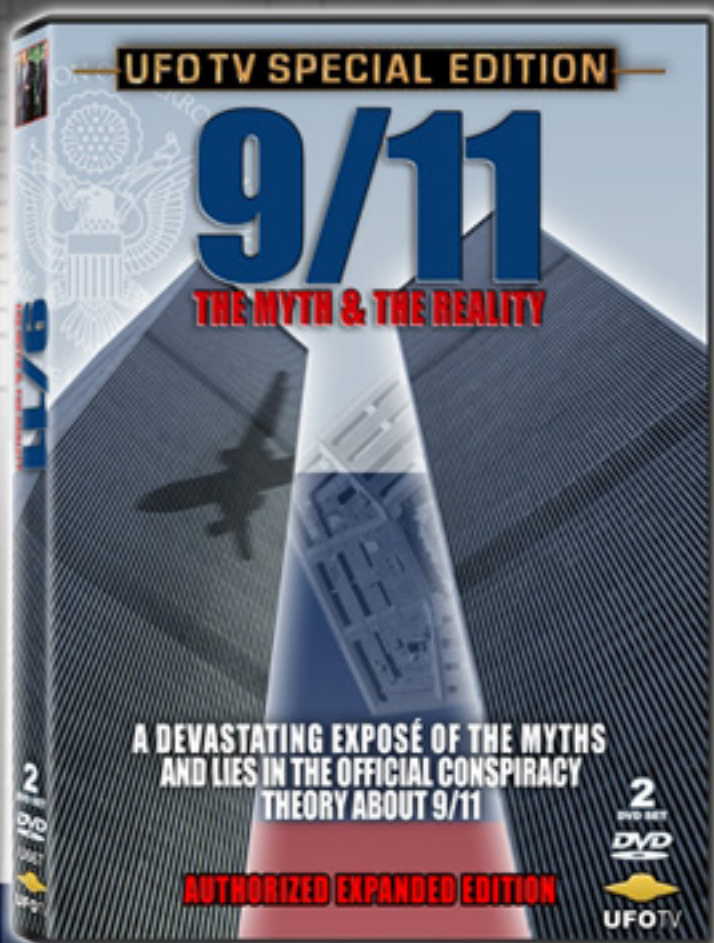
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