

THE BENTWATERS INCIDENT

By Ray Boeche

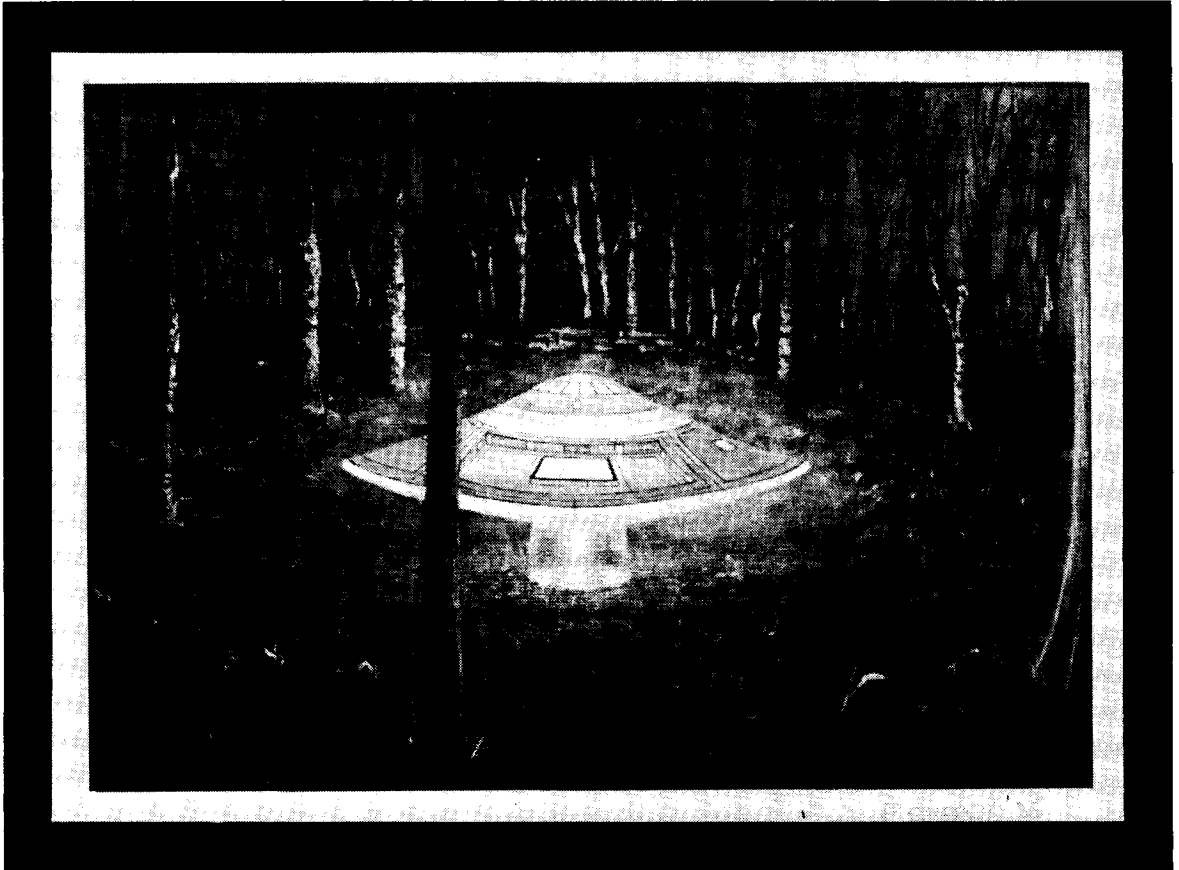


Illustration by Richard Cherry, England

In October of 1985, my wife Nancy and I spent several weeks traveling through England. One of the major purposes of this trip was to learn the current status of research on the Bentwaters Incident, from the perspective of the first investigators of the case. New information has been surfacing on this event, and the best way to clarify matters was a personal meeting with the British researchers.

MEETING

I met with Jenny Randles and Dot Street (who along with Brenda Butler co-authored *Sky Crash*, an excellent early study of the case), on October 22, 23, and 24 in London. We had the opportunity to discuss the case at

length, and explore recent developments. While nothing has yet been forthcoming to resolve the many questions still surrounding the case, two very interesting new aspects have surfaced.

Jenny disclosed that she has been shown correspondence between Colonel Charles Halt (the author of the only official document concerning the incident to surface thus far) and a major British newspaper. The correspondence allegedly concerned Halt's efforts to sell his story of the events to this paper. The most significant aspect of this is an offer made by Halt to provide information which may very well lead to another *official* confirmation of the story.

According to Jenny, Halt

promised to furnish for the paper a copy of a memorandum from a superior officer at another American base in Britain, endorsing Halt to conduct an investigation on behalf of the United States Air Force.

This letter was, according to Jenny, in the private file of a reporter who was handling these "negotiations" for the paper. This reporter gave Jenny every indication that she could read this correspondence, but when she asked for a photocopy, he declined.

MEMO

"There were about 8 or 9 points (outlining what Halt would provide the

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BENTWATERS, Continued

paper)," Jenny said, "but that was the most significant — the fact that Halt was prepared to supply documentation to prove that he had been endorsed by higher authority to carry out an official investigation into the case. This, of course is crucial to your Freedom of Information Act requests, because they're flatly denying it (the orders)."

I am currently awaiting a response to an FOIA request which I have filed with the base in question, asking for a copy of this order to investigate. I have also attempted to contact Col. Halt at his new duty station at Kunsan AFB, Korea, to attempt to get some type of comment from him, but have received no response so far. If copies of these orders can be secured through the Freedom of Information Act, it will be another significant step forward in locating other records which eyewitnesses say exist, such as photographs, movie film, etc.

Concerning Col. Halt's story for the newspaper—don't hold your breath. One of the provisions Halt requested in the letter, was, according to Jenny, that if he provided the information to the paper, they would not be allowed to print it until his discharge from the Air Force. That of course, is a major stumbling block for the newspaper, and Jenny indicated that negotiations are

still ongoing.

On yet another front, Jenny Randles has been in contact with a scientist who has made a quite startling statement about the entire event. Dr. Allan Bond, a former British Ministry of Defence scientist, who still occasionally works under contract for the MOD, is an expert on rocket propulsion systems, including nuclear power systems for spacecraft. After reading *Sky Crash*, he became intrigued with the case, and contacted Jenny in November of 1984.

He made it clear to Jenny from the outset that he didn't necessarily believe in aliens, but he was willing to try and find out what might have happened. He believed there was another explanation for the events, and that the UFO aspect had been given as a means of covering it up. He indicated he would attempt to make some checks through sources available to him.

NUCLEAR REACTOR?

Bond phoned Jenny again the next night, and indicated that he did indeed believe that there was something to the case. He seemed to feel, initially, that it may have been the recovery of a part of a satellite which used a nuclear reactor for a power source. He also indicated that he was intrigued with the Cash-Landrum case, which had occurred on

approximately the same date as the events at Bentwaters.

He indicated that if the information he had heard was correct, both the object at Bentwaters, and the Cash-Landrum object sounded exactly like a SNAP 10-A nuclear reactor. Bond described the SNAP 10-A as conical, about 2 meters by 3 meters. According to Jenny, he said, "I'm not very happy about getting involved in this, it's a very delicate thing, you know." He indicated he would have to be out of the country on business for a while, but would be in contact with Jenny again, as soon as he returned.

When Jenny was able to contact Dr. Bond some time later, he had no more comment to make concerning his satellite recovery theory. I asked Jenny about his response to her, and she replied, "He was very wary about saying anything. He said, 'Look, I don't really want to delve into this anymore. I've looked, and I'm sure there's something to it, but quite frankly, you're messing with something so serious here, that it is the kind of thing you could easily end up at the bottom of the Thames River for. My advise to you is to let it drop.'"

THREAT

Dr. Bond indicated he would keep his ears open for any new information he might hear, but that he wasn't going to push too hard. He indicated it "isn't worth my job or my life." The last contact Jenny had with Bond was in June of 1985.

He indicated he had heard nothing new, but had found out from friends in the Ministry of Defence that when the story of the event appeared in the *News of the World* in October of 1983, "Boy, oh, boy, when that story went in the *News of the World* did you cause a few people trouble."

Unfortunately, we have no real clarification from Bond if what he discovered really did indicate recovery of a nuclear reactor from a satellite, or something else. I find it is extremely interesting that he would indicate that delving into what had occurred could prove to be a life-threatening

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MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

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J R Kyniston
1831 S. E. Hawthorne Blvd
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Apt. 308
USA

Your reference

Our reference

Date

D/Sec (AS) 12/2/1

28 June 1985

Dear Mr Kyniston

Thank you for your letter of 25 March 1985. You may find it useful if I explain that the sole interest of the United Kingdom Ministry of Defence in reported sightings of Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs) is to establish whether they have any bearing on the defence of the country.

There is no organisation in the Ministry of Defence appointed solely for the purpose of studying reports of such objects, and no staff are employed on the subject full time. The reports we receive are referred to the staff in the Department who are responsible for the air defence of the United Kingdom, and they examine the reports as part of their normal duties.

Since our interest in UFOs is limited to possible defence implications we have not carried out a study into the scientific significance of these phenomena. Unless there are defence implications we do not attempt to identify sightings and we cannot inform observers of the probable identity of the object seen. The Department could not justify the expenditure of public funds on investigations which go beyond the pure defence interests.

We have to recognise that there are many strange things to be seen in the sky, but we believe there are adequate explanations for them. They may be satellite debris re-entering the earth atmosphere, ball lightning, unusual cloud formations, meteorological balloons, aircraft lights, aircraft at unusual angles or many other things.

The only information we have on the alleged "UFO sighting" at Rendlesham Forest in December 1980 is the report by Colonel Charles Halt, of the United States Air Force. We are satisfied that the events described are of no defence significance. I can assure you that there is no question of attempting to cover up any incident or mishap, nor are we attempting in any way to obscure the truth. I enclose a copy of Colonel Halt's report which may be of interest.

I attach copies of two recent Parliamentary Questions on the Ministry of Defence's interest in UFO reports, which you may be interested in.

Yours sincerely

P M HUCKER

BENTWATERS -- WHAT DO WE KNOW NOW?**By Raymond W. Boeche****ABSTRACT**

The premier UFO case of the last several years undoubtedly has been the event referred to as the Bentwaters Incident or the Rendelsham Forest Case. Its tale of a landed UFO and contact with the occupants by high-ranking officers of the U.S. Air Force has captured the interest of the UFOlogical community and the public at large. At this point, some 17 eyewitnesses have been found, official documentation has been obtained, and more is being sought at the present time. Because of conflicting Government responses, and a very evasive approach to this case by a United States Senator, it would appear that the Government is attempting to cover up the full story of what occurred on that night in December of 1980.

The events which are alleged to have occurred began with the sighting of lights in Rendelsham Forest by Air Force security guards. These airmen believed at first that possibly a small plane had crashed into the forest, or some type of fire had started. After receiving permission to investigate, they made their way into the forest where they first encountered some type of craft.

This craft, described as triangular in shape, and metallic, was pursued through the forest by the men. At one point, it appeared to land on the ground, leaving depressions in the soil. More military personnel were dispatched to the scene, where the events took an even stranger twist.

One witness has described the occupants of this craft, and gone on to say that these occupants communicated in some fashion with the Wing Commander, then Colonel, now Brigadier General Gordon Williams. The presence of these occupants has been neither confirmed nor denied by other witnesses. The events also were filmed by Air Force personnel, according to the testimony of several of the eyewitnesses.

Those, in brief form, are the events for which we have been attempting to obtain confirmation or denial. My principal sources of information include two airmen whom my associate Scott Colborn and I tracked down to their present locations and subsequently interviewed, and one officer who was involved in a command capacity during the event. I have also gathered additional evidence through the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), through Congressional inquiry, and through

close contact with the other principal investigators, especially Jenny Randles. The information I have obtained is the result of almost 3 years of quite expensive, time consuming investigations.

EYEWITNESS EVIDENCE

Before dealing with the information given to me by eyewitnesses, I should first state that it has become impossible to pursue two of these men for further information. It is quite apparent from comments made by these men, and others, that many of the close witnesses to the events have experienced ongoing problems in dealing with what happened to them during that night in December 1980.

They are troubled by vivid nightmares of the events, and are fearful of Government reprisals if their role in exposing these events were to become known. I am, however, in contact with them from time to time in hopes that they will be willing, at some point, to continue discussions about the case.

A promise of anonymity has been made to those who have cooperated with me in my research: because of this, I will refer to them only as Airman A, Airman B, and Officer C. All of them are, or were until recently, members of the U.S. Air Force, on active duty at various bases throughout the world.

On the night of what is believed to have been December 27, 1980, the events began. (Note 1) According to Airman A, "We were in the alert area at RAF Bentwaters. I was acting [Security Police] commander over at RAF Woodbridge at the time, and was on my way over there. One of my patrols sighted an object of some sort--he described it as a bunch of lights-- and it looked like a fire in the forest."

"I notified my Commander at the time, which was the Shift Commander, Lt. England. He went ahead and called the Base Commander, which at night was Lt. Col. [Charles I.] Halt. He [Halt] told Lt. England to check out the situation."

"When we first went out in the forest, there were Lt. England, Master Sergeant Ball my flight chief, and myself, in charge of the fire team."

After leaving the base and proceeding into Rendelsham Forest, the three men finally came upon the object itself. Airman A continues:

"The thing had a pulsating red light on top of it, and several blue lights underneath it. Everytime we got close to it, it would move away from us through the trees, then we'd try and catch up to it again."

At this point, Col. Halt was contacted once more and advised of the situation. Halt indicated that he would be on the scene shortly, and that the men were to wait at their location for his arrival.



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"One thing I remember quite clearly," stated Airman A, "is when he [Halt] got to the site, he pointed to the individuals he wanted to go with him into the forest." Additional personnel had arrived along with Col. Halt.

According to Airman A, "We [Airman A and Airman B, who had arrived along with Col. Halt] went back to Bentwaters base, grabbed two Light-Alls, and refueled them. Once they were fueled, we took them out to see if we could light up the area; to see if anything was out there." (Light-Alls are portable lighting units powered by gasoline generators.) Considering many of the recorded effects UFOs have had on internal combustion engines, Airman A's next statements were intriguing:

"In the process of checking out the Light-Alls," said A, "everything was functioning. When we got out there to the site of the object, we had trouble turning them on. Our truck wouldn't run either. It was kind of like all the energy had been drained out of them."

After the failure of the Light-Alls to operate, Airman A and B joined the others in the continuing search for the object. "We kept searching the area," Airman A continued, "trying to follow the object as it moved through the trees. In the process, we came on a yellow mist on the ground, or actually about 2 or 3 feet off the ground. It was like nothing I'd ever seen before."

At this point, they became aware of the animals on a nearby farm causing an uproar. Airman A said, "Yeah, I remember the animals. I was kind of glad that happened. It gave me back a sense of reality."

"Suddenly the object was just there," Airman A went on, "it was a dark silver-colored metal, with plenty of rainbow-colored lights on it. I couldn't tell if something was breaking the light up, like a prism, or if that was the actual color of the lights.

"It was a tremendous size. It even surprised me that it was able to fit into the clearing--a tremendous size, and I use the word tremendous carefully. It was a round, circular shape; I hate to say like a plate, but it was thicker at the center than it was at the edge.

"We were ordered to form a perimeter around the object at about 15-foot intervals between patrol members."

The alleged photographs of the object would have been taken at this time while the object was on the ground. When I asked Airman A about his knowledge of any photographs being taken, he told me of two sources of photos.

"There were two British policemen, two Bobbies, standing off to the side taking photographs of the object. (Note 2) Col. Halt came to myself and another Airman, and told us to approach the Bobbies.

"The Colonel told us to confiscate the film from these two individuals. We confiscated the film and took it to Col. Halt who put it



in a plastic bag. He said it would be dealt with by a higher level of command.

"There were also two other [USAF] law enforcement officers who had cameras and took photographs. I don't know where the film went - it might have gone to the photo lab on base, or it might have gone to Intelligence," Airman A said, "I don't know."

After observing the object for approximately 30 minutes, Airman A stated, "It was gone in a flash -- almost like it just disappeared. When it left, we were hit by a cold blast of wind which blew toward us for 5 or 10 seconds."

"It was a really scary feeling," he said. "You feel useless, like you can't do anything. I was just frozen in place at first. My life actually passed in front of my eyes."

When asked about the presence of the Wing Commander, Colonel Williams, (whose presence has been consistently denied by the Air Force), Airman A states, "At some point, I don't remember when, Col. Williams arrived at the site."

Questioned about the presence of the craft's occupants, Airman A will neither deny nor confirm seeing them. When pressed on the point, he will only state that, "I saw something very strange, stranger than the craft landing, and all the rest." (Reference 1)

Airman B has corroborated the sequence of events as outlined above. He too will neither confirm nor deny the presence of the craft's occupants, but will only say that, "A lot more happened out there than anyone knows about." (Reference 2)

Officer C has also agreed with the events as given, but adds his own significant tidbit of information. He has stated definitely that Colonel Williams was there, and that a film record of the events does exist. "The Colonel was driven to a waiting fighter at RAF Bentwaters with a canister of film of a landed UFO. The film was given directly to the fighter pilot for transport to Air Force Headquarters at Ramstein Air Force Base in West Germany. I have no idea what became of the film." (Reference 3)

Another anonymous source has divulged essentially the same information during an interview with Cable News Network (CNN). His statements corroborate Officer C's story. (Reference 4)

This constitutes a brief review of the events as given by the various eyewitnesses I have interviewed. To expand into greater detail is beyond the scope of this paper. However, two interesting points have now surfaced; two points which the Air Force adamantly denies. First, the existence of a film record of the events, and the second, the presence of (now) General Gordon Williams at the landing site. We'll explore these two points a little later, but for now, what does the official record show?



OFFICIAL DOCUMENTATION

The official Air Force position at the beginning of the investigation was that no documentation existed in Air Force files. However, after an FOIA request which was eventually funneled to the British Ministry of Defense, the first piece of official confirmation surfaced.

The document released was a three paragraph memo. This memo was written by Lt. Col. Charles I. Halt, the Deputy Base Commander of RAF Bentwaters at the time the incidents occurred. It was addressed to "RAF/CC," apparently "Royal Air Force/Company Commander."

Here we have a brief description of the events, basically the same story as told by the eyewitnesses, but in somewhat of a "whitewashed" version. Also absent from the document is any mention of a sighting or contact with the occupants of the craft. Also intriguing is the fact that the document describes a UFO sighting by Col. Halt himself. According to the Air Force (who at first denied the existence of this document) this was the only item existing in Air Force files concerning the event. Further confirmation of an official nature surfaced later, however.

Rumors had been flying about the existence of an on-site tape recording made by Col. Halt during the events. Attempts to locate and secure the release of this tape in April of 1983 by Larry Fawcett of Citizens Against UFO Secrecy (CAUS), met with this response from the Air Force:

"There was ... no official investigation ... Thus, the records you requested do not exist ... I can assure you that if there were such records we would provide them to you." (Reference 5)

However, in August of 1984, the tape did finally surface. One copy was initially released by Col. Sam Morgan, a former Base Commander at RAF Bentwaters. The release of this tape was made to Mr. Harry Harris, a British attorney who had been marginally involved in the case. Col. Morgan, at the time of the release was stationed at Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado. When questioned by a British newspaper as to his reason for releasing the tape, he said he "...didn't see any reason not to." (Reference 6) Curious to say the least, but a copy was at last available.

Another copy was released directly from RAF Bentwaters one day later. This copy was released to investigator Jenny Randles by a contact of hers on the base. About one week later, Jenny had kindly supplied me with a copy, the first to reach the U.S.

The tape contains Col. Halt's voice, as the primary speaker, describing events which allegedly occurred in the field as Halt and his men examined the landing site. Halt is clearly heard ordering a "Sgt. Nevells" to take photographs of the landing marks, and of abrasions on trees apparently caused by the object during its descent into the clearing.



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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS 81ST COMBAT SUPPORT GROUP (USAF)
APO NEW YORK 0755



REPLY TO
ATTN: W. C/D

13 Jan 81

SUBJECT: Unexplained Lights

TO: RAF/CC

1. Early in the morning of 27 Dec 80 (approximately 0300L), two USAF security police patrolmen saw unusual lights outside the back gate at RAF Woodbridge. Thinking an aircraft might have crashed or been forced down, they called for permission to go outside the gate to investigate. The on-duty flight chief responded and allowed three patrolmen to proceed on foot. The individuals reported seeing a strange glowing object in the forest. The object was described as being metallic in appearance and triangular in shape, approximately two to three meters across the base and approximately two meters high. It illuminated the entire forest with a white light. The object itself had a pulsing red light on top and a bank(s) of blue lights underneath. The object was hovering or on legs. As the patrolmen approached the object, it maneuvered through the trees and disappeared. At this time the animals on a nearby farm went into a frenzy. The object was briefly sighted approximately an hour later near the back gate.
2. The next day, three depressions 1 1/2" deep and 7" in diameter were found where the object had been sighted on the ground. The following night (29 Dec 80) the area was checked for radiation. Beta/gamma readings of 0.1 milliroentgens were recorded with peak readings in the three depressions and near the center of the triangle formed by the depressions. A nearby tree had moderate (.05-.07) readings on the side of the tree toward the depressions.
3. Later in the night a red sun-like light was seen through the trees. It moved about and pulsed. At one point it appeared to throw off glowing particles and then broke into five separate white objects and then disappeared. Immediately thereafter, three star-like objects were noticed in the sky, two objects to the north and one to the south, all of which were about 10° off the horizon. The objects moved rapidly in sharp angular movements and displayed red, green and blue lights. The objects to the north appeared to be elliptical through an 8-12 power lens. They then turned to full circles. The objects to the north remained in the sky for an hour or more. The object to the south was visible for two or three hours and beamed down a stream of light from time to time. Numerous individuals, including the undersigned, witnessed the activities in paragraphs 2 and 3.

CHARLES I. NALT, Lt Col, USAF
Deputy Base Commander



Also heard are discussions of radiation readings being taken, and observations of the area through a "Star-Scope," a light amplification device. Orders are also given to take soil samples, and samples of the bark from the abraded trees.

Toward the end of the tape, Halt very graphically describes his and his men's observations of unidentified lights in the sky. His descriptions of the lights maneuvering about and shining beams of light toward the ground match the descriptions given in his written report. Mention is also made of disturbances among a farmer's barnyard animals, as described in the document.

IS THERE A COVERUP?

We have taken a brief look at both the eyewitness testimony concerning the case, and the official material which has surfaced so far. The Air Force has consistently denied that they possess information concerning two things in particular -- the existence of film which was taken of the objects in question, and the presence of Colonel Gordon Williams at the landing site.

The statements of Airmen A and B, given above, along with the testimony of Officer C and still other information which has come to my attention, indicates that there is definitely a film record of what was seen, regardless of how strongly the Air Force attempts to deny it.

On March 25, 1985, a highly placed records management official with the Air Force, in its Pentagon offices, spoke with me by telephone and startled me with this announcement. "I've been told," she said, "that photos were taken, and that some of them, but not all, were fogged. However, our records here do not show the existence of any photographs at all."

She went on to suggest that possibly a direct request to Air Force Headquarters in Europe might uncover something. Acting on this advice, I sent an FOIA request to Ramstein Air Force Base. The request asked specifically for access to photographs and any other visual documentation for these events. The response I finally received did not in any way allude to photographic evidence, or the lack of it, it simply ignored the question. This request is under appeal now, and only time will tell if anything will be uncovered.

What about the presence of Wing Commander Gordon Williams? The statements of Airmen A and B, and Officer C indicate he was indeed there during the events. The Air Force however denies this. When told of this denial, Airman A stated, "I know Williams was there, because I was standing right next to him." (Reference 7)

In my efforts to locate more data on the Bentwaters case, I have pursued many avenues. I have been in close contact with all of the principal investigators involved. I have explored the issue with a valuable contact of mine in Air Force Intelligence. I have tried to pry information from the government through use of the FOIA and I have



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attempted to work closely with my Congressional representatives in the hope that with their influence, more information might come to light. What are the net results of these inquiries?

Through the FOIA, I have been unable to obtain anything of a substantial nature. After an interminable wait, my first FOIA request on Bentwaters netted me only copies of correspondence between CNN and the Air Force, regarding the broadcast mentioned earlier. (Reference 8)

I was denied access to what the Air Force referred to as "seven intra-agency memoranda," the release of which might reveal the Air Force's "deliberative process." I appealed this denial and was granted the release of one further document which contained no new factual material. (Reference 9)

My next FOIA request to Air Force Headquarters, Europe, received essentially the same response. Once more the result was copies of correspondence between AF officials in Washington, and those in Europe concerning the CNN Broadcast. Nothing new.

On December 10, 1985, another FOIA request was submitted to the Air Force. This request dealt with information given to me by Jenny Randles during a visit to England in October of 1985.

Jenny had been shown a letter allegedly from Col. Halt to a reporter on a major British newspaper. In this letter, Halt indicated he would sell his story of what happened. He also included a list of items he would provide for substantiation. Included in that list was a copy of the orders from 3rd Air Force Headquarters to investigate the incident. If you remember, I quoted earlier from an Air Force statement that "There was ... no official investigation." (Reference 10) Curious that orders would need to be issued for an unofficial investigation.

I asked for copies of these orders, and was told that the records I requested did not exist. I had attempted several times to contact Col. Halt, and he chose not to confirm or deny this information by simply not replying. I have appealed this FOIA decision also, and am waiting for the Air Force decision.

As is apparent, the FOIA has been ineffective in obtaining further information. Faced with Air Force stonewalling on this issue, I approached U.S. Senator J. James Exon of Nebraska, a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

A former Governor of Nebraska, Senator Exon is a Democrat, relatively conservative, but always willing to help his constituents to the best of his ability.

Scott Colborn, my research associate, and I met with Senator Exon in his Lincoln offices in February of 1985. The Senator's initial response to our concerns over the Bentwater's incident is best described as one of disinterested skepticism. Regarding his role on the Senate



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Armed Services Committee, he stated that he felt if any information of a significant nature existed, he would have been apprised of it.

I brought to his attention an incident I had approached him about earlier. This incident was the landing of unidentified aerial objects at Kirtland Air Force Base in New Mexico. (Note 3) When I reminded the Senator of his statement that he had never been informed of those events, he admitted that indeed something could be going on of which he was not aware.

We made it quite clear to the Senator that we had no bias toward an explanation of what had occurred at Bentwaters, but that we simply wanted the truth -- whether that truth was a plane crash, a military exercise of some kind, or another mundane explanation. We also indicated our curiosity as to why, if the events did indeed have a prosaic explanation, it was being described as a UFO event -- something which would attract, rather than dispel, public attention.

We provided Senator Exon with copies of all of our documentation on the incident, including copies of the Halt document, and the tape recording made by Col. Halt while in the field. We left his office that morning with his promise to look into the matter, discuss it with other members of the Armed Services Committee, and let us know what, if anything, he could discover.

The Senator's first response arrived on April 2, 1985. (Reference 11) He stated, "Frankly, I am not convinced that the incidents you are concerned with did, in fact, occur. Nor have I found any evidence of a coverup by the Government.

"If you have any evidence to substantiate the validity of the tape the Halt tape previously provided, I would appreciate your forwarding that information."

From what began as a very negative response to our request for help, the Senator left us with an open-ended opportunity to provide him with further documentation. I felt that I could indeed provide him with enough information to continue his probe.

With this thought in mind, I placed a phone call to Col. Charles I. Halt on April 10, 1985. I gave the Colonel my name, and told him that I was a UFO researcher who was attempting to provide Senator Exon with more information on the Bentwaters incident. Halt told me he would be quite willing to discuss the matter with Senator Exon.

Halt gave me the impression of being quite cordial and open to discussion of the case, and I was led to ask several questions of my own. I asked about the existence of soil samples, and about plaster casts of the landing marks, which were alleged to have been made. Halt stated that he had one of the soil samples "...on my desk in front of me," and in regard to the plaster casts, "I don't have them here, but I could put my hands on them without much trouble."



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Halt's most significant statement came when I told him that I had talked with an officer who stated that Colonel Williams was there and was driven back to Bentwaters with film of the landed UFO. In response to this, Halt said, "Yes, I can verify that for the Senator--I could substantiate that for him." (Reference 12)

Finally, confirmation of the existence of film by one of the commanding officers who was present at the event! And confirmation of William's presence at the site.

I immediately passed this information along to Exon's Washington office, along with Halt's telephone number. The Senator's defense aide assured me during our telephone conversation that Exon would be advised of this turn of events.

Having unearthed this information, I attempted to contact Gen. Williams, and see if he too would be willing to speak with the Senator. I phoned Williams' office at Norton AFB in California, and learned that the General was out. (Reference 13)

Williams' aide, a Major Verke, told me that Williams would return on April 22. I explained the purpose of my call to Verke, and he said he would advise the General of my interest as soon as he returned.

On April 22, I again phoned Major Verke. He stated that he had discussed the matter with Williams, and that "the General has no comment." I explained that I did not want the General to comment to me, I was simply asking if he would be willing to discuss the matter with Senator Exon. Verke said once again, "The General has no comment."

I asked if that meant the General refused to speak with Senator Exon. Verke said that, "What it means is that the General has no comment." (Reference 14) It was obvious that this was a wasted effort, and I told Verke I would give the Senator the information, which I subsequently did.

To the best of my knowledge, Senator Exon has not spoken with General Williams -- at least no mention of such a conversation has been made to me. The Senator did, however, speak with Col. Halt.

On April 29, I phoned Senator Exon's Washington office and spoke with his defense aide. The aide told me that Senator Exon had spoken with Halt, but that he had no idea what was discussed. I mentioned that it would be of great public interest if the Senator could verify Halt's statement about the film. He promised to advise the Senator of this.

That's where the matter rested until one month later, when after receiving no word from Exon, I wrote him once again. (Reference 15) I asked that he "...make every effort possible to secure the release of the true story of what happened at RAF Bentwaters." Again, an answer was slow in coming.



On June 13, 1985 I spoke by telephone with Exon's defense aide. (Reference 16) He told me that the Senator "...will not discuss the content of his call to Col. Halt with anyone." When asked if Senator Exon had discovered anything meaningful from Halt, he replied that it "...was probably significant...since he Exon won't discuss it."

He told me that the Senator's inquiries were continuing, and that Exon would pass along the information to me "...after he decides what he can tell you." He indicated these were Exon's own words.

Interestingly enough, on June 19, 1985, I received a letter from Senator Exon, dated June 13, the same day as my conversation with his aide. Intriguing is the fact that the letter was delivered to my home. The only address ever given to the Senator was that of a Post Office box which I use solely for my research correspondence.

There are possibly many explanations for how and why the Senator obtained and used my home address. However, since I do have an unlisted telephone number, it would have been slightly more complicated than opening the phone director to the "B's." At any rate, why would the Senator waste his time finding my home address when he already had a valid mailing address in his possession? I certainly don't wish to imply that this is somehow sinister, but present it for what it is, another odd twist in an odd story.

Exon's response described his activities in researching the matter. (Reference 17) He stated, "While additional information other than that you have obtained may exist, I can find no evidence of a coverup of UFO incidents by any department or agency of the U.S. Government." Emphasis added The Senator had adroitly side stepped the issue of what happened at RAF Bentwaters.

The choice of words was curious also. Senator Exon mentions that information other than that which I have obtained may exist. That leaves it wide open as to information anyone, the Air Force, Exon, anyone, may have. Why did he evade the issue? Why didn't he give me some type of answer?

I reached Exon's defense aide by telephone again on June 27. I called in an attempt to try and discover why the Senator had not answered my very direct question about Bentwaters. My curiosity had also been piqued by the Senator's use of my home address, and that was my first question to his aide. It evidently took him by surprise. (Reference 18)

When asked where my home address had come from, he replied, "Well, uh ... uh ... uh ... I don't know. We have a case file on you that's huge. Someone probably picked it up from there." It seemed that not only was the Senator looking into the Bentwaters incident, he was looking into me as well.

More importantly, other curious things came to light when I asked about the Senator's evasive response. Let me quote from notes taken



during the conversation with Exon's aide.

"First of all, I don't think that he's trying to deny the existence of UFOs or anything like that. I don't know what he found out, and neither does anyone else in the office -- he did the whole thing himself.

"You know, this is very unusual for him to take this much of a personal interest in a subject, and for him to spend so much time on it. He wrote all of the letters, and made all of the phone calls.

"Again, I was not privy to any of the information. I know he talked to Halt several times. I know he agreed when he talked with Col. Halt that what was discussed between the two of them was between the two of them only, and none of us in the office were privy to any of it.

"I think he talked to just about everybody in DOD [Department of Defense] that there was to talk to. I've never seen him do the whole thing himself like this -- it's just unusual."

I find it fascinating that the Senator should undergo such a change of heart. I characterized his attitude at the February meeting as one of disinterested skepticism. Now one of his staff members was telling me that he has never seen Senator Exon take such an interest in an issue, never seen him spend such an inordinate amount of time investigating a matter, and has never seen him handle an inquiry of this magnitude solely on his own, without involving the staff.

With the knowledge of the Senator's level of interest in the case, several explanations for his evasive responses can be considered. One possibility was stated quite directly by a wellknown researcher, Linda Moulton Howe, who said, "I wonder who got to Jim Exon?" This of course could be the cause; that as Exon probed deeper into the matter he was quietly advised that nothing more should be done, and the less said, the better. Pure speculation, but still a possibility.

Another explanation to consider is that, in the light of the traumatic nature of these events on the witnesses themselves, was the information uncovered by Exon so personally disturbing that he felt he couldn't, or shouldn't pass it along to others? Again, just speculation.

Let's consider some other possibilities. What if it was a weapons test or accident of some sort? What if it was some type of secret maneuver? What if it was a plane crash? Or a retrieval of some sort of Soviet space junk? If so, why didn't the Senator simply say he couldn't discuss it because of defense implications, or because of national security? Why didn't he indicate that the event was not UFO related? It seems that there are many ways he could address the question directly, and still not say anything. Why the blatant evasion?

The explanation for the events which has been offered by some, is



that the lights observed by the airmen were actually the beacon from a lighthouse, about five miles from the alleged landing site. This has been shown by Jenny Randles to be utter nonsense. (Reference 19) And, if this were the case, why the evasive answers from Senator Exon? It has been stated emphatically by all of the eyewitnesses, and proven to my satisfaction that the lighthouse explanation is ludicrous.

After digesting the content of my conversation with Senator Exon's aide, I drafted another letter to the Senator which restated my concerns. (Reference 20) The letter was very direct in its request for information. I asked the Senator a very simple question -- what happened at RAF Bentwaters in December of 1980?

In order to convince the Senator that I simply wanted an honest answer, and was not attempting to force the events into a "UFO mold," I stated that there was a distinct possibility that "...what happened at RAF Bentwaters was not UFO related. In that case, what was it? What happened ...?"

On July 9, 1985, the Senator responded. He said in part, "As I stated in my last letter to you, while additional information on the subject of the Bentwaters and other unexplained UFO incidents /emphasis added/ may exist, I can find no evidence of a coverup ... by the U.S. Government." He ignored the question once again, but ignored it with an interesting statement.

He states that other information on "Bentwaters and other unexplained UFO incidents may exist." He once again leaves the answer open ended. He also implies that what happened at RAF Bentwaters was indeed an "unexplained UFO incident."

On August 8, 1985, in the course of writing an article on the case for FATE magazine, I once again phoned Senator Exon's Washington office. I told one of his senior aides of my work on the article, and said that I hoped to get a slightly more informative response from Senator Exon.

I explained that while I was appreciative of what the Senator had done, it still had not provided me with any information on the events. I went on to say that I wanted to portray the Senator's efforts in the most favorable light possible, but that it seemed the Senator was evading the question, and that this evasion simply seemed to lend support to the idea that there is a coverup.

The gentleman grew very defensive, and said that there was absolutely no chance of another statement because, "You've gotten all the information you are going to get," and that "Senator Exon will not say anything more."

After being so curtly dismissed by the Washington office, I thought my chances might be better at Senator Exon's Lincoln office. I placed a call to his appointment secretary. What a mistake! (Reference 21)



I again explained the situation, and said that I hoped the Senator might be willing to clarify the matter in another personal meeting, rather than in writing. I was cut off in mid-sentence by an angry voice declaring "You're not going to pin him down in a national magazine! That's unfair, that's so unfair!"

I calmly explained that I wasn't trying to pin anyone down, I simply wanted to give the Senator every opportunity to clarify his position. I told her that it was my desire to portray the Senator favorably, but that with his responses to date, I didn't feel I could honestly do that.

When I indicated that his involvement was a crucial part of the investigation, I was again cut off by an angry shout of "He's not involved with this at all!"

I asked again that she determine if the Senator could meet with me. I said, "I only want to give him fair treatment in the article. I don't want to portray him in a negative fashion."

The response was, "Well, you will anyway!," and the phone was slammed down.

His staff is hired in part, I assume, for their ability to deal with people courteously, if not pleasantly. Why did they suddenly become so defensive? What type of information did the Senator uncover, and what type of reaction did he have to cause his staff to act in this fashion?

On August 14, I phoned his Lincoln office to find out if another appointment would be scheduled. I was told another meeting would be impossible, but still another letter had been sent to me.

The letter arrived the following day, and again, was obviously lacking in answers to my question. (Reference 22) However, he did put in writing what I had already been told by phone. "I do hope you recognize that we have put in more time on this matter than any other case since I have been a United States Senator."

More time was spent on looking into the Bentwaters incident than on the defense issues he faces every day on the Armed Services Committee; more time than on the economy of the country. The Senator must have uncovered something that piqued his interest. It's unfortunate that the American people may never share in the information he uncovered.

In essence, we are back to square one. The Freedom of Information Act has yielded nothing new as of now. Congressional inquiries gave us no concrete information, only an inordinate amount of interest on the part of a busy Senator, and some enigmatic behavior by both him and his staff. We are left where we began--with the testimony of firsthand witnesses, a single document, and a tape recording.



CONCLUSIONS

There has been a great deal of confusion surrounding this case. The foregoing should serve as evidence of why this confusion exists. Government stonewalling, Congressional hedging, and so on, mean that the facts are not easy to sort out, and obviously make it a complicated affair to investigate. However, I do feel that some preliminary conclusions can be drawn.

I have spoken in great depth with several of the eyewitnesses. I have quoted from three of them in this paper. All their stories match, with the exception of minor details (something to be expected when recalling an event which occurred several years earlier). It is safe to say, with the information as we now have it, that these men are telling the truth regarding their perception of the events. All of the witnesses with whom I have spoken have made it quite clear that they want anonymity. These individuals are not out for free publicity, or to try and make a fast buck.

The story, as supported by the eyewitness testimony and what official documentation is available, seems to be solid at this point. Until further facts are forthcoming which may prove my information wrong, I have no reasonable doubts that the story as I presented it is correct, and an accurate reflection of what the witnesses observed.

What about non-UFO possibilities? There are several: A secret military exercise; an accident involving some type of weapons system; recovery of a piece of "space junk"; and on and on. (Note 4) I must state, however, that I have no information at the present time which persuasively indicates anything other than a UFO-related incident.

I am only looking for the truth behind what occurred. I am open to, and searching for, any factual information on this event. However, until evidence to the contrary does surface, it is my opinion we are dealing with what the witnesses claim -- the landing of a UFO, witnessed by high-ranking U.S. Air Force officers, and possibly contact with the occupants of this UFO.

How can I turn this opinion into factual evidence? I can't: not by myself. Neither can anyone else. I was able to provide a United States Senator with information which caused him to launch a personal investigation. An investigation which took more of his time than any other matter since he became a Senator.

If I can provoke this kind of interest and concern in one elected official, what type of response might be expected if everyone who reads this were to provide the same information to their own Senators? If enough people ask, and demand an answer, the only politically expedient response will be to bring the truth out into the open.

You now have the same information I have: you just read it. You have Senators who represent your interests. If you have a desire for the truth concerning these events, and are willing to do more than



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just pay lip-service to that desire, take time to write your U.S. Senator. Show him the evidence as it's been presented to you, and ask him for some answers. A concerted effort on the part of those who want the truth can be successful.

I think it's worth a 22¢ stamp -- how about you?

* * * * *

Copies of documents, correspondence, tape recordings, interviews, and other materials which you may want to help you present your case to your U.S. Senator are available for the cost of duplicating, and postage, by contacting the author. Write to: Fortean Research Center, P. O. Box 94627, Lincoln, NE 68509

NOTES

1. There is some question as to the exact date on which the events occurred. The Halt document indicates the 27th and the 29th as dates on which events occurred. Until further documentation can be obtained from the Air Force, the actual date of the landing and alleged contact with the craft's occupants will remain in question.
2. The British police officers had evidently responded to a civilian complaint about lights in the forest.
3. See Clear Intent, p. 224, for complete details of this incident.
4. See the December 1985 MUFON UFO Journal article, "The Bentwaters Incident," for the complete story of an English scientist's non-UFO explanation.

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RENDELSHAM FOREST AFFAIR

Walt Andrus, Jr.

SKY CRASH: A Cosmic Conspiracy

By: Brenda Butler, Jenny Randles and Dot Street

Published by:

Neville Spearman Limited
The Priory Gate, Friars Street
Sudbury, Suffolk, England

Published: October 25, 1984

Price: 7.50 pounds

SKY CRASH is a culmination of nearly three and one-half years of research on one specific UFO case that involves close encounters of the first, second and probably the third kind. The question posed is: "what really happened in the Rendlesham Forest in close proximity to the east gate of the U.S.A.F. Base at Woodbridge on the nights of December 27 and December 29/30, 1980?" Starting from a rumor, Brenda Butler, through her personal contacts at two major U.S. Air Force bases, discovered an event like the plot from a science-fiction movie. For who could believe in tales of contact between the authorities of this world and the explorers of another alien realm? "It was like something out of *Star Wars*," one witness has explained.

Even though the plot for SKY CRASH reads like science-fiction, if what the authors have been told by several different sources was even remotely near the truth, then Rendlesham Forest has played host to one of the most significant events in the history of this planet.

BREAKTHROUGH

Steve Roberts, a security officer in the U.S.A.F. stationed at Bentwaters/Woodbridge, provided the first clue to Brenda six days after the December 27th monumental event. Realizing one person was inadequate to investigate a sighting with this potential, Brenda shared her information with Dot Street. The two worked as a team during the

latter part of January, 1981. In February 1981, Jenny Randles became part of this intriguing mystery and subsequently summarized the entire case, as it was then known, into the book SKY CRASH.

The credentials for these three "super-sleuths" are as follows: Brenda Butler — housewife and independent investigator of strange phenomena from Leiston, Suffolk, and family friend of Steve Roberts; Jenny Randles — fulltime author from Warrington, Cheshire, and Director of Investigations for the British UFO Research Association (BUFORA); and Dot Street — housewife and accredited regional investigator for BUFORA from Oulton Broad, Suffolk. As a full-time freelancer with several books, Jenny Randles was able to tie all of the loose ends together and write SKY CRASH with the research aid of Brenda and Dot.

The three author/investigators have written SKY CRASH in a chronological sequence which follows their unremitting search for the truth to the initial rumor. It is not the typical UFO story, since it contains all the ingredients of a spy thriller: fear spiced with mystery, intrigue and devastating consequences. Using the writing techniques of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and Earle Stanley Gardner, Jenny Randles has the reader anticipating what new clue will unfold as the persistent investigation continues. The format is clearly that of a detective thriller, though SKY CRASH is backed up by documented testimony and demonstrates an official cover-up from the very beginning.

CONFIRMATION

The evidence is undeniable, supported as it is by official confirmation from both the Pentagon and the British Ministry of Defense. It is impossible to confront this evidence

and conclude that something strange did not take place in Rendlesham Forest on the nights in question.

Since I consider this book and its investigation one of the most significant cases of the modern era, I will make no attempt to review it in depth, but will instead recommend it to all serious UFO investigators and researchers. SKY CRASH is probably the finest example of how a rumor about a UFO landing is diligently pursued, and how three competent and experienced investigators unearthed clues and solved an insurmountable jigsaw puzzle over a three year span.

CREDIT

We must give the majority of the credit to the three tenacious English investigators for their "never-say-die" attitude when they were confronted with government secrecy by both British and United States officialdom. At the same time, we must also acknowledge the outstanding work by Barry Greenwood, Larry Fawcett and Lucius Farish in the U.S., who provided numerous pieces of the puzzle. Without this cooperative investigation, transatlantic telephone calls, utilization of the Freedom of Information Act, etc., the key evidence would probably not have been forthcoming, since it was indeed a U.S. Air Force event and not a Royal Air Force incident. The authors have acknowledged credits and expressed their gratitude to each of the key participants in their book by name where permitted. Pseudonyms have been used throughout and are so identified to protect the witnesses; in addition, the book clearly depicts the unfortunate treatment dealt U.S. airmen and British civilians when they were subsequently exposed.

Practically all U.S.A.F. personnel

(continued next page)

M, JAN - 84

SKY CRASH, CONTINUED

witness to the events on December 27 and December 29/29, 1980, were promptly transferred from the Bentwaters/Woodbridge base to other assignments throughout the world to make them more difficult to locate and interview.

It is conceivable that several of the base officers, who were also witnesses, were later promoted in rank as a means of obtaining their cooperation and silence.

Accolades to everyone involved in the research and writing of SKY CRASH for their quest in search of the truth. In the prologue to the book, the authors briefly state their own feelings in this regard: "We concluded that we had no more right to the facts than you have. Since we collected them in our long fight for truth, they were potentially available to anybody who tried hard enough. Consequently, this provided the obvious course of action. We should set down all the facts that we collated, and let you sift through them and judge according to your own fair appraisal."

Brenda, Dot and Jenny have demonstrated the persistence and courage that few investigators could mount against such seemingly impossible odds. This superb work, aided by the outstanding research of fellow investigators in the United States, should shine like a beacon for all of international ufology.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

As a subscriber to the *Journal* and one fully aware of the paradoxical nature of the UFO phenomenon I would like to express some thoughts I have had after reading several articles presented in recent issues. Basically I would like to address this letter to those individuals who consider themselves field investigators and/or write articles on this group of phenomenon.

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From the very beginning the term 'UFO' was intended to indicate an object, apparently manufactured, whose design seems to exhibit a level of technology higher than our own and whose motions seem to defy our commonly accepted laws of physics. This is not to imply that a UFO must be 'nuts and bolts', but that it is a device! Presently the term 'UFO' seems to be thrown into any situation where an observer cannot readily identify what he is seeing. If such a sighting then turns out to have a conventional or natural explanation it only serves to detract from the reality of the UFO phenomenon as a whole.

I would like to see field investigators concentrate their efforts on investigating 'high-strangeness' incidents, UFO reports that fit the criteria! This is not to say that reports of nocturnal lights or otherwise should not be recorded and checked, but the case for UFO's would be best served by concentrating on those sightings that stand the best chance of yielding significant results.

As for the articles published on this topic, I would prefer to read in-depth interviews with persons influential in this field of study, or updates on recent events. Perhaps one page with a simple break-down of extremely current reports by day, date, location, and category would be simple and informative as far as general sightings are concerned. Far too often I have read a step-by-step account of a nocturnal light that indicated nothing that truly qualified it as a UFO. Too many articles on this phenomenon turn out to be 'stories' instead of informative articles.

At times it appears that the area of 'UFO phenomenon' has been made so broad that anyone wanting to take a figurative 'shot' at it will be assured of hitting something. The phenomenon itself has come to encompass a hodgepodge of Fortean elements and therefore it becomes even more crucial that we remember that what we are trying to establish is not the existence of a UFO phenomenon but the existence of a UFO!

Sincerely,
Christian P. Lambright

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CLEAR INTENT



**THE GOVERNMENT COVERUP
OF THE UFO EXPERIENCE**

**What does the government know
about UFOs and why won't it tell u**

With a foreword by Dr. J. Allen Hynek

FARISH'S ROLL IN RENDLESHAM

by Walt Andrus

Quoting from *SKY CRASH*, page 29, the following two paragraphs describe Mr. Farish's contribution by the authors to this mystery:

"The other relevant information that Bob Easton had to offer had come from Norman Oliver, then editor of the *BUFORA* Journal. Norman had actually received a letter from one of his contacts in the U.S.A., ufologist Lucius Farish. Lucius had been approached in the last couple of weeks by a U.S. Air Force man who had been sent back to America from his tour of duty in Britain, and discharged from the service. Medical reasons were cited, but he insisted that it was because he had refused to keep silent about 'something big' that had taken place on the base where he was stationed in England, during late December and early January.

"It was not clear whether this mysterious witness, whom we have never been able to trace, was relating things that he had seen or simply fanning the rumors that were spreading around the base. But it seems that he was claiming that there was not merely one landing, but several! These all happened over the course of a few weeks. To a point this confirmed what Steve Roberts had said. The close encounter he was party to was not the only one that had happened."

Since new eyewitnesses have been revealed in the United States after the book was released on October 24, 1984, Walt Andrus wrote to Lucius Farish to obtain clarification of his contribution to the Bentwaters Case as related above by Jenny Randles in *SKY CRASH*. Because few essential details and facts were available from this mysterious witness, and the information was at least fourth hand, that is 1) mysterious witness, 2) Lucius Farish, 3) Norman Oliver, and 4) Bob Easton, Walt Andrus was anxious to get to the bottom of this lead.

Quoting from Lucius Farish in his

letter of January 14, 1985, in response to my inquiry, he has volunteered the following clarification: "I can understand your interest in my 'role' in the Rendlesham Case, as related in the book. Unfortunately, virtually none of the information pertaining to me is correct!" Lou explains that "I received a note from one of the UFON (UFO Newsclipping Service) subscribers, enclosing a portion of a letter which a friend or relative of his had received. The letter-writer was (as memory serves) the wife of someone stationed at the Air Force Base. She briefly mentioned the rumors then making the rounds of the base (landing of a UFO, possible occupants, etc.). As this was the first I had heard of the incident, I wrote a postcard to Norman Oliver, asking him if he knew anything else about the case. I don't recall the sequence of events, but evidently he was contacted by Brenda Butler or Dot Street shortly after hearing from me.

"So, as you can see, I have talked to no U.S.A.F. personnel who were allegedly involved with the case. Norman Oliver, Brenda Butler and Dot Street were never given any information which would have allowed them to draw such a conclusion."

I appreciate Lou Farish's frank assessment of his part in the Rendlesham Forest mystery as will other readers of *SKY CRASH*. With all respects to the diligent authors of this book, their early leads after the original disclosure by Steve Roberts six days after the event, were in many cases rumors that required tireless follow-up to determine their authenticity. Lou's note to Norman Oliver was simply another of the many rumors that leaked out early in the investigation. These were some of the threads of evidence which ultimately disclosed and confirmed one of the most important UFO cases in modern history as depicted in *SKY CRASH* and in the recent Cable News Network (CNN)

Special Assignment Program titled "UFO -- The Bentwaters Incident," produced by Chuck DeCaro, that was aired between January 23 and 27, 1985.

Mr. Ted Turner, the owner of CNN and WTBS-TV in Atlanta, Georgia, is to be congratulated for having the foresight and intestinal fortitude to produce such a revealing UFO documentary. This is the type of program that "60 Minutes" or "20/20" would have loved to break to the American public; however, Ted Turner's TV pioneering spirit through the terrific investigative work of Chuck DeCaro made it possible. Larry Fawcett, Assistant State Director for Connecticut and co-author of *CLEAR INTENT*, must receive his earned accolades, since he served as technical advisor and provided the "leg-work" and contacts to Chuck DeCaro which made the film possible.

We invite everyone to write to Ted Turner and express their appreciation for his courageous investigative documentary on the most important scientific mystery of our time — UFOs.



SAY HELLO, Continued

discussing such questions with the general public in our effort to inform them about UFO's and modify the general attitude. In the years to come, we are wise enough to recognize valuable information when we get it, our effort may significantly increase that slice of the pie representing acquired information.

M, M4-8J

GRASSROOTS

'Despite a massive cover-up, News of the World investigators have proof that the mysterious craft came to earth in a red ball of light. An American airman who was there told us there were three beings in silver space suits aboard the craft . . .' More seriously, they produced a supporting statement from a named American Air Force colonel, which we reprint on the right. And an American UFO expert who said 'You can't hide the truth for ever.' Which is where Ian Ridpath takes up the investigation.

A flashlight in the forest

FOUR Christmases ago, something remarkable was said to have occurred outside the US Air Force base at Woodbridge, near Ipswich. News of the event leaked out slowly, finally hitting the headlines in October 1983: "UFO Lands in Suffolk — Official," screamed the front page of the News of the World.

The story was sensational. It told of a group of American airmen who were confronted one night with an alien spaceship in Rendlesham Forest which surrounds the air force base. According to the story, the craft came down over the trees and landed in a blinding explosion of light.

The airmen tried to approach the object, but it moved away from them as though under intelligent control. The following day, landing marks were found on the ground, burns were seen on nearby trees, and radiation traces were recorded. There was even talk of aliens aboard the craft, and allegations of a massive cover-up. It had all the ingredients of a classic UFO encounter.

The News of the World's informant was a former US

airman. He was given the pseudonym Art Wallace, for he claimed that his life had been threatened if he talked. Yet here he was freely giving interviews to newspapers and television.

While his fantastic story might be doubted, it was impossible to shrug off a memo written by the deputy base commander, Lt. Col. Charles I. Halt, to the Ministry of Defence, which was publicly released in the United States under the Freedom of Information Act. Halt's memo, reprinted in full here, is not as sensational as Wallace's story, but it is prime documentary evidence of a type rarely encountered in UFO cases.

UFO researchers in Britain could scarcely believe their luck: this was The Big One, final proof that We Are Not Alone. The News of the World paid £12,000 for the story. A book was recently published about the case, and American TV crews have been filming at the site in recent weeks.

All that evidence, backed up by the word of the US Air Force, could not possibly have a rational explanation.

Or could it? Here are the facts that you have not been told.

Soon after the News of the World story appeared, I went in search of local opinions about the case. I made contact by telephone with a forester, Vince Thurkettle, who lives within a mile of the alleged UFO landing site. "I don't know of anyone around here who believes that anything strange happened that night," he told me.

So what did he think the flashing light was in Rendlesham Forest? I was astonished by his reply. "It's the lighthouse," he said.

That lighthouse lies at Orford Ness on the Suffolk coast, five miles from the forest. Thurkettle plotted on a map the direction in which the airmen reported seeing their flashing UFO, and found that they were looking straight into the lighthouse beam.

Could this really be the answer? I visited the site with a camera crew from BBC TV's Breakfast Time. On the way there, the cameraman was sceptical about the lighthouse theory. I didn't blame him.

It was gone midnight when Vince Thurkettle took us to

the site of the alleged landing, and it felt spooky. The area had by now been cleared of trees as part of normal forest operations, but enough pines remained at the edge of the forest to give us a realistic idea of what the airmen saw that night.

Sure enough, the lighthouse beam seemed to hover a few feet above ground level, because Rendlesham Forest is higher than the coastline. The light seemed to move around as we moved. And it looked close — only a few hundred yards away among the trees. All this matched the airmen's description of the UFO.

The conclusion was clear. Had a real UFO been present as well as the lighthouse, the airmen should have reported seeing two brilliant flashing lights among the trees, not one. But they never mentioned the lighthouse, only a pulsating UFO — not surprisingly, since no one expects to come across a lighthouse beam near ground level in a forest.

So startlingly brilliant was the beam that the television cameras captured it easily. The formerly sceptical

Colonel Charles Halt's memo on official American Air Force notepaper was headed "Unexplained Lights", dated 13 January 1981, and sent to the RAF. It said:

1. Early in the morning of 27 Dec 80 (approximately 0300 L), two USAF security police patrolmen saw unusual lights outside the back gate at RAF Woodbridge. Thinking an aircraft might have crashed or been forced down, they called for permission to go outside the gate to investigate. The on-duty flight chief responded and allowed three patrolmen to proceed on foot. The individuals reported seeing a strange glowing object in the forest. The object was described as being metallic in appearance and triangular in shape, approximately two to three meters across the base and approximately two meters high. It illuminated the entire forest with a white light. The object itself had a pulsing red light on top and a bank(s) of blue lights underneath. The object was hovering or on legs. As the patrolmen approached the object, it maneuvered through the trees and disappeared. At this time the animals on a nearby farm went into a frenzy. The object was briefly sighted approximately an hour later near the back gate.
2. The next day, three depressions 1½" deep and 7" in diameter were found where the object had been sighted on the ground. The following night (29 Dec 80) the area was checked for radiation. Beta/gamma readings of 0.1 milliroentgens were recorded with peak readings in the three depressions and near the center of the triangle formed by the depressions. A nearby tree had moderate (.05-.07) readings on the side of the tree toward the depressions.
3. Later in the night a red sun-like light was seen through the trees. It moved about and pulsed. At one point it appeared to throw off glowing particles and then broke into five separate white objects and then disappeared. Immediately thereafter, three star-like objects were noticed in the sky, two objects to the north and one to the south, all of which were about 10 degrees off the horizon. The objects moved rapidly in sharp, angular movements and displayed red, green and blue lights. The objects to the north appeared to be elliptical through an 8-12 power lens. They then turned to full circles. The objects to the north remained in the sky for an hour or more. The object to the south was visible for two or three hours and beamed down a stream of light from time to time. Numerous individuals, including the undersigned, witnessed the activities in paragraphs 2 and 3.


CHARLES I. HALT, Lt Col, USAF
Deputy Base Commander

cameraman was convinced. My report was shown the following morning on Breakfast Time, much to the dismay of UFO spotters and the News of the World reporter.

The lighthouse theory soon had its supporters and its detractors. But there were still too many open questions for the case to be considered solved. For instance, what about those landing marks?

Some weeks later I returned to Rendlesham Forest in search of answers. The landing marks had long since been destroyed when the trees were felled, but I now knew an eyewitness who had seen them: Vince Thurkettle. He recalled for me his disappointment with what he saw.

The three depressions were irregular in shape and did not even form a symmetrical triangle. He recognised them as rabbit diggings, several months old and covered with a layer of fallen pine needles. They lay in an area surrounded by 75ft tall pine trees planted 10ft to 15ft apart — scarcely the place to land a 20ft wide spacecraft.

The "burn marks" on the trees were axe cuts in the bark, made by the foresters

themselves as a sign that the trees were ready to be felled. I saw numerous examples in which the pine resin, bubbling into the cut, gives the impression of a burn.

Additional information came from other eyewitnesses — the local police, called to the scene by the Woodbridge air base. The police officers who visited the site reported that they could see no UFO, only the Orford Ness lighthouse. Like Vince Thurkettle, they attributed the landing marks to animals. The case for a landed spaceship was looking very shaky indeed.

What had made the airmen think that something had crashed into the forest in the first place? I already knew from previous UFO cases that a brilliant meteor, a piece of natural debris from space burning up in the atmosphere, could give such an impression. But I was unable to find records of such a meteor on the morning of December 27.

Here the police account provided a vital lead by showing that Col. Halt's memo, written two weeks after the

event, had got the date of the sighting wrong. It occurred on December 26, not December 27.

With this corrected date, I telephoned Dr John Mason, who collects reports of such sightings for the British Astronomical Association. He told me that shortly before 3 am on December 26 an exceptionally brilliant meteor, almost as bright as the full moon, had been seen over southern England. Dr Mason confirmed that this meteor would have been visible to the airmen at Woodbridge as though something were crashing into the forest nearby. The time of the sighting matched that given in Col. Halt's memo.

Finally, I turned to the question of the radiation readings. I learned that readings like those given in Col. Halt's memo would be expected from natural sources of radiation such as cosmic rays and the earth itself. In short, there was no unusual radiation at the site.

As for the star-like objects in the final paragraph of Col. Halt's memo, they were probably just that — stars. Bright celestial objects are the main

culprits in UFO sightings, and have fooled many experienced observers, including pilots. The object seen by Col. Halt to the south was almost certainly Sirius, the brightest star in the sky.

If it seems surprising that a colonel in the US Air Force should identify a star as a UFO, consider the alternatives. Is it likely that a bright, flashing UFO should hover over southern England for three hours without being spotted by anyone other than a group of excited airmen? And if Col. Halt really believed that an alien craft had invaded his air space, why did he not scramble fighters to investigate?

UFO hunters will continue to believe that an alien spacecraft landed in Rendlesham Forest that night. But I know that the first sighting coincided with the burn-up in the atmosphere of an exceptionally bright meteor, and that the airmen who saw the flashing UFO between the pine trees were looking straight at the Orford Ness lighthouse. The rest of the case is a product of human imagination.

SIGHTINGS, Continued

moved so slowly that it blended into the background so that unless you stared at it for at least several seconds you would not have noticed it.

As for the object, it was cone-shaped and it had yellowish-white lights at the bottom moving left to right, and about 1/3 of the way up it had red lights all the way around it; they were also moving left to right. The color of the craft was grayish-black (how he could tell its color from a distance of 2 miles or so he did not explain). Bryant estimated that as the object began to move it was 20-30 feet above the water. During the entire sighting it never changed its height much. The object moved off towards the Marina side of the bay near Sausalito. It appeared to move around the coastline of the bay. As the cone-shaped object took-off (with the rounded point upwards) the top part of the cone opened up at an angle and as Bryant put it, "a kind of lighted ball came to the top from within the object. The ball then rested on the top." They do not know if the ball was directly connected to the rest of the object by anything. When the ball came out it was already spinning in a right to left direction.

The little ball also had a band of lights around its middle which were yellowish-white in color and spinning in a right to left direction. Bryant described the ball like "a big fortune teller's globe that was lighted up and kind of cloudy." The little ball appeared to be about 1/3 the size of the top half of the cone (he never did try to give an estimated size to the object overall). While this was happening the entire object was moving and at times it stopped or hovered. The object proceeded to move around the perimeter of the Marina side of the Bay (north of their viewing position).

The object seemed to follow the lights along the shore. When it entered a dark area it appeared to speed up to the next light along the shore at which it would then slow down again. It followed this same pattern moving overall in a westerly direction until it reached the north end of the Golden Gate Bridge. It then proceeded to move along under the bridge until it reached the San

Francisco side (the south end of the bridge). While moving under the bridge it did stop once (perhaps to take in the view?) and then proceeded on to the S.F. side.

All the time the little ball never left the object and it always remained spinning. Once the object reached the S.F. side Mimi became frightened and wanted to leave. Bryant on the other hand was very interested and excited by it all but he decided to leave because his wife was getting very upset. From beginning to end the whole experience lasted about 20 minutes until they left.

They did look for people around them as additional witnesses but saw no one at first. When they drove off, they did notice a parked car some distance down the Marina on the other side of a building. They decided to get the attention of a couple inside the car. However when they noticed that the couple were necking, Bryant felt uncomfortable about bothering them so they did not.

Bryant (who spent a short time in the Air Force) and Mimi felt it was definitely not a helicopter (a fairly common sight at times in the area), a plane or any other man-made or natural object. Also Mimi stated that they saw no boat on the bay at any time during the sighting. There were no physical effects on them and they noticed none on the car.

WITNESSES

Both are friendly and talkative, especially Bryant. Bryant was at the time of the sighting 19 years of age and Mimi appeared to be about 20 (I did not get her age). Bryant was employed full-time as a head bus boy at a major San Francisco hotel. To the best of my knowledge Mimi did not work at the time. He is a high school graduate who has never attended college. Having served a short tour in the Air Force, Bryant claims to be fairly familiar with Air Force aircraft (given his short tour I tend to believe he is only very limited in his familiarization of Air Force aircraft). Both had only a minor interest in UFO phenomena prior to the sighting, even though Mimi admitted to me that she did once read a paperback book about UFO's. She does not remember the

book's title. In short, both witnesses seem fairly intelligent and neither seem likely to be the type to create a hoax. At least to this investigator. They are convinced they did not imagine their experience and that it happened as they described.

CONCLUSION

The fact that there were no other witnesses to corroborate the event of course keeps this from being a higher caliber sighting. There was a report that someone (male) saw the same or similar object that same early morning. However, all efforts to locate him did not result in success. The local S.F. police stated that no other reports of anything unusual were reported on that day or morning. It should be pointed out that the witnesses did try to first call a local T.V. station in order to report their sighting and see if anyone else might have seen it.

The station stated it received no other reports, however, someone from the station might call back in order to setup an interview with the witnesses for a later broadcast. Bryant then called information and received a phone number for a local UFO hot-line reporting service (Amalgamated Flying Saucer Club of America).

It should be pointed out that after they reported their experience to the police and one full day after their sighting, the same local T.V. station interviewed the witnesses at the Marina but never aired the interview due to the lack of verification by other witnesses.

Despite the lack of additional witnesses, I am still confident that this case is not a hoax or an example of the witnesses' wild imagination. Cone-shaped UFO's have been reported before. So their description of the object is not totally unique. Therefore, until I receive evidence to the contrary, my final conclusion is that this was more likely the sighting of a real UFO than a misidentified aircraft. I shall leave it up to the reader to make his/her own conclusion as to what was seen.

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THE RENDLESHAM FOREST MYSTERY

Jenny Randles

The case reported herein was first alluded to by the author in a "late item" which found its way into Volume 20, No. 6 of *Flying Saucer Review* (page iii of cover) and fuller details were promised in due course. Here then are those details.

WHEN reading the works of Leonard Stringfield, for example "Retrievals of the Third Kind" in FSR Volume 25, Numbers, 4, 5 and 6, and of Charles Berlitz, *The Roswell Incident* (Granada paperback 1982), one wonders why the alleged UFO crashes always occur in America, and always in deserts. Why, indeed, have they never occurred in more recent years. One is forced to conclude that we would never get such a tale in dear old conservative Britain. Or would we?

Where there's smoke there's fire — or more smoke!

In February 1981 I received a phone-call from East Anglian author Paul Begg. Paul, best known for his *Thin Air* book (a praiseworthy sceptical examination of mysterious vanishings), looks for answers, not speculations. So what he had to tell me sounded worth checking out.

It seems that Paul and his wife had met a man in their local village pub who was slightly known to them, and presumably knew of Paul's interests. He decided to relate an episode which, he said, had occurred a few weeks previously (we think on Tuesday, December 30, 1980). According to him, the civil radar establishment where he worked had on that day tracked a UFO. It was night, and their base (one of many such systems that litter the strategic East Anglian region) had recorded this unusual target heading towards Suffolk and the general region to the east of Ipswich. This man had not been on duty when the incident had happened, but his friend had, and he had got the story from him. Allegedly the target was reported to other radar systems on the south east coast (both civil and military) and was checked against all known air movements. It was uncorrelated. This was the only part their station played in the affair (although they knew other places had recorded it too). But they were left in doubt about the status of the incident when the US Air Force came along a couple of days later and took away the tapes of the radar trackings of this UFO.

Being in a sensitive area viz-a-viz the Official Secrets Act readers will appreciate we cannot name this "witness." But he did agree to talk to us, and, thanks to Paul, UFOIN members Kevin McClure (a specialist in sorting out rumours) and Peter Warrington (our most experienced radar case investigator) checked with

him. The story, as verifiable as it can be, was as I have given. One rider added was that they were led to believe, by the USAF people who collected the tapes, that the "anomaly" had landed not far from Woodbridge Air Force Base (indeed it was suggested even on the base), and that a metallic craft, plus entities, was encountered. Electromagnetic effects on a military jeep which approached the site were also claimed.

So, we had ourselves a rumour of an extraordinary story, but little more than that. Merely anecdotal, "a friend of a friend told me" type stuff, from which one can hardly build mountains. Was there smoke behind the smoke, or a glimmering of a real fire? All we knew was that the radar man *seemed* to be telling the truth, and had no obvious reason to lie about this. Then came news which changed everything.

The wonder of Woodbridge

Norman Oliver was at that time (February 1981) still editor of *BUFORA Journal*. As such he picked up stories from all over the world. One day, about this time, he received a half-garbled account from the USA that "something big" had happened at Woodbridge around the turn of the year. The gist of the rumour was the same. The difference was that this came from a US serviceman now back in the States who, possibly, thus felt more free to talk.

This was all rather interesting, but not half as interesting as what was going on, unbeknownst to the rest of us, in rural Suffolk itself. When I called Bob Easton (the nearest UFOIN member to the Woodbridge base . . . though still many miles away in Essex) I intended to tell him of the story, but he told me of the Norman Oliver aspect, and that local BUFORA investigators were on to it as well, and finding things out!

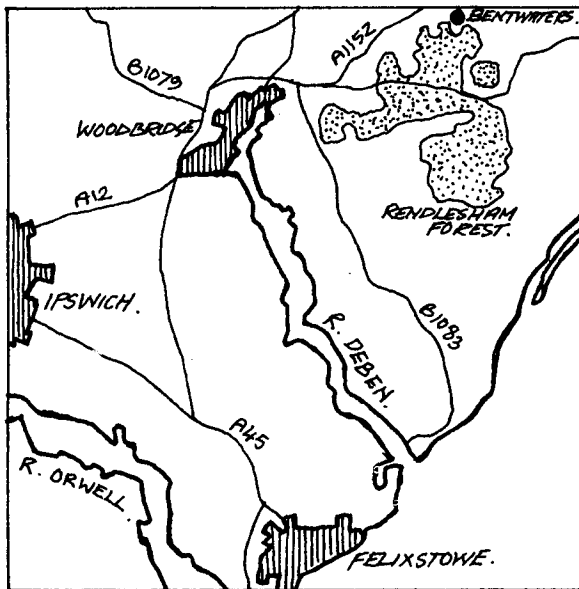
These local investigators were Brenda Butler — who was closest, in Leiston, about 10 miles north of the area in question — and her friend Dot Street, based twenty miles further north in Lowestoft. The two young women covered a vast, mostly rural area, more or less on their own. Suffolk is such a low-density population region that it has never generated many investigators, although it certainly has generated some intriguing UFO sightings (underlining the well-attested rule that interesting close encounters are in inverse proportion to the population density). One recalls the classic radar/visual case of August

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1956 (usually known as the Lakenheath case, since most of the multiple ground and air sightings and radar trackings involved that base, although Bentwaters USAF base was initially involved too, and Bent-

present it is impossible to say how much of this is fact and how much fiction generated by the inevitable stories that are sweeping the community."

Scene-set for an Encounter:



Location in East Anglia of Rendlesham Forest.

Rendlesham Forest is a large area of wooded land about eight miles north east of Ipswich and close to the coast. It is surrounded by little more than a few farms. The only habitation of any note is the village of Woodbridge at the western edge. The USAF bases lie some three or four miles to the north of the forest. Earth mystery lovers will no doubt be interested to know that there are *tumulii*, and a number of "ley" place names in the region. Should anybody want to land, the woods could be ideal. There are spots open enough for this to occur, while the woods themselves would afford cover. And the very desolate surroundings would certainly reduce the number of potential witnesses to a minimum.

The discovery of substance behind the shadow

Clearly crucial to an understanding of what, if anything, really happened, is the local follow up by Brenda Butler and Dot Street. Brenda prepared a multi-page report on their work in March 1981. She circulated a few copies, and I received one. It is somewhat confusing in that it suffers from being a personal description with no real chronology. None of the half-dozen witnesses cited in it are named, or even given any status other than Witness 1, 2 or 3 etc. I have talked with both Brenda and Dot in an effort to clarify what the report implies and I think I have this clear. What follows is a summary, with additional data that Brenda ventured to me during a January 1982 discussion.

waters, whilst a USAF-leased base, is alongside Woodbridge, the subject of our 1980 case). This Lakenheath R/V is still regarded as one of the two or three best cases in UFO history. It has defied attempts to solve it and really *must* have set our Ministry of Defence thinking very seriously about UFOs — if they were not already so doing. Indeed many internal sources have told me that is so.

Dot and Brenda had picked up the story on their own initiative, and were chasing it with some haste, as indeed they are *still* doing in 1982). This sudden independent coming-together of *three* closely linked rumours, made us think very carefully that something might really be behind them all. Yet, despite the incredible nature of the information emerging, the media were *not* latching on to it. This seemed, and still seems, baffling. It is the kind of story any local newspaper would surely fight for. But aside from a local BBC interview which Brenda did in Autumn 1981 — which was not picked up nationally — and a London *Standard* reference to the case in May, there has not been any effort by the media to crack open this affair.

The London *Standard* piece emerged, in fact, from an interview with me, whilst I was promoting my then just-published book *UFO Study*. It was well done and factual, not exaggerating the story. It merely quoted from a half-page "progress report" I wrote at this point for FSR, *Military Contact Alleged at Air Base*: "At

It now transpires that Brenda discovered the incident within days of its having taken place, a month before the other rumours surfaced. Her informant was a personal friend at the USAF base, an officer who has confided UFO information to her before. On this occasion she was told not to discuss the matter publicly. Afraid, both for his sake, and because she wanted to get more inside information from him in future, she complied with his request. She only began to follow up when *other* sources informed her of the incident, and later when the existence of the Begg and Oliver rumours became known

The primary witness (the officer) claims that this is not the first incident of this magnitude which has happened in the vicinity of the base, although this was the most impressive as it involved *contact*. His story, told initially and confirmed on follow-up in February 1981, is as follows:

On December 30, 1980, a farmer in the vicinity of the forest called the base to advise them that he had just seen an aircraft crash into the Forest. The base

police went out to check on the claim and came back saying: "there's a UFO in the woods!" (This would be at an unspecified time, but at night. Someone from the base newspaper heard of this, and went to the scene armed with still and movie cameras, and in fact is said to have *filmed* the object on the ground! The base commander, meanwhile, ordered a high-level team to visit the site, involving himself, the chief of security, police, and several other high-ranking officers. The base commander expressly forbade any of the group to take weapons with them.) At the site the object was on the ground apparently damaged on the outside. Entities (three of them, about 3 feet tall, and in silvery suits) were suspended in mid air beside the craft within shafts of light. They were repairing their damaged craft. The base commander confiscated all the cameras from the Base press sources, and demanded a total news blackout. He himself (alone) spoke with the aliens whilst they worked. The object was on the ground (for four hours) before climbing to hover briefly over treetops and then shoot away at great speed. Next day an A10 aircraft was sent over the forest looking for radiation traces. They found some. Meanwhile all personnel on the base were issued with strict instructions not to discuss the affair publicly. This informant spoke to Brenda only on strictly confidential terms and even then refused to answer two specific questions viz: the precise shape of the landed craft, and the subjects discussed in conversation with the aliens.

Related anomalies?

At about this time, while Brenda was the only ufologist to know of this affair, a number of possibly related anomalies came to her notice which might well be of some interest. The first stemmed from a discussion she had with a man (not military) who is sometimes called into the base to do major electrical repairs. He, not knowing about the crash rumours, told the following tale, from supposedly the same time span, and *possibly* the same date:

The man was called to the base because the lights on the runway had all gone out . . . mysteriously. He was not told what had caused this . . . indeed the base refused to tell him! The weather was very cold and it was night. He was led to the runway to fix them, which he did, under an *armed guard* of six men. It was this he found most odd, because he has never been so treated on other visits to the base.

Brenda also discovered through her local information net — which does seem impressive — that forestry workers in Rendlesham had discovered a section of forest with the tops of trees scorched. They had reported this to the Air Base, and were told to keep it quiet although, presumably, they were not informed why.

On February 12, 1981, mystery bangs were alle-

gedly heard in the area of the forest. One forestry worker tried to find out what these were, and was advised they were due to unexploded bombs being exploded on Orford Island — off the coast a few miles away. Brenda checked with the police but they did *not* confirm this explanation. Indeed they had none to offer. Three bangs were apparently heard at intervals of 20 minutes. This informant was asked if he knew anything about an object crashing into the woods. He agreed he did, but had been informed it was an aircraft. Since there had been no mention of this in the press he found it hard to believe.

An investigation is mounted

In view of the coalescing rumours that *something* had happened (a few other sources had advised her of an "aircrash") Brenda decided to act. She called Dot Street and gave her some information. They took the bull by the horns, called the base commander, and made an appointment to see him! This was at 4.00pm on February 18, seven weeks after the "crash". They asked the commander specific questions but he would not answer them. In return he queried them on their UFO knowledge. Ultimately they were told to contact the Ministry of Defence as all the Base UFO reports — certainly implying they had some — went to the Ministry. (It does seem to me that some unit in the USA must have been informed too.) Incidentally the MOD were contacted. They told Brenda that they ". . . did not know anything of such an incident" and advised her to contact the base commander!

According to the primary witness (the officer) this visit seems to have had some repercussions. The commander is said to have called a meeting of his officers in an effort to discover who had leaked the story. The "culprit" was not discovered, but one respected officer was allegedly shipped straight back to the USA. It is claimed that this was because suspicion fell on him that he was an "informant to ufologists." In view of these after-effects Brenda's decision not to disclose the names, or in some cases the nature of her information sources, was greatly strengthened.

From their meeting with the base commander, when they formed the distinct impression that he knew very well what they had been talking about, the two women went to the Forest. It was now growing dark, and they only knew the alleged landing area in a vague sense, but drove to where they thought it was. The forest is about three miles from the base, and they drove into it and along towards a clearing, close to the site. At this point Brenda goes on to describe a curious incident which may suffer from personalised interpretations and over imagination. Dot Street, however, confirms it did occur.

It seems the car suddenly began to vibrate. It accelerated, reaching 60/70 mph, and was quite out of control so far as Brenda, the driver, was concerned. Dot

was scared, and believing Brenda was doing it on purpose to frighten her, told her to stop. In the back seat was Brenda's eight-year-old Alsatian. It was whimpering and leaping about madly. After about half a mile the car suddenly stopped and the dog calmed down. The women were scared. (I was to discover by a curious synchronous coincidence — which is quite another story — that Brenda's dog has had a heart condition since birth and does suffer heart attacks periodically . . . these cause the dog to jump around until given medication. This may or may not be relevant, but should be mentioned as it is not in their report.)

While Brenda checked the car engine — finding nothing wrong with it — Dot saw a house on the edge of the woods, and went off to see if it was occupied. Brenda was none too keen on being left alone in the gathering gloom, and so tried to restart the car. It worked perfectly. She drove off after her colleague. At the house Dot was talking with two elderly gentlemen, and Brenda joined in the questioning.

These two men said there had been a great deal of military activity in the woods during the previous month or so. Their house lights had also flashed on and off at times and TV reception was poorer than normal. They knew nothing of a UFO or "crash".

They drove out of the forest the way they had come. They had had quite a debate as to whether they should risk this. They found an empty house, and met a man in a white car who thought ". . . we were doing a check of animals dying in the woods" which, apparently, is not as peculiar as it might sound, as most major woodlands have such periodic checks. On the way out the car began to vibrate, and the oil and ignition lights flashed on and off. It also skidded. Whilst the women clearly think this might be important, I am forced to wonder if an old car, on a rough track in winter, might not have a loose connection shaken about by the terrain? Not that I know much about cars!

A flood of witnesses

By now, thoroughly intrigued, the investigators did all they could to seek out the truth. In doing so they found several other "nameless" persons who ventured what they knew. In the main this complied with previous stories, and the Begg and Oliver rumours. Some features differed from the allegedly first-hand story, given to Brenda soon after the event, and it must be realised that these witnesses are passing on what they heard rather than what they saw. Some of the "detail" may thus be seen as icing sprinkled on to the cake by constant retelling and imagination. Also bear in mind that some of these people did not request anonymity. Brenda is merely giving it to them in view of the MOD and security associations of the affair.

Aspects of these three separate tales, coming primarily from airmen at the base, and which agree with

the story so far, are these: Farmer made report; commander and high rank officers went out there; UFO had crashed, but was repaired; entities were seen; radiation and heat counts next day revealed traces, marks left on trees at site. Some aspects which differ, i.e. new elements in these three tales, are: As the UFO took off the ground beneath it glowed temporarily with intense heat; the UFO was on three legs separated by 30 feet each; the area was cordoned off for several days, and those enquiring were told that an aircraft had crashed, although no general news story to this effect was ever released; about two weeks after the incident the farmer who had first made the report told the base his cattle were playing up, and his lights and TV flashing. He was told merely that there had been an air-crash. But one of Brenda's contacts on the base insists ". . . there were no aircraft up that night."

It would seem from this that we must treat this latter batch of details, save the air-crash story which appears consistent, as rather more insubstantiated, and possibly fantasy. There does, however, seem to be a core aspect to the story. Note that the "EM effects on the jeep" feature, which came via the officers who took the radar tape, is *not* confirmed in any of the stories from the base.

A return to the woods

Brenda and Dot went back to Rendlesham Forest to check out the exact landing site, which had now been confirmed by one of the other base contacts. It was very close to where they had gone, by "accident", and where, allegedly, the car effects took place. The site was in a "restricted area" and it seems that it might be land owned by the base. They actually passed a sign which read: ENTRY ONLY BY PERMISSION OF THE BASE COMMANDER, BENTWATERS. However, they passed this to approach the Forestry Commission Office, and they discussed the case with two forestry officers who were there. They knew some details, but did not seem acquainted with *all* the features of the primary rumour. They added, from the subsidiary rumours, the bit about the farmer's cattle acting up, plus comment that the UFO was very brightly lit, and had been erratic on take-off. They were given permission to go to the site, but the area was under snow and they decided to put this off for a while. What they did do was to go in search of the farmer.

At the first smallholding, about half a mile from the forest, the farmer and his wife denied seeing anything, but said they had heard a UFO had come down on Woodbridge land. They also told them that two men had visited them, soon after the incident, looking for the farmer who had reported the event. The farmer's wife, incidentally, said there was only one man. The two forestry officials had previously told Brenda and Dot that one man had been asking them questions while searching for the farmer just two days after the

"crash" on New Year's Day 1981. They had no idea who he was. The farmer and his wife said they told the man — it could have been men — they presumed it was an aircraft that had come down. The man never returned . . . and guess what? He was dressed in a black suit!

The investigators found the farmer. He refused to talk to them. As they drove off he "eyed the car closely."

Through other sources, the ufologists followed up several reports of LITS seen in the Leiston area between December 27 and 30. One man in a pub told them he had seen a bright light one night during this period *over* Rendlesham Forest. He presumed it was an aircraft, but was slightly puzzled why it stayed in one spot for 20 minutes.

Ipswich and Woodbridge police were both contacted. Brenda says: "they definitely knew something," but shunted her back and forth with "you'll have to talk to the Base Commander . . . we can't tell you anything." They even tried to get the local newspaper interested. The Leiston office called the HQ in Ipswich with Brenda listening. They did not react as they normally do in such circumstances, telling the local reporter to check it out . . . they said: "Leave it!" Brenda and Dot believe that the press may have been prevented from following the case by application of pressure from official sources.

Brenda and Dot's second visit to the Forest was on February 24, 1981. On March 9 they called the Forestry Commission again and spoke to one of the two officers they had met earlier. He was abrupt and denied all knowledge of the incident! Through a contact in the Forestry service the women tried to get to the site, but they were told that "for some strange reason" this was not possible. The area in question had suddenly been burnt to the ground for no obvious reason. This was on February 26 . . . two days after their visit to the Forestry Commission Offices.

Paul Begg told me in London in October 1981 that he had run up against a brick wall of denials when he tried to check things out. Nobody admitted to knowing anything. Similarly, Bob Easton, the BUFORA Co-ordinator for Brenda and Dot's region, has met a barrage of denials and continual shuntings from person to person and office to office. He told me: "I think something genuinely *did* happen . . . but beyond that I can't go." At my request he and Andy Collins are hopefully going to visit the area to have another try.

What is the explanation?

I now know just how Berlitz and Len Stringfield (compiler of the original USA crash stories for his FSR series) must have felt. I am sure that Brenda and Dot are telling the truth. And I respect their reasons for maintaining anonymity of witnesses. This is a sensitive issue and the move is a wise one. I hope, however, these people will be willing to talk with strictly vetted persons . . . and I think some of them will.

Did a UFO crash? An honest assessment of this case suggests, as incredible as it might seem, that there is at least a good possibility that the essence of the story is true. The whole thing does gell together rather well. So far as I can see there is little doubt that *something* very curious happened that night, which, for some reason, officialdom is hushing up. For it all to be rumour seems most improbable, as too many people claim to have seen things, and there is a considerable consistency. And if rumour, why not denounce it . . . and why obtain the civilian radar tapes? Not that rumours are well-known for turning up on radar screens!

A cover-story clearly emerged that the crashed object was a plane — perhaps thanks to the farmer's thinking that was what it must have been? But why cover up a plane-crash in woodland? And how do you get this plane out of there afterwards? And why again take away the radar tapes? The "plane crash" story would be an effective way of deflecting interest. And there is a story from one source that the plane which crashed had some kind of nasty weapon inside — hence the radiation? But *could* such a crash be hidden — presumably to prevent panic or public outcries against "necessary" military deployments? I have grave doubts about the ethics of all this, if that really is the answer. Maybe the UFO story was seeded to hide the crash. But it seems to be the other way round. For it was the plane-crash rumour that was spread to farmers and foresters. The UFO rumour came only to restricted sources. Realistically a UFO crash does seem a better explanation.

Brenda Butler is fair in her assessment, with which I concur: "We must have an open mind. It may have been a UFO . . . or a secret experiment of some sort." We are *not* giving up. Lord Clancarty is looking at the government angle for us. Lawyer Harry Harris is probing the legality of this apparent cover-up of *something*. Brenda and Dot are plugging away . . . "We intend to find out what *really* happened. If we do, we'll let you know.

* * * * *

RENDLESHAM RE-VISITED

By Jennie Zeidman

By now, ufologists and ufobuffs alike are familiar with the Rendlesham Forest Affair. The night of December 27, 1980, a UFO allegedly crash-landed in a forest near a U.S. Air Base (RAF Woodbridge) in Suffolk, England. U.S. personnel went to the site, and the Base Commander communicated with three alien entities during the several hours the triangular-shaped craft was grounded for repairs. Two nights later, at the same site, the Deputy Base Commander (Lt. Col. Charles Halt) and others were treated to a repeat visit by strange pulsing lights. Halt made a "real-time" audio tape of that event.

The case "belongs" to Jenny Randles, Dot Street, and Brenda Butler. Dot and Brenda, relatively inexperienced, non-scientifically oriented UFO investigators (Dot, BUFORA; Brenda, independent) did most of the leg work, while Jenny, internationally respected Chief of Investigations for BUFORA, was their mentor, coaching from the sidelines at her home in Warrington, near Liverpool. Their book, *Sky Crash*,¹ is a convoluted chronology of their investigation which creates more mysteries than it solves: It concerns itself not so much with their findings (which were few) but with their great difficulties with witnesses and government agencies. The contention is that there exists a gigantic conspiratorial coverup on the case.

VISIT

I spent all day April 9, 1985, with Dot Street—in Woodbridge village, in Rendlesham Forest, and at the site, and the following Saturday evening in London—with Dot, Jenny Randles, Peter Warrington, Hilary Evans, Tomothy Good, et al, at a BUFORA meeting where the topic was British Government cover-up, and the speaker was Ralph Noyes, a former Air Ministry Intelligence Officer. Upon his



RALPH NOYES and JENNY RANGLES

—Photo by Jennie Zeidman

HALT'S ROLE

retirement in 1977, Noyes was head of DS-8, the office "in charge of UFO matters." Jenny said having Ralph Noyes lecture BUFORA was equivalent to having Ed Ruppelt lecture CUFOS.

None of this makes me an expert on the RFA (Rendlesham Forest Affair); however I believe it has given me a perspective on the case that I haven't seen elsewhere, and I'd like to make a few comments to that effect. If nothing more, the moles among us may enjoy a few hearty laughs.²

In our "usual" cases, we (the investigators) interrogate witnesses who are cooperative to the best of their abilities, i.e., they're "on our side," they are truly puzzled, and they are looking to us for help. In the RFA (as presented in *Sky Crash*), just the opposite is true: the primary witness has done his best to impede the investigation and confuse, mislead, and even tease the investigators.

I consider the primary witness to be Col. Halt. He is admittedly an eyewitness, and it is he who is identified as the originator of two of the four documents (that I am aware of) on the case.

As a point of view, the four documents are:

- Halt's memo to the Ministry of Defense, dated 1/31/81
- Halt's audio tape, allegedly made in "real-time," 12/29/80
- MOD memo, lightly censored, undated, leaked to Jenny Randles
- MOD letter to Jenny re: 12/27 events, dated April 13, 1983.

Once a document (written, tape, photo, whatever) is introduced into a scenario, it becomes an "exhibit" of

←continued next page)

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DOT STREET

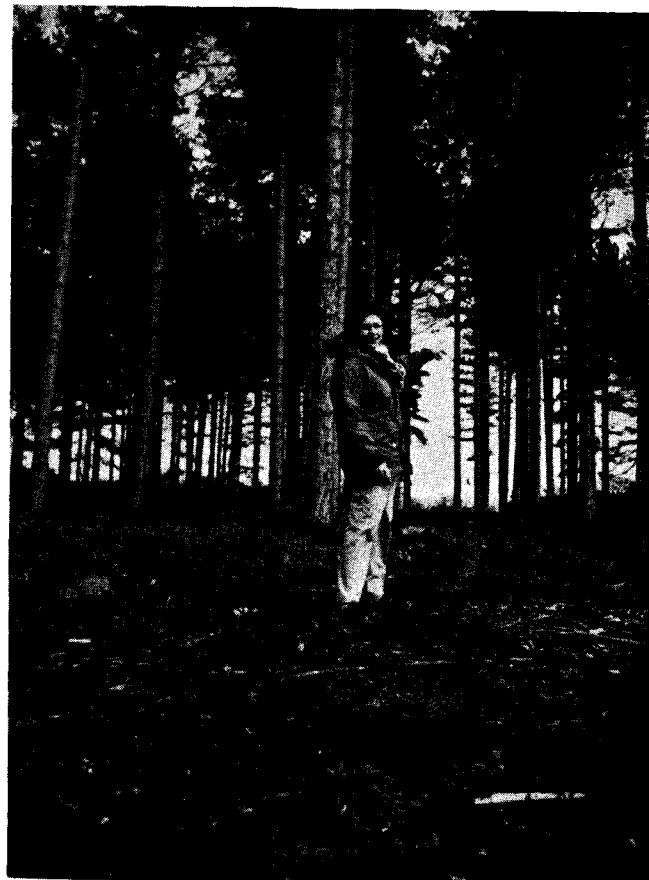
-Photo by Jennie Zeidman

RENDELESHAM, Continued

hard evidence--*whether true or false*--and it cannot be disregarded, for (paranoia hats on, everyone!) if false, it nevertheless has been created and disseminated for a purpose. The person identified as responsible for the creation of that document has put himself on the line, whether of his own volition or on orders, and he must forever be associated with that document, regardless of its legitimacy.

Col. Halt has certainly put himself on the line.

But not all the problems with the case revolve around Col. Halt. The hard facts are that of the few alleged eye-witnesses, much of their testimony has been surrendered reluctantly, and none of their testimony (in the book) has been offered verbatim. We know that Dot and Brenda had a tape recorder, yet we are offered no question and answer transcripts or even dialogue--only generalities, sometimes second-and-third generation ones, at that (Pat Begg



ZEIDMAN IN RENDELESHAM FOREST

—Photo by Dot Street

told Jenny that he had heard, etc.....).

The information therefore becomes anecdotal, not testimonial. Fine nuances and intricacies of tone and language are lost. Granted, we are not in a court of law, where verbiage of this sort is inadmissible. But we are in a court of science, where any and every shred of subjectivity or generality muddies our case. And many a court case has been lost not because that side was *wrong*, but because it was ill-prepared. The testimony did not convince the jurors. Jurors become discouraged and negatively disposed when offered a can of worms.

Of course *Sky Crash* was constructed anecdotally for wider reader appeal, and I respect that choice of treatment by the authors. It was not intended as a technical report. And that's too bad, because I suspect that if scraped down to the bare bones, rich marrow could yet be retrieved. Going through the book--and the investigators' original tapes and notes--line by line, and constructing flow charts, could be of value in sorting

things out--a method of discovering consistencies and discrepancies (and just which character did what, and with what, to whom!).

CAUTION

But caution is advised. Some of the material is simply not true--and not necessarily from witness testimony but from false premises put forward by the authors. E.g.; the morning after our arrival at Woodbridge, I asked my husband's liaison, Sgt. Verg Yarbrough, how long he'd been on base. "Five years come June," he replied. "Gosh," I said (battling eyelashes), "that's a long time! Why you must have been here when the UFO landed!" "Yeah," He said. "Did you see it?" I asked, "Do you know anything about it?" "No," he replied, "I just heard about it from other fellows." Best thing, you get the book. There's a book out on it--it's for sale at the bookstore--it'll tell you all about it."

(continued on page 15)

Bentwaters—Part I

Did a UFO land beside a NATO base in England?

by Jenny Randies

Just after Christmas 1980, something extraordinary shattered the peace of a wintery English woods. A mysterious object fell from the night skies and created the most important close encounter in British UFO history.

Lights in the sky

After 13 years of cover-up by the British and U.S. governments, we can piece together a possible account of what happened. NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) may have been rocked, and the balance of power upset between the United Kingdom and the U.S.

Just after 9:45 P.M. (local Greenwich Mean Time (G.M.T.) on December 25, 1980, several lights traversed the skies of northern Europe. Described as looking like comets breaking up into many pieces, they passed from northern Portugal toward Germany and were seen by several witnesses in the Southern English counties of Kent and Sussex, as well as the crew of a plane carrying tourists to Spain. 46

Officially, this incident was explained as the atmospheric re-entry of a booster rocket from a launched

Soviet satellite.

Several other bright lights were seen in the skies of southern England, followed by a huge, white fire that drifted gracefully through the air around 2:50 A.M. on December 26, which was explained as a meteor.

Witnesses were dazzled in an area sprinkled with air bases and huge radar monitors (at Royal Air Force (RAF)) at Watton, near the city of Norwich in southeastern England. Several bases are leased to the U.S. Air Force (USAF) to maintain their presence in Europe; an obsolete Cold War arrangement. In 1980, this was the situation at Bentwaters and Woodbridge, just two miles apart in the woodlands of Rendlesham Forest, surrounded by a few isolated villages.

In one village lived businessman Gordon Levett. He was putting his watchdog into an out building at this lonely coastal spot. Suddenly they sensed a glow in the sky and looked upward. It crossed from the north and moved silently, glowing like an upside-down phosphorescent mushroom tinged faintly with green. It hovered above them. Seconds later it was gone, passing be-

hind trees toward the forest and the Woodbridge base.

Almost simultaneously two witnesses at Paco de Arcos in Portugal, watching the so-called satellite re-entry, developed skin rashes and became ill.

Meanwhile, at Watton, radar base operators tracked what might have been the same UFO. They made contact as it crossed the coast and watched as it descended southward. They lost it near Rendlesham Forest and phoned around to discover if any other radar site had tracked it. They learned that it had been seen from the Bentwaters and Woodbridge bases, and were told to retain the video radar records for future investigation. They were visited by intelligence officers from the USAF a couple of days later, who took these records, telling staff at Watton that it was a UFO which had come down near Woodbridge air base and been observed by senior military personnel.

After a decade, the only thing that Watton has been prepared to affirm in writing was that the Woodbridge/Bentwaters base spoke to them about a UFO sighting just after 3 A.M. on the morning of December 28. This was one of many sightings made by base personnel over the next few days. Witnesses tell us there were sky watch parties of off-duty airmen, due to the commotion created by the initial encounters. As for what occurred dur-

ing the primary landing and radar contact, both Watton and the British Ministry of Defense have been silent.

Three-legged disk

In January 1981, only days after the sighting, I spoke with a radar officer at the base, who was present when the intelligence officers visited and took the evidence away.

Another radar officer says he tracked the object and passed on evidence about the altitude from which the UFO descended, far above an aircraft's ceiling. It was so high he cannot tell me the altitude, because it would reveal details of the radar's limitations, strictly prohibited under Britain's Official Secrets Act.

When they interviewed me under armed guard in August 1983, I confronted the London Ministry of Defense staff, who seemed shocked that I had obtained data under America's Freedom of Information Act on a case they had hidden for three years. They admitted that they checked radar films for that night in 1980 (plus several later nights) but failed to match the objects on them with the UFOs seen. As to how they knew all of this without viewing records or keeping documents (which they allege do not exist), I was told that, by coincidence, the case had been used as a recent training exercise for a senior staff briefing.

The first eyewitness, a sergeant with the base security police at

Bentwaters—Part I



Airman Larry Warren, RAF Bentwaters in the spring of 1981.

Photo credit: Larry Warren

Bentwaters, came forward on January 6, 1981, less than two weeks after the incident took place. He reported being called out to the woods just outside the runway perimeter fence to investigate reports of strange lights seen by guards stationed there. There he saw a disk-like object resting on three legs within a clearing. Beams of light emerged from the underside and suspended within these beams—hanging literally in mid-air—were several alien beings.

Allen beings repair craft



They had large domed heads and huge round eyes, and were repairing a damaged craft with senior Air Force officers in attendance—including the base commander, who denies this story. Then the UFO departed.

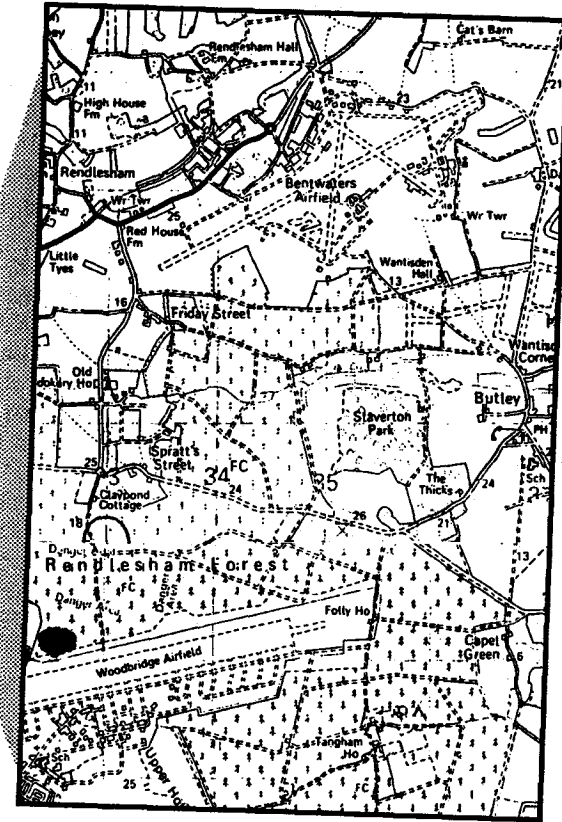
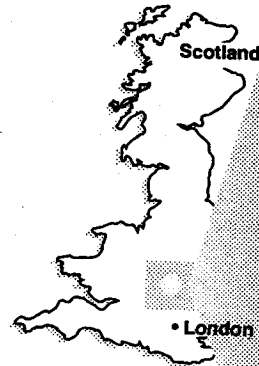
According to the security patrol

sergeant: “The figures were small— about three feet two inches (1.00 meter)...they all seemed identical and wore silver clothing that covered them all over. A beam of light was coming from beneath the object and they were suspended in this...I felt that telepathy was involved...Many people saw this. We were told to keep quiet.”

This man had been a friend of local ghost hunter Brenda Butler for several years. He shared his story with her, claiming he could not keep the awesome truth to himself. She asked permission to tell BUFORA investigator Dot Street, who lived nearby, as Butler had no ufology background. Her contact agreed, as he did to letting me in on the report in February 1981, when it reached the ears of Butler and Street that I had chanced upon knowledge of the same incident via the radar base operator at RAF Watton.

A dozen eyewitnesses have come forward who claim to have seen what happened on one of the three nights (December 25, 26 and 27) when objects were seen in the forest. Here is some of what they have to say.

Airman Larry Warren: “I saw a red light, and I could not tell if it was moving, but it seemed to get bigger and it approached very slowly...The red light burst—it seemed to explode, but silently, into multi-colors...It was beyond comprehension...there was a ship on the ground in the same spot...It was



Map of England and inset showing Rendlesham Forest landing site.

Credit: Peter Robbins



The landing site in Rendlesham Forest with discoloration effect in a photo taken in June of 1990. Credit: Peter Robbins

The British government admitted in writing to a UFO investigator that they possessed evidence for an unexplained sighting made by trained military observers.

The USAF also confirmed the story a few days later, without comment.

The next morning the whole area was cleared to the ground. Trees were chopped down and stubble was burnt to a cinder. The landing site was destroyed overnight. The orders were initiated by the forestry commission's head office.

In 1983 I wrote *Sky Crash*, (G.W. Daniel, 1984, updated in 1986 by Grafton Books, London), which told the story of our largely frustrated endeavors. The British and American governments still denied any knowledge of the incident, but that evasion soon underwent a remarkable transformation.

Confirmation of UFO

In April 1983 I received a letter from the British Defense Ministry, confirming the story. Strange lights had been seen in the forest by military personnel from the base. "No explanation was ever forthcoming."

This was given to UFO investigators from the group CAUS in Connecticut, according to Barry Greenwood.

* Former Bentwaters commander, Colonel Ted Conrad, and British base commander, Squadron Leader Donald Moreland, confirmed with *Omni* that there had been a close encounter. Neither had witnessed it, but they believed the men who had. Moreland, who supervised the American presence for the RAF, met Butler and Street in February 1981 (he assumed they were government investigators until they pointed out otherwise). Once he learned that they were ufologists, he refused to discuss the case, but had already said enough to give the game away. There had been an encounter of sufficient magnitude for him to expect a visit from the Ministry in London.

huge lights. He allegedly told the USAF that it must have been one of their planes and demanded compensation for some of his beasts hit by a taxi after they fled into the road. They dismissed the claim because they had no aircraft flying at 3 A.M. Then he heard UFO rumors in the local pubs and suggested that if it was not an aircraft, it must have been the UFO, adding that the base should protect people from intruding craft.

The farmer vanished, but years later we found a man who had helped him round up his cattle. He told us that the farmer had been paid compensation and moved away. We tracked him to a new home hundreds of miles away, and he confirmed that he had been compensated (which the USAF denies). He only said, "Whatever it were, it were not enough."

A salesman driving through the woods saw something in the sky, as did a courting couple who had parked off the road near the end of a runway. A family returning from a Christmas party all saw a glowing mass of lights falling into the forest.

An electrician was constantly guarded while repairing impact wreckage on the base's runway lights, near the forest edge. A forestry worker had come upon marks in the earth and a huge hole smashed through trees, as if an object had fallen out of the sky. He reported it to his employers, who speculated about an air crash.

nothing like a spaceship or saucer... It did not have a smooth surface. It was silverish/white...It just glowed."

Sergeant Alan Benson, a security policeman: "The object was hovering low, like moving up and down... There was a red light on top and there were several blue lights on the bottom, but there was also, like, maybe a prism...rainbow lights on top...It was a round, circular shape; I hate to say like a plate, but it was thicker at the center than at the edge."

For the first three years we only had snatches of testimony, often from anonymous sources calling from the base.

By February 1981, two months after the sightings, there had been no publicity whatsoever (I reported it to the UFO press soon afterward). Aside from the two early unofficial leaks to Butler and me, everyone on base was keeping quiet. At least one man who was considered a risk (he was overheard telling his mother about the case while on the phone to America) was immediately sent home. There have been suggestions that a "D" (Defense) notice was applied (used only if the government believes a story will compromise national security).

Two years of investigation in bars and shops of villages around the forest revealed people who had seen something unexpected. Their stories, seen as part of a pattern, made sense.

A farmer reported cattle upset by

(H)

In 1983, *Omni* magazine's story was of a small craft moving in and out of the trees, escaping pursuit by USAF. This description was similar to that offered by the security police sergeant to Butler two years earlier—or by the USAF intelligence staff to the radar operators at RAF Watton—although the existence of aliens was omitted. It was allegedly just a strange and unexplained craft that baffled the officers sent to investigate it.

Later Moreland was more forthcoming. He said: "I am a Christian and I believe that certain things can happen which we are unable to explain...Whatever (this) was it was able to perform feats in the air which no known aircraft is capable of doing."

Colonel Sam Morgan, the American base commander during the investigation that followed the events, added: "I do not think it is a hoax. I think the men really were out there that night and they saw something which frightened them...based on the evidence available, these guys definitely saw something which cannot be explained."

The presence of aliens was then confirmed to Greenwood by Airman Larry Warren. Warren had been the man sent back to the U.S. for talking on the phone, a story given to us days after it had happened and years before Warren spoke. This confirmed our primary source's authenticity (the security police eye-

witness who first breached the silence to talk to Butler).

In 1983 Warren approached CAUS before any of the official confirmations, but Greenwood recognized that Warren's story matched reports of the incident I had written about in a UFO journal and which, prior to the dramatic *Omni* revelation, were the only published statements about the matter.

Strange things occurred

Warren alleged that he had been taken into the forest and seen a clearing where a UFO was on the ground, surrounded by military personnel guarding it. Strange things occurred and he later confirmed that aliens similar to those described by the security police sergeant were near the UFO. The young airman claimed he was told not to talk about the incident.

Many details (such as his service record) were confirmed by CAUS investigations. They used Warren's testimony, plus the British government's confirmation, to apply the American Freedom of Information Act and get any documentation available, unless it contravenes vital state secrets.

In June 1983, CAUS was sent a copy of the report submitted by the Bentwaters base to the British Ministry of Defense in London at the insistence of Moreland, dispatched a month prior to the visit to his office by Butler and Street. We now see

why he mistakenly assumed they had to be from the government, responding to this memo about something he thought was secret.

The document (see page 54) was signed by Lt. Colonel Charles Halt, then deputy base commander (later promoted to full base commander). Halt and Moreland confirmed it was real—as did the Defense Ministry in London—after hiding it for two and a half years.

This document, one of the most prized possessions in UFO investigation, established that more than one significant encounter had taken place, and cleared up the confusion surrounding the mounting testimony that referred to more than one incident, as follows:

First, a team of security police had gone into the forest in response to sightings of an object crashing (in the early hours of December 26, 1980) and pursued a strange craft through the trees before it outran them and left.

Ground traces (three indentations in the earth forming a triangle) and excess radiation found inside these holes were landing marks left by the UFO and discovered at dawn by investigating officers.

It tied in with Warren's testimony. A team of USAF personnel in the woods the next night, December 27, investigated the strange lights that created a disturbance among local farm animals, also witnessed by Halt.

Bentwaters—Part I

News heard worldwide

In October 1983 we were forced, prematurely, to go public. The banner headline in Britain's top selling newspaper, *The News of the World*, reverberated around the world, provoking questions in the houses of parliament, speculation in most other papers, and a letter to another senior politician written by then government Minister of Defense, Michael Heseltine, who said that there was no cover-up.

Ralph Noyes was for several years the man who headed the British department receiving UFO data from air bases and police. Although retired when Bentwaters occurred, he knew the steps that would be taken in London, and could assess the response of politicians and diplomats.

Noyes said: "We now have evidence, I blush to say of my own Ministry of Defense, that they have lied about this matter—they have covered it up."

In June 1985, Lord Trefgarne, senior British defense minister, responded to an approach by crusading politician, David Alton, who was working with Noyes and me. Trefgarne denied that anything of importance took place or was hidden.

Trefgarne claimed, despite evidence that between 1981 and 1983 the government had denied everything, that "...the events described are of no defense significance... there is no question of attempting

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS 81ST COMBAT SUPPORT GROUP (HEAD)
APO NEW YORK 07155

13 Jan 81



REF ID: CD
ATTN OF: CD
SUBJECT: Unexplained Lights

TO: RAF/CC

1. Early in the morning of 27 Dec 80 (approximately 0300L), two USAF security police patrolmen saw unusual lights outside the back gate at RAF Woodbridge. Thinking an aircraft might have crashed or been forced down, they called for permission to go outside the gate to investigate. The on-duty flight chief responded and allowed three patrolmen to proceed on foot. The individuals reported seeing a strange glowing object in the forest. The object was described as being metallic in appearance and triangular in shape, approximately two to three meters across the base and approximately two meters high. It illuminated the entire forest with a white light. The object itself had a pulsing red light on top and a bank(s) of blue lights underneath. The object was hovering or on legs. As the patrolmen approached the object, it maneuvered through the trees and disappeared. At this time the animals on a nearby farm went into a frenzy. The object was briefly sighted approximately an hour later near the back gate.

2. The next day, three depressions 4 1/2" deep and 7" in diameter were found where the object had been sighted on the ground. The following night (29 Dec 80) the area was checked for radiation. Beta/gamma readings of 0.1 milliroentgens were recorded with peak readings in the three depressions and near the center of the triangle formed by the depressions. A nearby tree had moderate (.05-.07) readings on the side of the tree toward the depressions.

3. Later in the night a red sun-like light was seen through the trees. It moved about and pulsed. At one point it appeared to throw off glowing particles and then broke into five separate white objects and then disappeared. Immediately thereafter, three star-like objects were noticed in the sky, two objects to the north and one to the south, all of which were about 10° off the horizon. The objects moved rapidly in sharp angular movements and displayed red, green and blue lights. The objects to the north appeared to be elliptical through an 8-12 power lens. They then turned to full circles. The objects to the north remained in the sky for an hour or more. The object to the south was visible for two or three hours and beamed down a stream of light from time to time. Numerous individuals, including the undersigned, witnessed the activities in paragraphs 2 and 3.


CHARLES I. HALT, Lt Col, USAF
Deputy Base Commander

to cover up any incident or mishap, nor are we attempting...to obscure the truth."

One year later, the real man in power—the armed forces minister, Roger Freeman, was forced to put his comments on public record.

Was there a threat?

He said, "Clearly there was no threat to the American unit (at the Bentwaters base)....There is, perhaps, doubt in the mind, certainly of the officer who reported the incident, what the occurrence was. But there are things which happen every day where you cannot necessarily explain what has happened or why." In other words, it was a UFO.

Some strongly disputed the view that no official action was taken, including Lord Peter Hill-Norton. A brilliant military tactician and former head of Britain's naval fleet, he later rose to supervise the Ministry of Defense and intended to ask for an explanation after being briefed by UFO investigator Tim Good, Noyes and me.

Hill-Norton pointed out to the government that this incident had defense significance—despite their claims. Either the phenomenon had occurred and the world was owed an explanation, or senior officers in charge of a NATO base had gone crazy, and were seeing and reporting something through official channels that was never there. Both explanations were extremely disturbing for

the safety of Britain—indeed for the security of NATO and Europe, given the nuclear weapons that USAF commanders operated.

Hill-Norton received no satisfactory answers, only the same bland reply. Could such an incident have been ignored? Owen Hartop, then working for the department of the Ministry of Defense that fields UFO inquiries, replied to a January 1990 letter about the Bentwaters incident sent by British UFO investigator, Stephen Graham. Presumably, his reply was based on official documentation from higher sources, though he denies this.

Friendly or not?

He wrote to Graham, "...the Ministry of Defense was content that the Rendlesham (Forest) incident was of no defense significance, because whatever was witnessed was not apparently hostile."

How did the British and American governments know that it was friendly? In 1980, the Soviet Union could send spy planes over England, Middle Eastern terrorist activity was the bane of a U.S. president, and in Britain IRA bomb squads were a constant threat. You would need to know exactly what was going on before writing off such an incident as irrelevant.

New facts have emerged. The main eyewitnesses present a consistent account of an amazing series of events. Most do not mention aliens,

Bentwaters—Part I

The famous "Halt Memo" written by the Bentwaters Deputy Base Commander to the British Ministry of Defense, which was released under the Freedom of Information Act.

though one or two say that they felt the craft was under intelligent control. There is evidence that some of the airmen suffered "missing time"—missing memories of their hours in the forest. Did aliens appear and erase the images from their minds? Two witnesses have been hypnotized and support this theory.

During the 1986 investigation I received a call from a British military man, "Ned," who wanted to hand over top secret files discussing government investigation of UFOs. We agreed to meet covertly and I went with UFO investigator Peter Hough.

We found "Ned" helpful and cooperative. He described in great detail how he came to possess these files and their 600 pages of material, including a complete autopsy by an American doctor on an alien body recovered from a UFO crash in the U.S. There were also photographs of a UFO landing, confiscated near an English military base—all sounding remarkably like the Bentwaters incident. "Ned" could not have known that several witnesses had already told us photographs were taken of the object in Rendlesham Forest and confiscated. No pictures were ever released.

These files had been obtained at Wright Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio, when a computer operator accessed them by mistake. The man was arrested, charged with being in a secure area without clearance, and set for court martial. He

died in a mysterious car accident before this took place. He got the files to a British officer, who took them out of the country. Only after a thorough check did that officer give them to "Ned"—after he left the British military. The officer felt that this evidence should be passed to the UFO movement by someone less at risk. The officer gave "Ned" my phone number and photograph and was told to seek me out.

Was the UFO a weapon?

Hough and I arranged to meet Ned at a remote location to receive the files. He never arrived. We suspected a hoax, but "Ned" wrote to explain that he had been discovered. He was driven to a military base, forced to give the photos up after the safety of his family was threatened, and persuaded by military police that they had been a hoax fabricated by unknown sources.

Twice more I was offered secret files, which were snatched away at the last minute. A conspiracy? But did the conspiracy offer information or disinformation?

Perhaps the UFO was not extraterrestrial, but had offensive or defensive purposes—a mind-bending device or particle beam weapon to shoot down enemy satellites. This idea is strengthened by a series of episodes from the Rendlesham Forest vicinity, involving green fireballs, energy leakages, power interference, a civil aircraft being struck

by something in mid-flight over the woods, military jets falling from the sky, and numerous UFO sightings.

For decades the area has been at the forefront of secret military research (radar was devised and tested there). A top government scientist warned me to drop the investigation, or suffer the consequences—the only threat I've had in 20 years.

That Ray Boeche, the most persistent, prolific American researching this case, also received similar information/disinformation from secret sources in 1992 only reaffirms the unanswered questions.

A "live" tape of UFO arrivals and the second night of encounters, allegedly made in the forest during study of the landing site and summarized in the Halt memo, was released. Senior base personnel were present.

The tape was unexpectedly received in August 1984 by investigating ufologists in Britain—one copy sent by a USAF colonel who had been on base. We knew about the tape for a long time, but attempts to obtain it in Britain and the U.S. met with denials that it existed. Even responses to Freedom of Information requests to secure it brought the (false) reply that there was no such tape, just as replies still say that photographs and site samples do not exist, though the tape records them being taken.

The commentary runs for 18 minutes. A team of officers and airmen, including Halt, were in the for-

est taking samples, obtaining photographs and measuring traces left on the ground by the initial UFO landing. As they worked in the cold night, strange things happened:

Fear in the forest

"1:48 A.M. on December 27, 1980. We are hearing...strange sounds out of a farmer's barnyard animals... very active, making an awful lot of noise..."

"You just saw a light? Where? Slow down. Where?"

"Right on this position here. Straight ahead...between the trees...there it is again. Straight ahead of my flashlight beam. There it is."

"I see it too. What is it?"

"We don't know, sir."

The light is described as red. The men turn off their flashlights and try to reach it through the trees and clearings. This takes some time, with the recorder only occasionally switched on to show what happened. There are other distractions, but the tension in the men's voices is obvious.

"We are about 150 to 200 yards from the site. Everything else is just deathly calm. There's no doubt about it, there is some type of strange flashing red light ahead."

"Sir, it is yellow."

"I saw a yellow tinge in it too. Weird."

"It appears to be moving a little bit this way. It is brighter than it has been. It is definitely coming this way."

"Pieces of it are shooting off. There is no doubt about it—this is weird."

The encounter continues for over an hour as the men head off toward the coast in pursuit of the craft. Eventually they are faced with a terrifying scene, as the object stands before them and begins to exhibit obvious interest in their presence.

"Here he comes from the south. He is coming towards us now."

"Now we observe what appears to be a beam coming down towards the ground. This is unreal."

The tape records only bits of what happened next, with clear indications that the men's voices are breaking up in an understandable natural reaction to what they are witnessing. The words "turning around and heading back towards the base" signal the end of the most dramatic piece of UFO evidence yet secured.

The skeptic's solution is that several stimuli combined in freak circumstances. The UFO was the satellite re-entering earth's atmosphere, or, when pointed out that this was six hours too early, a meteor. The British TV program added that it was the police car called into the forest by the base (which was there to investigate).

The tape records a light house on the coast mistaken for UFOs, the holes in the ground were coincidental, left by rabbits trying to escape the winter (did they leap 30 feet into the air and smash through the

pine tree canopy?) The radiation readings were only two or three times the normal background count and so, insignificant.

Last minute cancellation

The few people left in Britain who recall this case believe this view, since they have not seen the full story. Two British documentaries were canceled at the last minute, one when a transmission date had been set. A senior BBC producer told me that everywhere he went, people wanted to make a film, but after a few hours doors slammed shut without explanation. It was "almost as if there is a conspiracy to stop this program being made."

Getting to the truth has required an enormous effort and the dedication of ufologists on both sides of the Atlantic, notably Ray Boeche, Brenda Butler, Scott Colborn, Larry Fawcett and Barry Greenwood. We have compiled a scenario that the authorities would rather none of us had ever heard about.

In Britain, suppression of the case has been so effective that I had to take *From Out of the Blue*, a new book I have written to fully document what we know, not to a British publisher (none would touch it) but to the U.S. It was published by Global Communications of New Jersey.

What provokes extraordinary reactions from so many different quarters? Bentwaters is obviously not a trivial event. ■

Bentwaters—Part II

A decade of research

by Ray Boeche

Abstract

The premier UFO case of the last decade is undoubtedly the Bentwaters Incident, also called the Rendlesham Forest Case. This account of a landed UFO and contact with the occupants by high-ranking officers of the U.S. Air Force has captured the interest of the ufological community and the public at large. Over 25 eyewitnesses have been found and interviewed. CNN ran a series of news reports, and *Unsolved Mysteries*, a national TV broadcast, featured the case twice within the last 12 months. Conflicting Air Force responses, and evasive answers about the case from a U.S. senator, indicate the government is attempting to cover up the full story of what occurred.

Eyewitness evidence

Many of the firsthand witnesses have experienced ongoing problems dealing with what happened to them that night, and are troubled by vivid nightmares.

A promise of anonymity has been made to an officer still on active duty, who has cooperated in my research. That primary witness will

be known only as Officer C.

The events began on the night of what is believed to have been December 27, 1980. According to Airman Adrian Bustinza, "We were in the alert area at RAF Bentwaters. I was acting [Security Police] commander over at RAF Woodbridge at the time, and was on my way over there. One of my patrols sighted an object of some sort—he described it as a bunch of lights—and it looked like a fire in the forest.

"I notified my commander at the time, which was the Shift Commander, Lt. England. He went ahead and called the Base Commander, which at night was Lt. Col. Halt. Halt told Lt. England to check out the situation.

"When we first went out in the forest, there were Lt. England, Master Sergeant Ball, my flight chief, and myself, in charge of the fire team."

After entering Rendlesham Forest, they encountered an object. Bustinza continues: "The thing had a pulsating red light on top of it, and several blue lights underneath it. Every time we got close to it, it would move away from us through



Entrance to RAF Bentwaters, home of the 81st Tactical Fighter Wing.

Photo credit: Peter Robbins

the trees, then we'd try and catch up to it again."

Halt was contacted, and ordered the men to wait at their location for his arrival. Additional personnel arrived along with Halt. "One thing I remember quite clearly," stated Bustinza, "is when Halt got to the site, he pointed to the individuals he wanted to go with him into the forest."

According to Bustinza, "We [Bustinza and Airman John Burroughs, who had arrived along with Halt] went back to Bentwaters base, grabbed two light-alls, and refueled them. Once they were fu-

eled, we took them out to see if we could light up the area; to see if anything was out there." (light-alls are portable lighting units powered by gasoline generators.) "In the process of checking out the light-alls," said Bustinza, "everything was functioning. When we got there to the site of the object, we had trouble turning them on. Our truck wouldn't run either. It was kind of like all the energy had been drained out of them." At this point, they became aware of the animals, causing an uproar on a nearby farm. Bustinza said, "Yeah, I remember the animals. I was kind of glad that hap-

pened. It gave me back a sense of reality."

After the failure of the light-alls, Bustinza and Burroughs joined the patrol looking for the object. "We kept searching the area," Bustinza continued, "trying to follow the object as it moved through the trees. In the process, we came on a yellow mist on the ground, or actually about two or three feet off the ground. It was like nothing I'd ever seen before."

"Suddenly the object was just there," Bustinza went on, "it was a dark, silver-colored metal, with plenty of rainbow-colored lights on it. I couldn't tell if something was breaking the light up, like a prism, or if that was the actual color of the lights. It was a tremendous size. It even surprised me that it was able to fit into the clearing—a tremendous size, and I use the word tremendous carefully. It was a round, circular shape; I hate to say like a plate, but it was thicker at the center than it was at the edge.

"We were ordered to form a perimeter around the object at about 15-foot intervals between patrol members."

After watching the object for about 30 minutes, Bustinza stated, "It was gone in a flash—almost like it just disappeared. When it left, we were hit by a cold blast of wind which blew toward us for five or ten seconds. It was a really scary feeling," he said. "You feel useless, like

you can't do anything. I was just frozen in place at first. My life actually passed in front of my eyes."

Bustinza will neither confirm nor deny seeing the craft's occupants. When pressed on the point, he will only state that, "I saw something very strange, stranger than the craft landing, and all the rest."

Burroughs corroborated these events. He will neither confirm nor deny the presence of the craft's occupants, saying only that "a lot more happened out there than anyone knows about."

Official documentation

The official Air Force position at the beginning of the investigation was that no documentation existed. After a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request was funneled to the British Ministry of Defense, however, the first piece of official confirmation surfaced.

The document released was a three paragraph memo, written by Lt. Col. Charles I. Halt, the Deputy Base Commander of Bentwaters when the incidents occurred. It was addressed to "RAF/CC" "Royal Air Force/Company Commander."

According to the Air Force, this was the only item in their files concerning the event. Rumors had been flying about an on-site tape recording made by Halt during the events. Attempts to locate and secure the release of this tape in April of 1983 by Larry Fawcett of Citizens

Against UFO Secrecy (CAUS), met with this response from the Air Force: "There was no official investigation.... Thus, the records you requested do not exist. I can assure you that if there were such records we would provide them to you."

Regardless of these Air Force denials, in August of 1984, the tape finally surfaced. A copy was released by Col. Sam Morgan, a former Base Commander at RAF Bentwaters, stationed at Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado. When questioned by a British newspaper as to his reasons for releasing the tape, he said he "didn't see any reason not to."

The tape contains Halt's voice, describing events which occurred in the field as he and his men examined the landing site. Halt is clearly heard ordering a "Sgt. Nevells" to take photographs of the landing marks, and of abrasions on trees apparently caused by the object during its descent into the clearing.

Also heard are discussions of radiation readings being taken, and observations of the area through a "Star-scope," a light amplification device. Orders are given to take soil samples, and samples of the bark from the abraded trees.

Near the end of the tape, Halt graphically describes observations of unidentified lights in the sky. His descriptions of the lights maneuvering about and shining beams of light to the ground match those given in

his report. Mention is also made of disturbances among a farmer's barnyard animals, as described in the document.

Is there a cover-up?

On March 25, 1985, a highly placed Air Force records management official at the Pentagon spoke with me by telephone. "I've been told," she said, "that photos were taken, and that some of them, but not all, were fogged. However, our records here do not show the existence of any photographs at all."

She suggested that a request to Air Force Headquarters in Europe might uncover something. In an FOIA request to Ramstein Air Force Base, I sought access to photographs and any other visual documentation. Their response did not allude to photographic evidence, or the lack of it. It ignored the question. This request was appealed twice, but no response was forthcoming.

When I asked Bustinza about photographs, he mentioned two sources. "There were two British policemen...bobbies...standing off to the side taking photographs.... Halt came to me and another airman, and told us to approach the bobbies. The Colonel told us to confiscate the film from these two individuals. We confiscated the film and took it to Halt, who put it in a plastic bag. He said it would be dealt with by a higher level of command.

There were also two other [USAF] law enforcement officers who had cameras and took photographs. I don't know where the film went—it might have gone to the photo lab on base, or it might have gone to Intelligence."

What about Wing Commander Gordon Williams? The statements of Bustinza, Burroughs, and Officer C indicate that Williams was there during the events. The Air Force continues to deny this. When told of this, Bustinza said, "At some point, I don't remember when, Col. Williams arrived at the site. I know Williams was there, because I was standing right next to him."

Officer C agrees. He stated definitely that Williams was there, and that a film record of the events does exist. "The Colonel (Williams) was driven to a waiting fighter at RAF Bentwaters with a canister of film of a landed UFO. The film was given directly to the fighter pilot for transport to Air Force Headquarters at Ramstein AFB in West Germany. I have no idea what became of the film."

Another anonymous source has divulged essentially the same information during an interview with CNN. His statements corroborate Officer C's story.

Jenny Randles had been shown a letter allegedly from Halt to a re-



USAF Col. (Ret.) Charles Halt, who played a key role in the Bentwaters incident as both witness and author of the official memorandum describing the events.

Photo credit: J. Antonio Huneus

porter on a major British newspaper. Halt indicated he would sell his story of what happened, and included a list of items he would provide for substantiation.

Included was a copy of the orders from Third Air Force Headquarters to investigate the incident. Earlier I quoted from an Air Force statement that, "There was...no official investigation." Curious that orders would be issued for an unofficial investigation.

On December 10, 1985, another FOIA request was submitted to the Air Force. I asked for copies of the orders, and was told that the records I requested did not exist. I appealed this FOIA decision also, and was told again that these records do not exist.

U.S. senator stonewalls information

Faced with Air Force stonewalling, I approached U.S. Senator J. James Exon of Nebraska.

In February of 1985, Scott Colborn, my research associate, and I met with Exon in his Lincoln offices. The senator's initial response to our Bentwaters incident concerns was disinterested skepticism. Because of his membership in the Senate Armed Services Committee, he felt that if significant information existed, he would have been appraised of it.

We provided Senator Exon with copies of all of our documentation on the incident, including the Halt document, and the tape recording made in the field. We left his office that morning with his promise to look into the matter, discuss it with other members of the Armed Services Committee, and let us know what, if anything, he could discover.

The senator's first response arrived on April 2, 1985. He stated, "Frankly, I am not convinced that the incidents you are concerned with did, in fact, occur. Nor have I found any evidence of a cover-up by the Government. If you have evidence to substantiate the validity of the tape [the Halt tape] previously provided, I would appreciate your forwarding that information." With what seemed a very negative response to our request, the Senator left an open-ended opportunity to provide him with further documen-

tation. I felt that I could provide more than enough information to continue his probe.

I placed a phone call to Col. Charles I. Halt on April 10, 1985. I gave the colonel my name, and told him that I was a UFO researcher attempting to provide Senator Exon with more information on the Bentwaters incident. Halt said he would be willing to discuss the matter with Senator Exon.

Halt was cordial and seemed open to discussion of the case. I asked about the existence of soil samples, and plaster casts of the landing marks, which were alleged to have been made. Halt stated that he had one of the soil samples "...on my desk in front of me," and in regard to the plaster casts, "I don't have them here, but I could put my hands on them without much trouble."

Halt's most significant statement came when I told him that I had talked with an officer who stated that Williams was on site, and was driven to Bentwaters with film of the landed UFO. In response to this, Halt said, "Yes, I can verify that for the senator—I could substantiate that for him."

We now had confirmation of the existence of film by one of the commanding officers who was present at the event, and confirmation of Williams' presence at the site.

I immediately shared this information with Exon's Washington office, and the Senator's Lincoln,

Neb., defense aide assured me that Exon would be advised of this development.

I also attempted to contact Gen. Williams, to see if he would be willing to speak with the Senator. I phoned Williams' office at Norton AFB in California, and learned that the general was out. His aide, a Major Verke, told me that Williams would return on April 22. I explained the purpose of my call to Verke, and he promised to tell the general of my call as soon as he returned.

On April 22, I spoke again with Major Verke, who said he had discussed the matter with Williams, and that "the general has no comment." I explained that I didn't want the general to comment to me, I was simply asking if he would discuss the matter with Senator Exon. Verke said once again, "The general has no comment."

No comment

I asked if that meant the general refused to speak with Senator Exon. Verke said that, "What it means is that the general has no comment."

To the best of my knowledge, Senator Exon has never spoken with General Williams—at least no mention of such a conversation has been made to me. The senator did, however, speak with Col. Halt on several occasions.

On June 13, 1985, I telephoned Exon's defense aide. He said the

senator "will not discuss the content of his calls to Col. Halt with anyone." When asked if Senator Exon had discovered anything meaningful from Halt, he replied that it "...was probably significant since he [Exon] won't discuss it."

He said Exon's inquiries were continuing, and the senator would pass along the information to me "...after he decides what he can tell you." He indicated these were Exon's own words.

On June 19, 1985, I received a letter from the senator, dated the same day as my conversation with his aide. One puzzling aspect is that the letter was delivered to my home. The only address ever given to Exon was that of a post office box which I use solely for my research correspondence.

Exon's response described his activities in researching the matter. He stated, "While additional information other than that you have obtained may exist, I can find no evidence of a cover-up of UFO incidents by any department or agency of the U.S. Government." He carefully side-stepped the issue of what happened at RAF Bentwaters.

I spoke with Exon's office again on June 27. When asked where my home address had come from, his defense aide replied, "Well, uh...I don't know. We have a case file on you that's huge. Someone probably picked it up from there." Not only was the senator looking into the

Bentwaters incident, he was looking into me as well.

Several other curious things came to light. Let me quote from notes taken during the conversation with Exon's aide.

"...I don't think that he's trying to deny the existence of UFOs or anything like that. I don't know what he found out, and neither does anyone else in the office—he did the whole thing himself.

"...[It's] unusual for him to take this much of a personal interest in a subject, and for him to spend so much time on it. He wrote all of the letters, and made all of the phone calls.

"Again, I was not privy to any of the information. I know he talked to Halt several times. I know he agreed when he talked with Col. Halt that what was discussed between the two of them was between the two of them only, and none of us in the office are privy to any of it.

"I think he talked to just about everybody in DOD [Department of Defense] that there was to talk to. I've never seen him do the whole thing himself like this—it's just unusual."

Exon's initial reaction was doubt that the events had even occurred. Now one of his staff members was telling me that he had never seen the senator take such an interest in an issue, never seen him spend such an inordinate amount of time investigating a matter, and had never seen

him handle an inquiry of this magnitude on his own, without involving the staff.

With this level of interest in the case, explanations for Exon's evasive responses must be considered. One possibility was put bluntly by well-known researcher, Linda Moulton Howe, who said, "I wonder who got to Jim Exon?"

Witnesses traumatized

Considering the traumatic effect of the events on the witnesses themselves, was the information uncovered by Exon so personally disturbing that he felt he couldn't, or shouldn't, pass it along to others?

What if it was a weapons test or accident of some sort? What if it was some type of secret maneuver? What if it was a plane crash? Or a retrieval of some sort of Soviet space junk? If so, why didn't the senator simply say he couldn't discuss it because of defense implications, or because of national security? Why didn't he indicate that the event was not UFO related? It seems that there are many ways he could address the question directly, and still not say anything. Why the blatant evasion?

I drafted another letter to the senator which restated my concerns, and was very direct in its request for information. I asked the senator a simple question—what happened at RAF Bentwaters in December of 1980? I stated that there was a dis-



Witness Larry Warren pointing at the landing site in Rendlesham Forest eight and one half years after the incident. Photo credit: Peter Robbins

tinct possibility that "...What happened at RAF Bentwaters was not UFO related. In that case, what was it? What happened...?"

On July 9, 1985, the senator responded. He said in part, "As I stated in my last letter to you, while additional information on the subject of the Bentwaters and other unexplained UFO incidents may exist, I can find no evidence of a cover up... by the U.S. Government." He states that more information on "Bentwaters and other unexplained UFO incidents may exist," implying that what happened at RAF Bentwaters was indeed an "unexplained UFO incident."

On August 8, 1985, while writing

a proposal on this for FATE magazine, I again phoned Senator Exon's Washington office. I told one of his senior aides of my work on the article, and indicated I hoped to get a more informative response from Senator Exon.

The gentleman angrily stated there was absolutely no chance of another statement because, "You've gotten all the information you are going to get," and that "Senator Exon will not say anything more."

I thought my chances might be better at Senator Exon's Lincoln office, so I placed a call to his appointment secretary. What a mistake.

I explained the situation, and said that I hoped the senator might

be willing to clarify the matter in another personal meeting, rather than in writing. I was cut off in mid-sentence by an angry voice declaring, "You're not going to pin him down in a national magazine. That's unfair, that's so unfair."

I explained that I wasn't trying to pin anyone down, I simply wanted to give the senator every opportunity to clarify his position. When I indicated that his involvement was a crucial part of the investigation, I was again cut off by another angry shout of, "He's not involved with this at all."

I asked again that she determine if the senator could meet with me. I said, "I only want to give him fair treatment in the article. I don't want to portray him in a negative fashion."

The response was, "Well, you will anyway," and the phone was slammed down.

His staff is hired in part, I assume, for their ability to deal with people courteously, if not pleasantly. Why did they suddenly become so defensive? What type of information did the senator uncover, and what type of reaction did he have to cause his staff to act in this fashion?

On August 15, the senator's final comments on the case arrived by letter. No answers were forthcoming, but he did put in writing what I had already been told by phone. "I hope you recognize that we have put in more time on this matter than any other case since I have been a U.S. senator."

More time was spent on looking into the Bentwaters incident than on the defense issues he faces every day on the Armed Services Committee; more time than on the economy of the country. The senator must have uncovered something. It's unfortunate that the American people may never share in the information he uncovered.

In essence, we are back to square one. The Freedom of Information Act has yielded nothing new. Congressional inquiries gave us no concrete information, only an inordinate amount of interest on the part of a busy senator, and enigmatic behavior by both him and his staff. We are left where we began—with the testimony of firsthand witnesses, a single document, and a tape recording.

Negative psychic healing and more

In early 1992, conversations were held between myself and two researchers, alleging to work for the government of the U.S. According to these men, projects are being carried out on teleportation, healing, extracting information from the brains of dead subjects, remote viewing, and the development of electronic systems able to interpret and record the waveforms of thoughts, enabling them to be recorded or transmitted. Several projects have been designed to study "negative healing," the psychic infliction of pain, injury and death. In an effort to establish con-

tact with non-human entities, every avenue is explored.

One of the researchers stated that a division exists in the field of paranormal research between "black" and "white" projects, but maintains that there are no "good" paranormal research efforts because "the occult is inherently evil." There is a growing awareness, he said, that this type of research is very dangerous, not only in a physical sense, but "in a spiritual sense as well." Whatever doesn't come from God is evil, and Satan can counterfeit many of God's miraculous actions.

They detailed their research into so-called psychotronic weapons, and explained that many UFO incidents were a result of psychotronic testing. According to their story, the Bentwaters incident involved the projection of an actual physical, three-dimensional object, which could and did interact with its environment, but was created and controlled by individuals involved in this research.

There are many unanswered questions to this part of the story. The presentation seemed very much "scripted," as if they were presenting material memorized from a master script, and was deliberately slow enough to allow me to take notes verbatim, except for portions when I was told to cease writing. The probability of disinformation here seems very high—why shift the emphasis on Bentwaters to psychotronic war-

fare? It seems like a bizarre cover story to use for an event which is, in actuality, so bizarre.

Some of the more bizarre and lesser known eyewitness testimony would be easily explained by this theory, but is the type of work these men describe even possible? Could this possibly be another diversion to try and hide experimentation with alien technology? (If that is a true scenario.)

Or, as the gentlemen who spoke with me are convinced, could this be the first chink in the cover-up of the true story? That the entire UFO question, including abductions, alien/government cooperation, and all the rest, while apparently true, is ultimately a Satanic plot to deceive mankind into looking for salvation from a technologically advanced alien race, rather than to Christ?

One of the airmen involved has experienced, on a number of occasions, MIB-type events, in which he was threatened if he continued to disclose information. The author has ample reason to suspect that, early on in his research, he was the subject of rather close government scrutiny. Who conducted this investigation remains a mystery, but one government official stated that his office had a file on the author that was "huge." Some of the witnesses still maintain a stony silence regarding what really happened to them in the forest, and refuse to engage in any discussion whatsoever. ■

Bentwaters—Part III

The Testimony of John Burroughs

by J. Antonio Huneus

“On the night of Dec. 25-26 [1980] at around 03:00 while on patrol down at East Gate, myself and my partner saw lights coming from the woods due east of the gate. The lights were red and blue, the red one above the blue one and they were flashing on and off.”

Thus begins the official handwritten statement of USAF law enforcement airman John Burroughs, concerning the events of the first night during the series of strange UFO incidents in Rendlesham Forest near the NATO air bases of Bentwaters and Woodbridge in Suffolk, England, in late December of 1980. These extraordinary events are discussed in detail previously in this issue by investigators Jenny Randles and Ray Boeche.

John Burroughs' testimony is of particular importance because he is perhaps the only witness who participated in two of the close encounters reported near Bentwaters. Burroughs was a 20-year-old law enforcement airman who had served at the twin bases since March of 1979. We met him a few years ago at a UFO Conference in Phoenix when he had just separated from

the USAF with the rank of sergeant (he is still in the Reserve) and saw him again during the filming of the famous *Unsolved Mysteries*' Bentwaters segment in a Maryland wooded area, which he had actually spearheaded.

In an interview, he told us that on that fateful 1980 December night he first spotted some lights while on patrol in Woodbridge's East Gate. “We decided to go on down off base and kind of check the edge of the woods to see maybe what was going on because it didn't seem right,” said Burroughs, adding that “there was radio traffic back and forth and the decision was made by the shift commander that I should accompany two security guys into the woods” to investigate. They took a vehicle and then walked into a clearing where they saw the object at closer proximity. That first experience, he said, lasted for about an hour or an hour and a half, “before we finally lost it.”

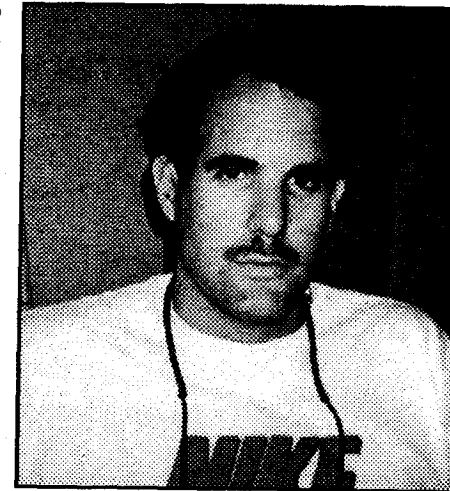
Burroughs wrote in his official deposition regarding the events on the first night that, “we crossed a small open field that led into the trees where the lights were coming

from and as we were coming into the trees there were strange noises, like a woman was screaming, also the woods lit up and you could hear the farm animals making a lot of noise and there was a lot of movement in the woods. All three of us hit the ground and whatever it was started moving back towards the open field. After a minute or two we got up and moved into the trees and the lights moved out into the open field.”

We asked Burroughs to describe the UFO with more detail and he responded that it looked like “a bank of lights, differently colored lights that threw off an image of like a craft. I never saw anything metallic or anything hard.” Burroughs also drew a sketch of the object in his official statement, which we are reproducing here for the first time in the U.S.

Yet the most interesting part of Burroughs' testimony is not the presence of the lights, but rather his sensation of an altered state of consciousness, something that could be described as a sensation of liquid reality, which he experienced at the Rendlesham Forest. “Everything seemed like it was different when we were in that clearing,” Burroughs said in our interview. “The sky didn't seem the same...it was like a weird feeling, like everything seemed slower than you were actually doing; and all of a sudden when

Bentwaters—Part III



Law enforcement airman John Burroughs, one of the key witnesses to the UFO events at the twin bases. Photo credit: J. Antonio Huneus

the object was gone, everything was like normal again.” Nor can the UFO experience of Burroughs and the other two men be dismissed as something purely subjective triggered perhaps by the Orford Ness lighthouse, a police car or other prosaic phenomenon, as several skeptics have proposed. Whatever the three airmen saw also left ground traces which were verified the following day by the Suffolk police and later on by a patrol in charge of Colonel Charles Halt during the Bentwaters incident's final and climactic night, when they also detected higher-than-usual radiation levels.

Burroughs participated in the dramatic events of the third night as

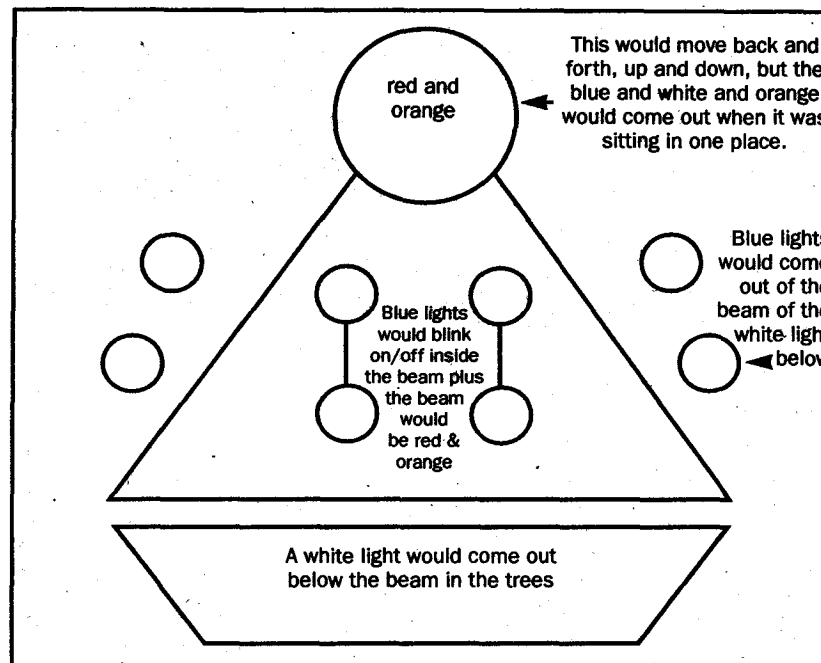


Illustration of the UFO seen by John Burroughs during the first night. (This was enclosed with his official statement.) *Redrawn for clarity.*

well, even though he was not on duty in that occasion. Perhaps a bit obsessed with his experience on the night of December 26th, the airman went to the forest on his own, encountering the patrol under Col. Halt and several other soldiers in charge of the trucks with light-alls, which were not functioning well. He explained in our interview that "there was something out there that was intelligent" and that "blue transparent type lights came off the main craft" and were "able to do

different things and flew over the top of us and flew through a pick up truck." He is, however, in strong disagreement with Larry Warren's account of three small humanoid aliens which allegedly floated from the main craft. "It depends on what you consider aliens," said Burroughs, "I consider that could be intelligent life, but I would say they weren't aliens as we see green men and stuff like that, but they did do stuff that could lead you to believe they were intelligent." ■

RENDELESHAM FOREST UPDATE

-by Jenny Randles

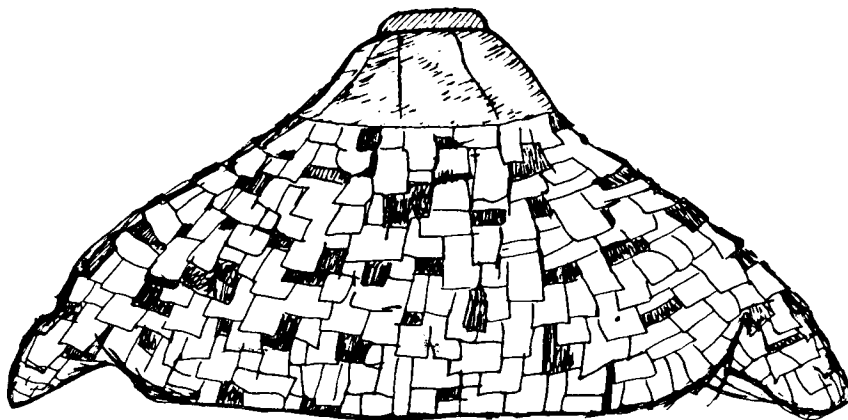
I suppose that events since the publication of *SKY CRASH*, by myself, Brenda Butler & Dot Street, must say something about the differences between the UFO movement in both Britain and the U.S.A.

It was a struggle to sell the idea in the first place, both to British UFO researchers and to British publishers. Between 1981, when the three of us first began to chase the case, and August 1983, when we were able to announce the official confirmation breakthroughs on both sides of the Atlantic, Brenda, Dot, and I often felt like lepers. We received no help, no support and our limited personal budgets were dwindling fast.

REJECTIONS

Similarly, the publisher with whom I have produced three of my most serious UFO books rejected the idea flat, on the grounds that if the events had happened then it would be common knowledge! Likewise, we collected rejection slips like the forest itself collects pine needles in the Fall. Eventually, Neville Spearman, a tiny publishing company with almost no promotional status, took our word for it that there was real evidence. We remain very grateful to them. Even so, working with such a small company has meant that we have had great difficulty promoting what we believe to be crucial questions posed by our manuscript.

Outside of East Anglia itself (see local press articles reproduced in the MUFON UFO JOURNAL issue 201) there has been absolutely no publicity for the case since the book was released in October, 1984. At the press conference, referred to in the "Daily Times" article, no national media sources turned up, despite being invited with a preliminary memo and reminded on the phone. Later, at my own expense, I produced two-page summaries of the conference and sent



The craft which appeared after the light explosion on 30 December 1980, according to Art Wallace. (Sketched under his direction by Betty Luca.)

them to all national newspaper and television sources. About twenty copies went out in all. *I did not receive a single reply!*

SECRETS ACT

The British Government can effectively smother press coverage by enforcing what is called a "D" (for Defence) notice. Using our "Official Secrets Act" (a millstone of bureaucratic legislation which can be, and often is, interpreted in whatever way best suits the party in power) the media can be legally restrained from printing anything the government of the day decides to be sensitive on security grounds.

Whether or not a "D" notice was issued regarding Rendlesham Forest is hard to say. We have no real evidence for this statement, but it is exceedingly curious that in October, 1983, the "News of the World" (Britain's largest selling Sunday national) carried four successive articles on the case, including a page-one banner headline, based on a fraction of the material available (chiefly the statements of Larry Warren, alias "Art Wallace," and the Halt memo release). This also led to many subsequent media stories in papers as diverse as "The London

Times" and "The Sunday People" (a contrast not dissimilar to the "New York Times" and "The National Enquirer"!)

Yet the release of *SKY CRASH*, with all its new evidence, has created not even a trickle of media interest. The silence has been deafening.

Unfortunately, as many of the British media sources are owned by big moguls, (often under the influence of "Lord so-and-so") the opportunities for "a quiet word in somebody's ear" are extensive, and all a government really needs to make sure a touchy subject is effectively stifled.

However, the attitude seems to go somewhat deeper into the character of the British; stiff-upper-lip and all that! As I write (March 1985) only two UFO publications have bothered to review the book. One, "QUEST" (about the closest to American thinking published in the UK) went to town. The other dismissed it in a sea of ridicule. This magazine, "MAGONIA," claims the book reflects paranoia, sloppy investigation and total exaggeration of a non-event in the first place. A third publication, from a Nottingham UFO group, has not even reviewed the book. In two sentences it says the case has been explained away as an ordinary

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RENDELESHAM, Continued

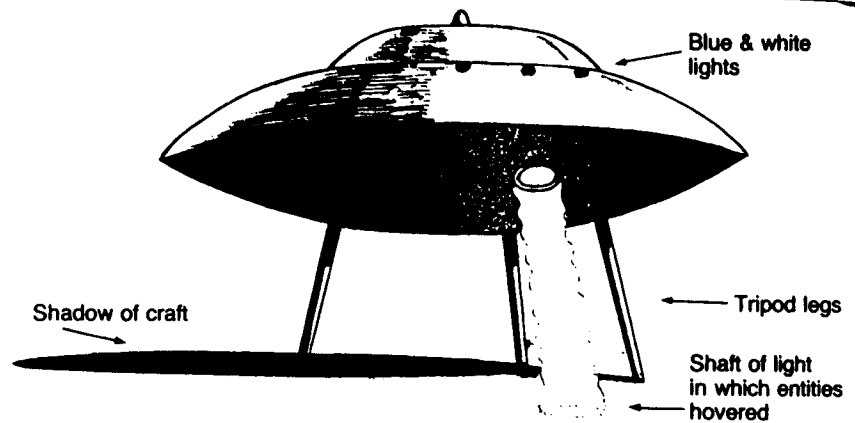
mistake, so end of report. Instead it expounds at length about psychic phenomena!

BRITISH UFOLOGY

Clearly, this indicates that ufology in Britain has become obsessed with the paranormal and psychological theories, a fault I admit no small level of personal liability towards. Unquestionably, these areas are very relevant to the UFO field. But equally certain, in my view, is the grave danger of leaning so far in this direction that you are running the risk of toppling over the edge of a precipice. American ufology on the other hand, has overwhelmed us with its enthusiasm for what we tried to do in *SKY CRASH*. It seems that the possibility of government conspiracies finds a home more acceptable in a democratic land which has learned to fight the natural tendency of all bureaucracies to obscure anything problematic.

Yet, this (to us) refreshing approach to undoubtedly serious issues does not seem to be matched by the American publishing industry. As I write, twenty-one USA publishers have rejected the opportunity to publish an edition of our book. Some use the grounds that this is an "English" case (ludicrous because one of our problems in selling the idea over here was that the case was too American!) Others cite the apathy displayed towards ufology these days, a fair (if sad) truth. Yet, by far the most worrying to me, is the attitude expressed in a reader's report sent us by "Prentice-Hall" (probably the most ufo-minded of U.S. publishers). They use this to explain why they rejected *SKY CRASH*.

Now, I make no arguments that the book is the best ever written. I know that is not true. It is confusing and complex. It may even be hard to follow in parts. It does not read like a Spielberg movie. But we, perhaps because we are "Stuff" English as Prentice-Hall explained, made the absolute decision that we were *not* going to hype-up a space age fairy tale from a potentially explosive case. It would have been easy to do that. To speak in "Gee! Wow!"



The 27 December 1980 UFO on the ground. Based on a sketch by Steve Roberts.

terms of the awe-inspiring meeting between the aliens and a USAF Brigadier General in a dark, Suffolk wood. But that would have evaded the realities. The only way to honestly set out the facts was to recount them as we uncovered them. We could not possibly tell the story of what happened, other than as fiction, because we even now do not know what happened.

UFO HYPE

Yet, Prentice-Hall, very disturbingly, said we should have done that. We should have had one answer (presumably that the UFO was a spaceship) and we should have plotted and scripted the book like a novel. As it so delicately puts it, "Gonzo Fans" and "UFO buffs" want mind-blowing facts and an easy, exciting read. It concludes by advising that the company should "Dump these authors!" and rewrite the book from an American point of view.

This, we understand, is precisely what Prentice-Hall plans to do.

Now, leaving aside the enormous expenditure of time, money and effort Brenda, Dot, and I put into our work for *SKY CRASH*, this attitude speaks of a real danger facing the American UFO movement. If this accurately represents the plan Prentice-Hall envisages for future UFO publications, then one has to seriously question the validity of what is likely to appear.

Besides which, we most certainly did not write *SKY CRASH* for "Gonzo Fans," but for any person who cares about the out-of-control nature of western so-called democracies and the

subject disregard being shown for basic rights of citizens.

We elect governments to govern for us, not to do what they like with things such as fact, truth and integrity. It is more important to me than whatever the reality of UFOs turns out to be, that the Orwellian year of 1984 coincidentally saw publication of books "Clear Intent" and "Sky Crash" demonstrating as they do that Big Brother (or in the UK "Big Sister") is very definitely here.

There has been one British newspaper story about the case published on 5 January 1985. It was penned by Ian Ridpath (a "space writer" and Britain's CSICOP equivalent of Philip Klass). Ridpath's explanation of the case (a meteor attracting the meteor into the forest who, disorientated, sees light use five miles away, and later find some rabbit holes and mistake them for landing marks) was elevated to star status very early in the affair. It had had extensive media plugging in the wake of the October 1983 revelation. But there are some rather disturbing aspects to it.

LIGHTHOUSE

Of course, we knew all about the lighthouse, even before Ridpath conjured it into prominence. It is much the most obvious feature of the environmental lights seen at night from the East Gate of the Woodbridge Base. Nobody on duty there can fail to be aware of it, although it is not visible in

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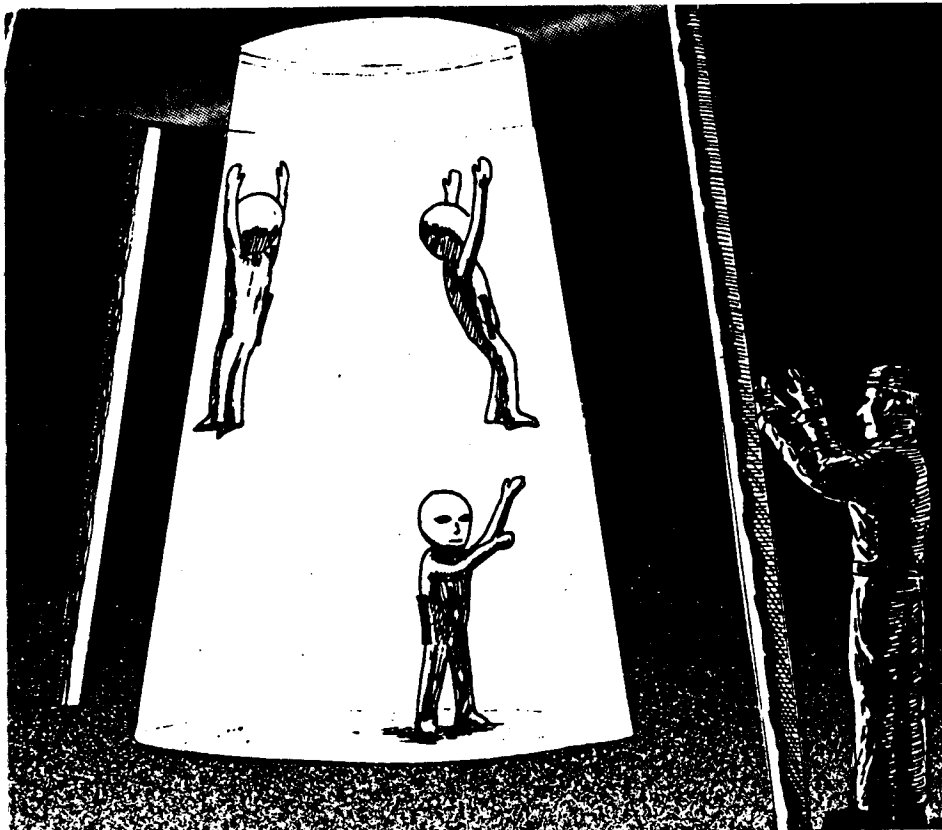
RENDELESHAM, Continued

daylight and so the misidentification hypothesis gains credence from that. It is how the lighthouse came to be linked to the case which is to me so intriguing. This is well worth discussing, because (odd as it might be to an American) 90 percent of the British population now believe that the Rendlesham Forest case did *not* happen, that Ridpath is right, that we are all sensation-mongers, and that USAF forces in Britain are imbeciles, or more accurately, stoned-out-of-their-mind imbeciles.

The theory has, almost single-handedly, ensured that *SKY CRASH* has clocked up practically no sales, and more importantly, that all our calls for serious media enquiries, open public investigations, and questions in the House of Commons, have been totally rejected. Even the UFO committee at the House of Lords have refused to listen to us. It is thus seen to be of grave importance to the future development of the investigation.

Essentially, the "News of the World" featured the case on its front page on 2 October 1983. It immediately created impact on that same day. Within less than 24 hours, remarkable speed for a Sunday when most of the British Press are asleep, the "London Times" (easily the most prestigious newspaper in Britain) had featured the case. The rarity of UFO articles in this newspaper made the event newsworthy in itself. But its dramatic speed and very pointed attitude cannot have been a coincidence.

The "Times" did not talk to Brenda, Dot, myself or the investigative journalists at the "News of the World" who had devoted over two-pages of material to the case. Instead (within a couple of hours of the story breaking) they had gone to East Anglia and filmed a young forestry worker on the site. This man, Vince Thurkettle, was about to be promoted in rank at the office, but at the time was only a junior. He told the "Times" when *they* came to *him* that Sunday, it was about time someone thought about an explanation less fantastic than UFOs.



Steve Roberts' view of the alien contact with the Base Commander.

RABBIT HOLE

Thurkettle noted that about one *month* after the landing (which he had heard rumours about in the Forestry office) he happened upon some holes in the ground with a giant arrow scratched in the earth pointing at them (this fact has always been omitted from media references, and the time-lag between event and discovery rarely mentioned). These he was told, by some men from the base, were the marks left by the UFO. He examined them and was certain they were scratchings made by rabbits. Droppings were even visible within them.

Armed with this he chanced to notice the lighthouse and pondered if it might have been the UFO. Any dumb Americans who could not tell rabbit holes might not know what a lighthouse looked like. Perhaps they had been brought up in the Nevada desert and had never seen the sea before!

As you can see from this Thurkettle was hardly being over-serious. But his ideas were given huge promotion by the "Times," and were endorsed by every single newspaper which reaches influential sources (i.e.

the less "popular" press, and the ones read by financiers, ministers and civil servants).

I have talked to Thurkettle on the site a couple of times since this dramatic revelation. There is no question that he is less than a hundred per cent convinced by it. He frankly admits that there are puzzles. He accepts the possibility that something else may have been involved. And he talks of his theory as if it "just seemed like a good idea at the time."

He also is worried, as he should be, by the giant arrow in the ground. To me this is so out of phase with the secrecy of the case it strikes me that the most likely scenario is as follows: these marks were concocted around rabbit holes *after* the events. The men on base were encouraged to believe they were the landing traces to aid in disinformation and to throw the hordes of curious sightseers off the scent. Their later discovery by a forestry worker, and consequent explanation, may have been a planned or unplanned bonus.

Whilst Vince Thurkettle sees this

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RENDELSHAM, Continued

himself, the lighthouse/rabbits theory was gratefully seized upon by two different sources.

BBC COVER-UP?

Ian Ridpath, the anti-ufo debunker, was asked by the B.B.C. (Britain's state owned TV network) to produce an expose of the case. As *SKY CRASH* reveals, in the five days prior to that, a BBC producer we were working with (Doug Salmon) was blocked every which way he went in trying to persuade bosses to let him make a documentary on the case. In the end he put in an official protest and told us that it was clear forces in the upper echelons of the company had conspired against the programme.

Ridpath once more did *not* talk to any of the investigators on the case before taking a crew out to film the lighthouse with Vince Thurkettle in tow. Instead he used a zoom lens and editing techniques to make the lighthouse look a darned sight stranger than it does - or indeed than it did (because when the events took place the area was masked by a thick blanket of trees, now gone, and the lighthouse was far less prominent than it is in 1985).

"What a shame another UFO case bites the dust" was the way the affair was summed up by the BBC link man. And the shoot-em-down brigade were scoring notable successes in switching public attitudes too.

However, there was a problem for Ian Ridpath. Whilst the lighthouse was a tenable explanation for the "triangular craft" (if you ascribe moronic intelligence to the men involved) he had no idea what they had initially seen crashing into the forest. Even CSICOP draws back from inferring "flight" onto lighthouses, although doubtless James Randi will be figuring out that one for his next trick!

Trouble was, as Ridpath told me after the BBC programme, he could not think of an answer. But, the British bobbies came to the rescue like the cavalry of old. On the day of the original "News of the World" story the head of police in East Anglia had contacted the

local station at Woodbridge and politely advised them they had better have a statement ready to offer the media. This same station had twice denied any knowledge of the case in our previous investigations. Once Brenda and Dot watched them examine their duty book and say there were no reports of UFOs from the base. Now, hey presto!, everything had changed.

A statement offered to the press that first Sunday just happened to include some rather coincidental words. Now they *did* have a report. Two officers had gone out at the request of the base. They saw nothing, only the lights of the Orford Ness lighthouse. Strange that the police should just happen to mention that in their report, is it not? As soon as it got light they went back to the forest and were shown "landing marks," as alleged by the airmen. These, the officers concluded, were marks left by rabbits.

Frankly, I do find it more than a little peculiar that both Vince Thurkettle and the police should independently, and on the same day, end years of silence with this simultaneous conceptual breakthrough about the lighthouse and the rabbits. That smells funny to me. As it should to any half-awake investigative journalist.

But the British police had another crumb of comfort for Ian Ridpath, now crusading widely on behalf of the lighthouse appreciation society. Their records showed the date as 26 December, not the 27th. On this date, so Ian Ridpath triumphantly announced, a bright meteor had been spotted at 0250 hours. Obviously this is what the men saw crashing into the forest, not literally but if you stretch your imagination a bit. Case closed.

DATES

I have repeatedly asked Ian Ridpath how this date squares with the fact that *none* of the witnesses have ever said it was the 26th (including those talked to within days of the event); that Halt's report itself (based on interviews prior to its dating 17 days after the event) gives the 27th, that the Ministry of Defense in their first public admission to me (13 April 1983) give the date as the 27th, that anyone on duty on

the 26th at 0250 hrs. would likely have begun shifts on the night of Christmas day (a fact likely to be more than usually memorable) and that Halt's report states that the traces were discovered two days after the sighting, not within six hours as police say. Ridpath's only answer to this is that all these people are wrong, otherwise I am accusing the British police of fabricating their records.

Quite honestly, in view of everything else that went on in the wake of the "News of the World" story, I find that position rather more probable than that everybody else got it wrong. It is just too convenient. Again, any half-awake investigative journalist ought to spot these things a mile off. Yet there is a disturbing tendency amongst such people not to do so.

Ridpath still claims, 18 months later, that the case is solved. Chuck de Carro of Cable News Network came to work with Dot and I in December 1984, and rejected all these points flatly, preferring to take the word of the British police (despite a further remarkable coincidence which saw one of the two policemen, who was in the forest in December 1980, interrupt our filming on site four years later and inquire of us what we were doing!).

The lighthouse theory totters on a trip-wire for many reasons. Witnesses were looking in several different directions. Civilians on the road could not possibly see the lighthouse, but they saw the UFO. As the lighthouse stayed where it was *after* the encounter, how come the witnesses describe it as taking off? And so on. There are sufficient fundamental errors in the concept that it is difficult to take it seriously.

What must be added is that regardless of the widespread media support for the theory it has no official backing whatsoever. The British Ministry of Defense still insist the case is unexplained. Current public relations officer at Bentwaters (Captain Victor Warzinski) told me there was never any doubt in the minds of the USAF that something had happened which has not been explained. And all the witnesses involved in the case (from seniors like

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RENDELESHAM, Continued

Colonel Charles I. Halt, down to juniors like ex-airman Larry Warren) agree that the idea is stupid.

So why do the media continue to push it? And who do the media refuse to carry any counter articles? Why have I been refused on four separate occasions, since publication of the book, an hour of newspaper time to go (at my own expenses) to London and present the evidence against the lighthouse? I am afraid the answers seem pretty obvious, even if I do risk claims of paranoia by saying so.

The week that our book was released (to nil publicity) another book came out (to quite a fanfare). This one is entitled *Lies! Damned Lies!* and is about unethical journalism. It is penned by a feature writer from the "Times," that same paper which first set the lighthouse on its adventures.

Lies! Damed Lies! has sold in great numbers and contains several pages on the case. It mentions none of the investigators, nor their investigations. Instead it lays into the "News of the World" with ridicule and accusations of gross exaggeration, hyping up a non-event to sell papers. In the end it specifically states that the case is "fiction."

LIES

Under Britain's libel laws this is certainly a candidate for a lawsuit. Brenda, Dot and I supplied the data to the "News of the World" (under contract) and so the accusation of that material being fiction falls on us as much as the paper. To win damages all we would need to do is prove that the evidence is not fictional. We would not even need to prove the reality of UFOs. Naturally, we would relish the opportunity.

Sadly, to fight the case would take thousands of dollars, which none of us have. Despite rumours to the contrary circulating around the USA, Brenda, Dot and I are penniless thanks to this case. We are not millionaires. We have had costs way in excess of the small sum paid to us for the book, or from the newspaper. Dot's telephone was disconnected because she could not

pay her bills. I have had to sell my house. Brenda has more or less had to retire from ufology.

The "News of the World" lawyers passed judgement that the *Lies!* book was actionable, but the paper's sponsors backed out of the court case with no reason given. So it looks as if the get-UFOs campaign will score another victory.

Ian Ridpath's January 1985 article was in "The Guardian" (the only highbrow newspaper, a favourite of government officials, not yet to carry the whitewash). It mentioned neither the book nor our investigations, failed to reply to any of the criticisms of the lighthouse theory we have previously set out for its writer, and stated that he had solved the case and everything else was the product of the imagination of "UFO buffs" and the U.S. Air Force.

On 5 March 1985, I was asked to take part in a TV debate networked across the country by the I.B.A. (the independent equivalent of the BBC). The discussion was on UFOs in general, but I was promised that Rendlesham Forest would get an airing. My opponent was Dr. John Mason, an astronomer with whom I have cordial relations despite his semi-skeptical stance. However, Ian Ridpath contacted the IBA and invited himself into the audience. From the floor he hogged a lot of air-time to tell everybody he had solved the case. I was not asked to reply and was eventually forced to

interrupt and shout out one, pungent and decisive remark.

"Let us kick this lighthouse nonsense in the head right away," I said. "It was not a lighthouse which flew over someone's house outside the forest!"

A large section of the audience applauded this and afterwards wanted to know why so much air time was given the anti-UFO speakers.

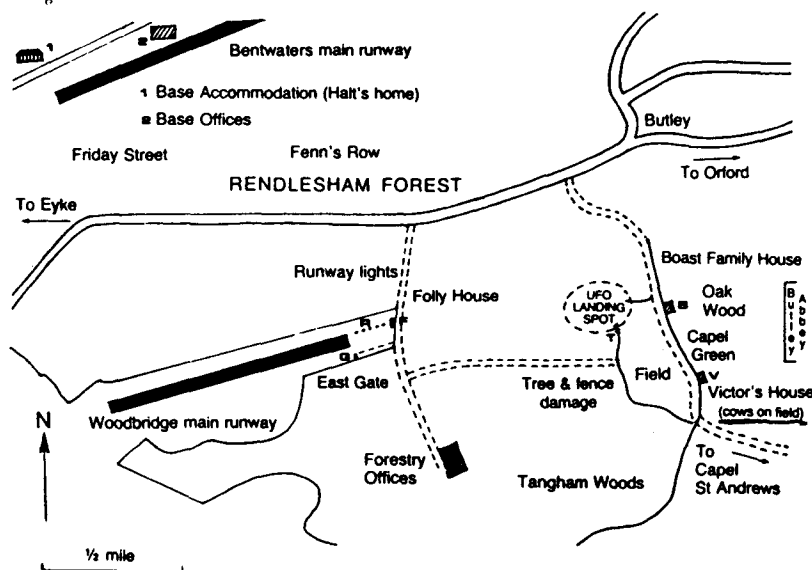
Also in the audience was Ralph Noyes, whom we mention but briefly in *SKY CRASH*.

Noyes was head of the Ministry of Defense department DS 8 (which handles UFO matters) in the years 1969-1972. Now retired, but still covered by the Official Secrets Act, he surfaced in somewhat odd circumstances around the time of the October 1983 public pronouncements. I am still not sure why he has been able and willing to speak so openly about government UFO policy and the Rendlesham case in particular. We speculate in the book that a move to afoot to slowly "leak" the truth to the public about the UFO conspiracy. That is so the sudden high profile of such a man is understandable. If it is not so then we have to ask what other reason there is for his remarkable bravery.

DISINFORMATION

In January and February 1985

(continued next page)



General area of encounter

RENDELESHAM, Continued

Clive Ponting, a man on the same civil service ranking as Ralph Noyes, found himself prosecuted under the Official Secrets Act by the British government. This was for leaking a letter on the sinking of the Argentine warship the "Belgrano" during the Falklands War of 1982. The leak was to a parliamentary member, not the public, at a time when that man was heading a commission of all parties officially charged with the investigation of the sinking. Ponting believed it right that this commission should see the document, demonstrating attempts to disinform the House of Commons about the incident.

Ponting was head of Ministry of Defense department DS 5 (the exact equivalent of the one Ralph Noyes headed — dealing with naval matters as opposed to aerial ones). The repercussions on Ponting make the actions of Ralph Noyes all the more extraordinary, unless he knows he is acting without fear of consequence.

In many discussions I have now had with him he has frankly admitted that a "situation map" exists logging all unexplained sightings for Ministry of Defense staff. He has told me of gun-camera film taken by RAF pilots held under lock and key. And he has stated baldly that the Ministry of Defense have "lied and covered-up" the Rendlesham Forest case.

Several of these things Noyes has said on radio and TV interviews he has been willing to give (especially to Nippon TV in Japan and Cable News Network in the US). He attended the press conference at the launch of *SKY CRASH* (although his preannounced presence still attracted no British media source). On the March 1985 TV programme he backed me all the way and said, in front of live cameras and millions of viewers, that he had no doubt that the Ministry of Defense knew far more than they were telling about UFOs, and they had very good reason for obscuring the truth.

Ralph Noyes is scathing of the lighthouse explanation, and (copies sent to me) has often pressed the British government hard on the matter. He has also sent me copies of the replies he has received, but so far he

has no more than the evasions we have been subjected to for years. "I can assure you that there is no evidence of anything having intruded into British airspace and 'landing' near RAF Woodbridge" is the best the current DS 8 chief has had to say to him.

But what does this ambiguous reply mean? The Ministry of Defense love putting words into inverted commas, as we explain in *SKY CRASH*. Does "landing" mean that something *did* intrude but it "crashed?" Does the word intrude mean it was there with knowledge and/or invited in? Or does it all mean it was one of our own craft? Each option remains viable in the face of what, to the casual observer, looks like a specific denial by the Ministry of Defense.

Fortunately, Ralph Noyes knows all about how the governments of the world are gifted wordsmiths. He explained to me that it is paramount that you never tell a lie, unless you absolutely have to. The same effect can usually be achieved by wording your reply in such a way that it reads like a dismissal but will legally hold up as an acknowledgement if the issue is ever forced. Now we know why it often takes weeks or months to get answers out of government bodies. They spend hours poring over the precise wording to have

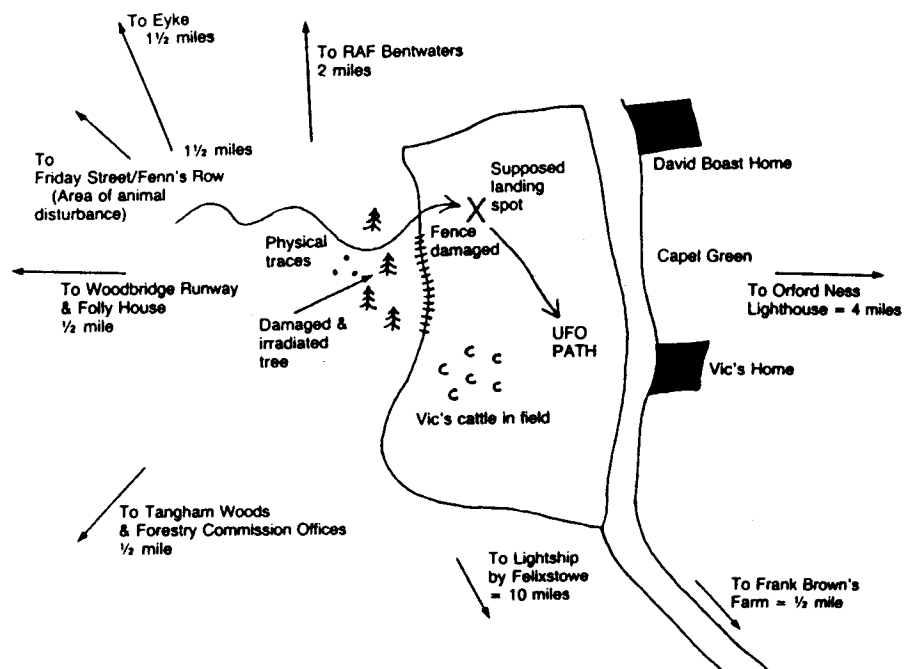
the maximum effect.

In June 1985, Ralph Noyes publishes his "UFO Novel," which is set in Rendlesham Forest in 1990! It involves a USAF base known as "Bentbridge," but in his "factual afterword," which Ralph has shown me, he discusses the *SKY CRASH* research briefly and adds that the case in his book is definitely *not* based upon it!

I am sure we all await with interest what his book *A SECRET PROPERTY* (to be published by Quartet Books) has to say. Will it be another step on the road to revelation? Is it the next lesson in the education programme for mankind? I wonder.

The future certainly promises to be far from dull.

Editor's note: The demand for SKY CRASH in the United States has far exceeded supplies available to book dealers, creating "waiting lists." It is conceivable that Neville Spearman made the same mistake as Prentice-Hall when they published insufficient quantities as in the case of CLEAR INTENT (CLEAR INTENT is now in its sixth printing).



Close-up details of landing site.

1.980

Strike Two

Jenny Randles takes another swing at Bentwaters

From Out of the Blue

Jenny Randles
Berkley Paperback
233 pages, \$4.99

Jenny Randles is selling Bentwaters again, and her new, improved version of the case is worth reading.

Randles first detailed the 1980 case in *Sky Crash*, an ill-organized and poorly executed 1984 book co-written with Brenda Butler and Dot Street. Her new effort, *From Out of the Blue*, provides a coherent, easy to read chronicle of a complex UFO event. It could have been subtitled "Everything you always wanted to know about Bentwaters but were too confused to ask".

The twin Royal Air Force bases of Woodbridge and Bentwaters, situated in East Anglia, provided maintenance for NATO forces in Germany. Both were under RAF control, but Woodbridge was staffed entirely by American troops.

On two consecutive nights in late December, 1980 USAF personnel witnessed overflights and an apparent landing of an unknown lighted metallic object that appeared to be under intelligent control. Among the witnesses was the assistant base commander Colonel Charles Halt, whose audiotape of the UFO chase in the forest in the middle of the night is one of the eeriest, most compelling pieces of UFO lore.

Bentwaters seems to have all the features one could want in a late-model UFO case: multiple witnesses of high reliability, radar confirmation, extended

sighting time, physical evidence, a live tape recording of the witnesses' reactions and an official military report confirming all of the above. Still, Randles senses something funny about it. No matter how solidly it rings when you slam the doors, she seems to harbor the underlying suspicion that we are being asked to buy a lemon.

Randles builds a careful case for the government and the military wanting the events of Bentwaters-Woodbridge to be perceived as a UFO encounter, whatever the reason. The fact that word of the encounter was leaked to British UFO researchers by military sources within days of the events should be adequate tip off that our publicly financed tricksters are on the job.

After an outstanding recounting of what is known about the Bentwaters-Woodbridge case, Randles spends the last twenty pages of the book exploring the possible explanations.

Randles reports being tipped off by a Ministry of Defense scientist that the event was a test of Star Wars weaponry involving an attempted course alteration of the Soviet satellite Cosmos 749 as it reentered the atmosphere:

"He suggested that particle beam weapons - as being developed for Reagan's "Space Defense Initiative" to "kill" orbiting satellites by firing high energy beams at them - might conceivably be involved in this case."

One suspects the MOD scientist was not being quite candid with the Randles. In 1980 when Colonel Halt and his men were bedazzled in Rendlesham Forest, SDI was three years from being proposed and Reagan had not been inaugurated.

Still, this is a book worth having for its well organized description of the Bentwaters-Woodbridge case.

— Anne Ecker

Jorge Martín will speak at 1993 MUFON Symposium

Jorge Martín, editor and publisher of the Spanish language magazine *ENIGMA!*, will present a paper on ongoing UFO events in Puerto Rico at the 1993 Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) Symposium.

The symposium will be held July 2, 3, and 4 in Richmond, Virginia. The theme of this year's event is "UFOLOGY: The Emergence of A New Science."

According to MUFON, other confirmed speakers include crop circle lecturer Colin Andrews, Spanish investigator Vicente-Juan Ballester Olmos, Cynthia Hind on abductions in Africa, Illobrand von Ludwiger on German sightings, Dr. Hoang-Yung Chiang on UFO events in China. Budd Hopkins will be updating the controversial Linda Cortile case and Linda Moulton Howe is scheduled to talk on UFO activity and animal mutilations in Alabama.

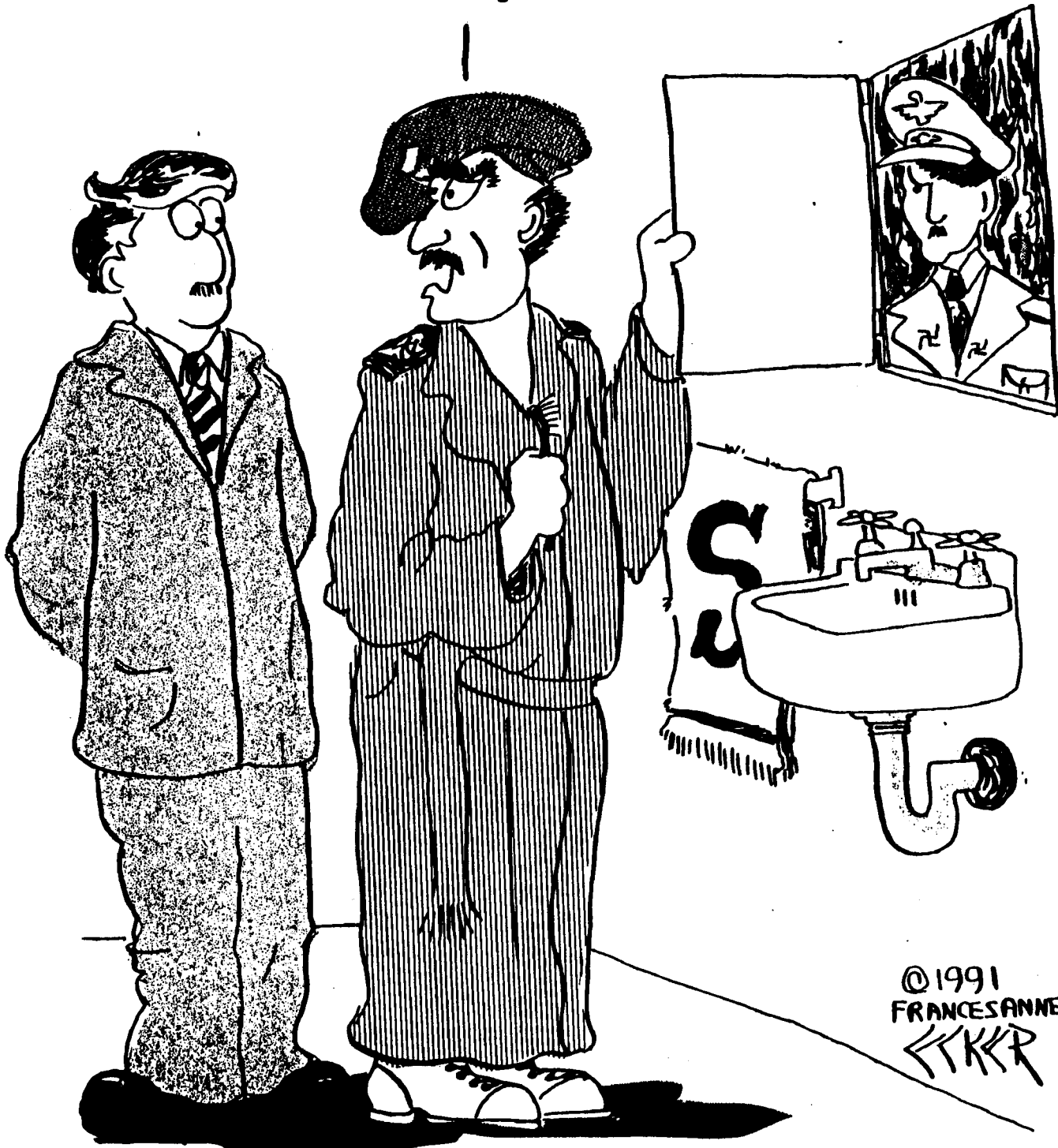
The event will be held at the Hyatt Richmond Hotel, 6624 West Broad Street, Richmond, Virginia 23230, phone (804)

285-1234 or FAX (804) 288-3961.

Symposium goers would do well to announce themselves

when making reservations: the hotel is extending a special rate of \$62 per night to those attending the symposium.

HOW DEEP DID YOU SAY THIS BUNKER IS?



I. n° double 37/38 - juillet/août 1987 - 36 FF/9 FS



OVIP
Presence

CRASH



SPECIAL

ISSN 0223-0976



EN COUVERTURE
L'arbre qui cache la forêt ?

CRASH
EN
RENDLESHAM
FOREST

• par Jenny Randles

nes avant que l'on ne me mette en contact avec le contrôleur de Watton.

L'histoire racontée par cet homme (qui se fit appeler « Steve Roberts » car il ne souhaitait pas briser sa carrière en en parlant ouvertement) était très proche du récit que j'avais moi-même obtenu. Il affirma avoir été en patrouille de surveillance aux alentours de minuit, dans la nuit du 26 au 27 décembre, lorsque quelque chose descendit dans les bois. Après en avoir demandé l'autorisation, il se rendit dans la forêt, accompagné de deux autres personnes, et vit au sol un objet discoïdal. Il expliqua comment les gradés de la base furent appelés, alors que la chose demeura au sol durant plusieurs heures. Le Commandant d'Escadron, Gordon Williams, commandant la base, avait établi un contact avec les entités, qui étaient suspendues dans des pans de lumière, et qui, apparemment, tentaient de réparer leur appareil endommagé.

Brenda reçut enfin, en janvier 1981, la permission d'en parler à Dot Street, qui en fit part à Bob Easton, lequel m'en informa ! Brenda et Dot procédaient à des investigations sur le terrain, en se basant sur le récit de Roberts, mais ne savaient rien du contrôleur et de la narration qu'il m'en avait faite.

Toute l'histoire semblait encore trop absurde pour être véridique, et j'hésitais pour deux raisons : d'une part, Steve Roberts ne voulait pas se confier à une tierce personne (même pas à moi). De fait, je n'appris son nom qu'un an plus tard. D'autre part, les deux filles n'étaient pas des enquêtrices expérimentées et n'avaient aucune idée de la façon de procéder avec une histoire d'une telle ampleur. Mais, en l'absence de toute information concrète et de témoins disposés à rapporter l'histoire, je n'avais aucun moyen de persuader un enquêteur expérimenté d'investir du temps et de l'argent pour se rendre en cet endroit éloigné afin de chercher d'éventuels indices sur un cas peut-être authentique, mais peut-être pas.

En 1981, Brenda et Dot colportèrent un grand nombre de rumeurs. Elles trouvèrent des civils qui avaient observé des lumières au-dessus de la forêt. Elles discutèrent avec des forestiers qui avaient découvert des arbres endommagés, et purent constater que l'endroit avait été réduit en cendres aussitôt le récit propagé. Elles n'eurent aucune aide, aussi infime soit-elle, de la part des autorités. Le commandant anglais de Bentwaters (une sorte de « Monsieur bons offices » répondant au nom de Donald Moreland, chef d'escadron) ayant fait l'erreur de penser, lors d'un premier entretien, que Brenda et Dot devaient être des enquêtrices du gouvernement, laissa transpa-

raître suffisamment d'indices pour prouver qu'il s'était passé quelque chose. A cette époque (février 1981), les rumeurs ne s'étaient pas répandues, et même mon article dans la *FSR* n'était pas encore paru. Bien entendu, dès que Moreland découvrit la vérité, il informa ses interlocutrices qu'il ne pouvait en dire davantage et qu'il leur fallait interroger le Ministère de la Défense. Ce dernier, comme à son habitude dans de tels cas, ignora toutes les requêtes et prétendit ne rien connaître de l'affaire.

C'est fin 1981, lorsque je devins directrice des enquêtes à la BUFORA, que je rencontrai les deux filles. Il me paraissait évident que, quelle que soit l'inadéquation de leur travail, il y avait trop d'histoires et de rumeurs indépendantes pour qu'il puisse y avoir de la fumée sans feu. Elles n'avaient cependant fait que collationner des notes (souvent très confuses). Pour éviter que cela ne soit à jamais perdu, j'entrepris d'y mettre de l'ordre. Il en résulta un résumé de six pages « *The Rendlesham Forest Mystery* » que je publiai sous forme de numéro spécial du *Northern UFO News* en janvier 1982, expédié à une cinquantaine de chercheurs anglais parmi les plus importants, dans l'espoir qu'ils seraient persuadés de l'existence d'un problème et qu'ils devraient proposer leur aide à Brenda et Dot. Habitant moi-même à plus de 250 km des lieux (et n'étant pas motorisée), je ne pouvais à l'époque faire grand-chose, si ce n'est d'utiliser mes capacités pour écrire dans différentes publications afin de susciter l'intérêt. Je pris cependant sur moi la responsabilité d'essayer d'obtenir des informations du Ministère de la Défense.

La publication fut un échec, personne ne s'intéressait aux « crashes d'ovni », pensant qu'il s'agissait d'inepties. Le rapport fut publié par la *FSR* en 1982 et c'est vers la fin de l'année que je m'attardais plus longuement sur cette affaire dans *The Unexplained*, un magazine vendu en kiosque. C'était la première fois que le cas était porté à l'attention du public. Là encore, cela n'intéressa personne, sauf un groupe de Swindon (le SCUFORI), qui passa deux jours avec Brenda et Dot. Mais à ce moment (presque deux ans après les faits), les témoins militaires que nous connaissions avaient regagné les USA (hormis un ou deux qui ne voulaient rien dire) et le site avait été rendu méconnaissable car on avait débité et brûlé les arbres quelque 18 mois auparavant. Le SCUFORI ne trouva rien qui puisse suggérer l'existence d'un problème, et l'affirma dans un rapport. Il précisait toutefois qu'il n'avait pas eu la possibilité de vérifier l'histoire originale et qu'il ne pouvait donc se prononcer sur la réalité du cas. En tant qu'affaire



Rendlesham Forest : plan de situation. —

militaire, et quand bien même où il se serait passé quelque chose, il n'en serait probablement jamais question. Le SCUFORI suggéra donc d'oublier toute l'affaire.

Brenda et Dot avaient investi deux années de labeur en enquêtant sur ce cas et ne pouvaient pas abandonner aussi facilement. J'étais consciente du fait, qu'en regard de ce qui avait dû se passer, leur travail ne pouvait rester sans récompense. Après une dernière tentative pour susciter l'intérêt (avec un article dans le *BUFORA Bulletin*), je suggérais que nous nous réunissions pour trier les faits et écrire un livre où l'on pourrait inclure tous les détails connus. Le livre, toujours intitulé

The Rendlesham Forest Mystery (qui, soit dit en passant, fut aussi le titre de l'édition japonaise), fut refusé par les éditeurs les uns après les autres. « Si cette affaire est réelle », nous disaient-ils, « nous le saurions tous, les journaux en auraient parlé ».

Alors que nous poursuivions nos efforts, le cas revint de différentes manières sur le devant de la scène, en 1983. Premièrement, un gradé américain fit une déclaration au magazine scientifique new-yorkais *Omni* selon laquelle il s'était bien passé quelque chose. Il refusa toutefois par la suite, d'en parler à qui que ce soit et de colonel, fut promu général ! Le 13 avril 1983, je reçus une lettre surprise du Ministère de la Défense affirmant qu'il y avait effectivement eu une observation de « lumières bizarres... pour lesquelles il n'y avait pas d'explication », le 27 décembre 1980 à la base de Bentwaters. L'on se demande encore pourquoi il leur a fallu deux années pour l'admettre, mais le fait que cela soit confirmé moins d'un mois après la déclaration étonnante de l'ex-colonel Ted Conrad au magazine *Omni*, n'est peut-être pas le fait du hasard. Il se pourrait qu'il y ait bien un lien avec le postulat que j'avais formulé (quelques semaines auparavant dans *The Unexplained*) selon lequel il ne s'est peut-être pas agi d'un crash d'ovni, mais d'une technologie secrète (peut-être nucléaire), pour laquelle les ovnis constituaient une couverture bien commode. Après tout, qui penserait qu'un crash d'ovni soit crédible ? Bien peu de gens qui puissent causer des remous. Mais cette hypothèse faisait, grâce à moi son chemin dans l'opinion (et je fus citée dans *Omni*). On comprend donc que la nature ufologique du cas avait besoin d'une assise officielle. Peut-être est-ce là la vraie raison pour laquelle Conrad se fit interviewer en cette seule et unique occasion, peut-être est-ce pourquoi le Ministère m'écrivit pour confirmer l'observation de « lumières », et qu'aux USA, deux enquêteurs, Larry Fawcett et Barry Greenwood (sic, ndt !), sortis d'on ne sait où, reçurent soudainement une lettre émanant du commandant de Bentwaters, le lieutenant-colonel Charles Halt et adressée au Ministère britannique. Dans cette lettre datée du 13 janvier 1981, il décrivait l'observation du 27 décembre 1980, les traces au sol et la radio-activité, ainsi qu'une deuxième observation (de simples lumières cette fois), dans la nuit du 28 au 29 décembre 1980.

Tous ces aveux officiels eurent lieu au cours d'une période de trois mois, après deux ans et demi d'un mutisme complet. S'il ne s'agissait pas d'un plan orchestré, cela en avait en tout cas l'air. Il y était question d'un cas du plus pur style ufologique, bien que s'y trou-

ment confirmés les faits majeurs de la rumeur de départ (connue de nous dès le premier mois). Un seul de ces faits ne fut *jamais* confirmé de manière officielle : la présence d'êtres.

Il y avait toutefois un homme qui maintenait cette allégation. Un homme de l'aviation américaine du nom de Larry Warren (appelé dans un premier temps « Art Wallace » car étant, selon lui, en danger de mort s'il révélait son identité). Il s'était présenté à Fawcett et Greenwood au début de 1983 alors qu'ils terminaient leur livre *Clear Intent* et affirmait avoir été mis à la porte de l'armée de l'air suite à son implication dans l'affaire de Bentwaters. B. Greenwood avait lu mes articles et savait donc de quoi il retournait. Le récit de Warren était dramatique, exagéré, inconsistant et bizarre. En l'espace de quelques semaines, il était apparu à la télévision, parlait ouvertement, voyageait gratuitement autour du monde, prétendait des choses extravagantes, changeant son récit, refusant le détecteur de mensonge, et (à mon avis), détruisant de manière très subtile nos efforts pour crédibiliser le cas. Cela ne me surprendrait pas le moins du monde d'apprendre que Warren avait été délibérément chargé de cette tâche pour s'assurer que personne ne s'intéresse sérieusement au cas de Rendlesham Forest.

Suite à la publication de l'histoire à la « une » des journaux anglais (où là encore les

fuites eurent lieu de manière particulièrement bizarre), ce fut encore Warren qui monopolisa l'attention, s'assurant ainsi de ridiculiser l'affaire. Cela nous permit enfin de trouver un éditeur et *Sky Crash* (résumant les événements jusqu'au début 1984) parut en octobre 1984 chez CW Daniel. Parce qu'il racontait l'histoire dans toute sa complexité, exactement de la manière dont elle s'était déroulée, sans conclusion définitive et sans fiction, il n'intéressa que les passionnés d'ufologie, uniquement en Grande-Bretagne et au Japon et fut refusé par tous les éditeurs américains qui l'examinèrent. La diffusion de deux documentaires télévisés de la BBC sur le cas furent mystérieusement annulés. Bien d'autres choses inquiétantes eurent lieu, telle la surveillance de la CIA. Brenda et Dot furent même arrêtées en relation avec l'affaire ! Une importante quantité de nouvelles informations a fait surface entre 1984 et 1986 (dont certaines sont résumées dans une mise à jour annexée à l'édition poche britannique, publiée en mai 1986 chez Grafton). Mais malgré le fait qu'il y ait suffisamment de matière pour la rédaction d'un épisode intitulé « la solution », personne ne prend l'affaire au sérieux en Grande-Bretagne. Brenda, Dot et moi, avons beaucoup perdu à bien des égards et ça, nous n'aurons probablement jamais l'occasion de l'écrire. □

Jenny Randles

Aux archives !

Suite à la publication du travail consacré par Claude Gaudeau et Jean-Louis Gouzien à l'affaire Marius Dewilde, plusieurs collègues m'ont dit détenir en archives des coupures de presse non reprises dans le document. Aussi nous avons décidé, Claude Gaudeau et moi, de procéder à une collecte systématique de toutes les coupures de presse relatives à ce cas encore disponibles dans les archives des ufologues.

Cette compilation une fois constituée sera accompagnée de la nouvelle « courbe de répartition temporelle des coupures de presse » et fera l'objet d'un complément au travail de Gaudeau et Gouzien proposé également en souscription.

La liste des coupures de presse actuellement en notre possession (incluant celles déjà publiées) est disponible à la rédaction, sur simple demande. Tout article consacré à l'affaire Dewilde ne figurant pas dans cette liste est le bienvenu.

Je souhaite que tous les lecteurs se mobilisent **rapidement** afin que notre collecte soit la plus complète possible. □ T. Pinvidic

Les contes d'un scieur de branches

Un quatrième *Dossier Ovni-présence* est publié. Il reprend le texte de Jacques Scornaux « L'hypothèse psychosociologique : commencement de la fin ou fin du commencement ? » publié dans *Info-reospace*, ainsi que la réponse (inédite à ce jour) de Thierry Pinvidic, intitulée « Les contes d'un scieur de branches ». Ce document relié de 57 pages est disponible en souscription au prix de 30 FF (+ 7,10 FF de port). Adressez votre chèque libellé à l'ordre de Thierry Pinvidic à : T. Pinvidic, 60, rue de Montgeron, 91800 BRUNOY, avant le 30 septembre 1987 **impérativement**. Pour l'étranger, établir un mandat-carte international de 195 FB (+ 30 FB de port) à l'ordre de M. Henri Scornaux, 55 rue des Cultivateurs, 1040 BRUXELLES, Belgique. □

NEW LIGHT ON RENDLESHAM FOREST (1980):

AN INTERVIEW WITH EYEWITNESS LARRY WARREN

© Compiled by Omar Fowler, FSR Consultant

1. INTRODUCTION

Dear Gordon:

Last Sunday I met two Americans involved in re-searching the famous Rendlesham Forest event in Suffolk, in December 1980.

One of them is Larry Warren, one of the USAF security guards who was there and was ordered, with others, to surround the glowing triangular UFO in Rendlesham Forest. He subsequently suffered radiation burns and damage to the retinas of his eyes.

The other is Peter Robbins, who is a private UFO researcher, now working closely with Budd Hopkins. When I mentioned that I was connected with FSR, he was delighted, and said that in his opinion it was *the* leading UFO magazine.

Larry Warren, together with Peter Robbins and Tony James of the East Midlands UFO Association, recently visited the Rendlesham Forest site for the first time since the UFO incident. A video was taken during the visit, and I have seen this, and also listened to their account of the encounter. I queried one or two points, and I have a pretty clear picture of what happened.

Peter Robbins asked if I would be writing a piece for FSR on their visit, and I said that I would. I cannot recollect if FSR has published anything on the Rendlesham affair*, no doubt it has, but I believe that I may have a number of new facts about what happened and subsequent events (one USAF witness blew his brains out a fortnight later).

I will go ahead and write an article which I will forward to you in the near future, together with a photograph of both Americans.

Regards,
Omar Fowler
12 Tilton Grove
Kirk Hallam, Ilkeston
Derbyshire, DE7 4GR
March 31 1994

*NOTE BY EDITOR, FSR: Jenny Randles, jointly with Brenda Butler and Dot Street, produced an excellent book on the Rendlesham case, under the title of SKY CRASH: A COSMIC CONSPIRACY, (pub. by Neville Spearman, Suffolk, 1984). In addition, Jenny Randles had already written FSR's only account of Rendlesham. (See THE RENDLESHAM FOREST MYSTERY, in FSR 27/8, June 1982, published by FSR Editor Charles Bowen.) In the book SKY CRASH the statements and/or actions of seven members of the U.S. Air Force who were direct witnesses and of eleven British witnesses (all civilians) from the Rendleham area are given. It is important to note that, from all the evidence available, Larry Warren, one of the USAF's Security Guards at

RAF Bentwaters, has already figured in the story because he is the same man who appeared under the pseudonym of "Art Wallace" in SKY CRASH.

Finally, I think it may now be possible to say that every one of the main conclusions drawn by Jenny Randles and her co-workers over this case more than a decade ago seems to have been basically correct. If so, the book deserves to be brought up to date and republished. I am informed that at the time of its appearance it was an almost total "flop" and very few copies were sold. There is a Japanese translation of it that is still in print.

And there is a curious thing to be noted!

In a further letter, dated October 30th 1994, Omar Fowler has informed me that on Sunday July 31st, when re-visiting Britain and speaking at a QUEST INTERNATIONAL meeting, Colonel Charles Halt (who, with the then rank of Lt.Colonel, had been the USAF's Deputy Base Commander at RAF Woodbridge from 1979 until June 1984, and was himself present in Rendlesham Forest that night, as we already know from Jenny Randles' book and from much other published evidence) denied that Larry Warren had been present at any of the "UFO activities" in the Forest at the date in question: (presumably this may have

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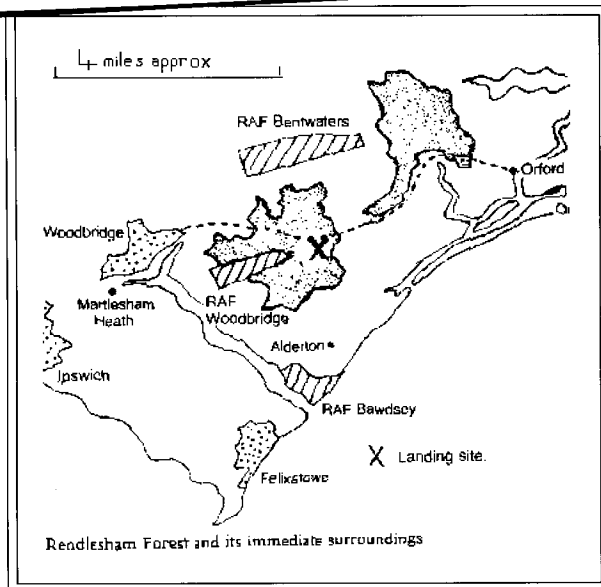
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been in response to some questions asked from the audience).

However Omar Fowler, who has been going into all this very thoroughly and has spoken in 1994 with both Colonel Halt and Larry Warren, *points out that Larry Warren was not stationed at RAF Woodbridge, under Col. Halt's command. He was stationed at RAF Bentwaters, the other local Base, which lies about four miles due north from RAF Woodbridge, and right on the opposite side of Rendlesham Forest from Woodbridge!* The night in question, December 28/29, was very dark. And, moreover, as the various sources confirm, none of the auxiliary lighting equipment that the Americans had brought out would function!

How then, in such darkness, and with so much confusion prevailing, could Colonel Halt (or, for that matter, anyone else!) state categorically who was or was not milling around in Rendlesham Forest that night — particularly if it were a man from the *other* USAF camp and therefore not under Col. Halt's jurisdiction anyway!

I think that we can, in fact, say that we possess good reason for accepting that Larry Warren is telling the truth and that he WAS, as he says, in Rendlesham Forest that night. This good reason is as follows: Mr. Tony James, who runs the East Midlands UFO Research Association and is, in the opinion of Omar Fowler, an investigator "beyond reproach", reports that Larry Warren has recently applied to the American passport authorities for a renewal of his passport in order to make a further visit here for more research, because he is now engaged in writing his own book - to be titled "WEST AT EASTGATE". And, reports Tony James, the application has been refused! This means that Larry Warren is debarred from leaving the USA, the reason for the refusal being that he has violated the Security Act of 1947!

So perhaps it is not surprising if we hear it said now that Larry Warren was not in Rendlesham Forest during the night of December 28/29, 1980.

Larry Warren's story, as subsequently supplied, now follows. This text has been carefully checked with him by Omar Fowler. G.C.

II. LARRY WARREN'S ACCOUNT (as given to Omar Fowler)

I was unable to reveal a number of aspects of the UFO events years ago because I still believed in my Government. Forget about UFOs, 'they' can snuff that out. We can be portrayed as either liars, fools, or people just out to make money. However, we are not in this for money at all!

I arrived at ~~RAF Bentwaters in England on December 1st 1980.~~ We had the largest nuclear arms dump in all of NATO; it was split between the two bases (i.e. Bentwaters and Woodbridge). I knew that

just one of our nuclear weapons could have removed East Anglia with no problem! (Both RAF Woodbridge and USAF Bentwaters are now closed).

On the night of the 26/27th December (1980) a police patrol observed lights in Rendlesham Forest. The three airmen involved disappeared for several hours, and according to two of them, they had been abducted. There was also some activity on the second night (27/28) but it is unclear as to what was seen by whom.

The next (third) night 28/29 December, further activity took place and that's when I became involved. Our security group was called out, we boarded our military pick-up trucks, and entered Rendlesham Forest. We were only able to proceed so far, before we were ordered to stop in a clearing. We had no idea what was happening but we could see a lot of activity down at the end of the road.

I was in a group of five with a Lt., and we moved through the woods down a path into the forest. I could see flares over to my left at about 100 yards. There was red surveyor-tape around the trees and we all heard over the radio "**we want you guys to avoid those hot spots**". To me that meant radiation areas. We walked down this logging road and just at that moment we came across our flight-chief talking to a young airman sitting on the ground near a tree. He sat holding his head in his hands and was out of control, very upset.

We continued on our way and over a small rise in the ground, I saw this illuminated field, (Capel Green). The trees were lit up yellow and in the distance we could see a farmhouse.

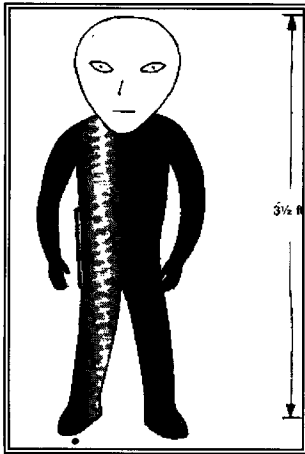
In the centre of the field there was an illuminated mist, it was about a foot in height and about fifty feet across. It was self-illuminated, you could see through it at times. Nearby there were cameras set up, movie cameras and a video. We were told to move into the field and I came to a halt within twenty feet of the object. I can only describe it as a "solidified mass of light".

We all stood there watching it, there were security police from "D Flight", there were two English 'bobbies', and, nearby, some senior personnel. Then I saw the 'disaster preparedness' specialist move in. He was equipped with a geiger-counter and he started going around this thing on the ground. Two cows came up and stood staring at the illuminated mist. I'm not sure what happened to them. It's said that the cows ran off and were later hit by a taxi.

Then I saw a small red light moving over the top of some trees at the edge of the field. At first we thought it was an aircraft because the runway is only a mile and half away. Then the red light moved in over the trees and approached the field in a downward arc. It stopped and hovered about twenty feet off the



Larry Warren



One of the entities

that happened was that people from the “disaster-preparedness” team went over six or seven of us with geiger-counters, I was very scared at this point. We were then told to sign security documents. What disturbed me about this paperwork was that it was a pre-typed statement and it said that we were off-duty and that we just saw lights flipping across the trees. We were ushered into the office where we were greeted,

not by “men in black” but by men in grey business suits from the United States. They were very unfriendly-looking and they wore plastic laminated I.D. badges, which read “*Armed Forces Security Services*”. Through our research, we know that *Armed Forces Security Services*” is a field arm of the National Security Agency, which is a very dirty bird in this whole story. There was also a “Commander Green” from the Office of Naval Intelligence in London, (The USAF did not de-brief us).

We were told that this “problem” has existed longer than anyone of us in the room was aware. They did not say anything about UFOs or E.T.s — nothing.... we just sat there and listened. The propaganda talk continued and we were warned that if we communicated these events via the mail, via the telephone or in any way, shape, or form, we would be court-martialed.

We were next shown a film, a debriefing tool I believe, it confused you even more about what you have gone through. After the film finished, were told to “toe the line” and the Government would look after us. **No threats other than this one of us asked a question, what would happen if we told about this? The AFSS chap just looked at us and with a smile said “bullets are cheap!” Everyone laughed, but it was kind of sick.**

Then I heard a humming sound to my right and I looked over and there was a guy who I knew was from the American “Bible Belt”. (In that faith there is no one bigger than Jesus, and certainly no one else is coming to Earth). **The humming was coming from this guy, he was holding a small pocket bible and reciting “Hail Mary”, “Hail Mary”, non-stop! That was really sad because he was a nice type of a guy, but he was destroyed by this. He went “a.w.o.l” two weeks later, was picked up at Chicago airport by the FBI and returned to the base. I was on patrol duty the night that he called in (i.e telephoned) and said he was going to kill himself. We and another vehicle patrol responded, but it was too late. He had put an M16 into his mouth..... that was the first time that I have ever seen violent death.**

In these events, lives were lost and this is something the Government doesn’t want disclosed.

Later on, I went to one of the red public telephones

of the Base and telephoned my mother. (I figured they were never going to watch that.)

I said to her “You’re never going to believe this but last night we saw a UFO, and it landed on the Base”..... suddenly she wasn’t there anymore! I knew I was in trouble, because we have a thing called “Cosmec” (communications security). Later, I was called into the Base command centre and accused of breaching security. I denied it several times, but then they played me a tape of my phone call. I was fined \$300 and after that I was watched constantly.

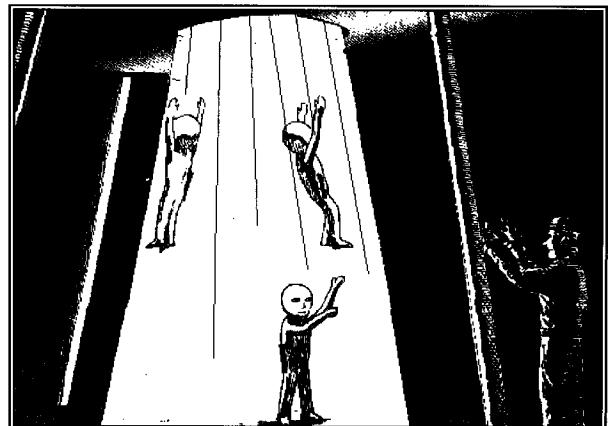
Many witnesses were sent on temporary duty assignments all over the World, there were guys I never saw again! I didn’t think that this cover-up was as deep as it was, but you just can’t imagine it until it happens to you and you see it go on. I didn’t know until later, that RAF Watton tracked these objects for three nights. The USAF later took away the recorded tapes and did not return them.

On the 10th January 1981, a few days after the incident, I visited the Optical Retina Clinic at Lakenheath, as my eyes were causing me problems. After extensive investigation, I was informed that I had burns to the retinas of both eyes. (It was years later, in 1984, that Larry Warren was told he was showing signs of radiation sickness. Omar Fowler.)

I no longer worked as a security police officer and had been relegated to a typing job in a back office where “they” could keep an eye on me. I subsequently decided to quit the USAF and after contacting a lawyer, applied for an honourable discharge on the grounds of “breach of contract”. My request was granted and duly signed by Col. Gordon Williams in May 1981.

It was only revealed last year (1993) during an interview with Lt. Col. C.I. Halt (Deputy Base Commander USAF based at Woodbridge), that the actions of the UFOs had affected the nuclear weapons in their underground storage areas. The UFOs’ light beams apparently penetrated the “hardened” nuclear storage bunkers and somehow affected the weapons stored

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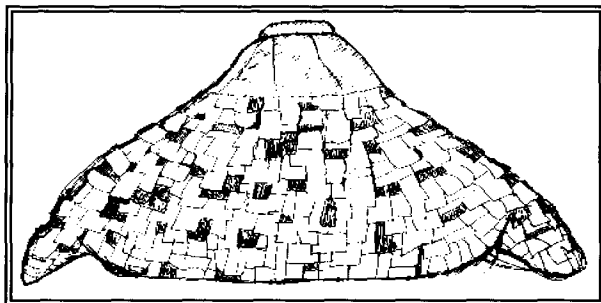
The US Air Force officer contacts the aliens. Sketch based on account of eyewitness “Steve Roberts”, USAF security guard.



From left to right: Peter Robbins, Omar Fowler, Larry Warren

ground. It was the size of an American basketball, self-illuminated, not quite red, but that's as close as I can get to it. Then just as we were watching it, it exploded and light showered down on the object. I was fairly close to this event and the brilliance of the flash affected my eyes. Some personnel ran and disappeared back into the forest and a lot of us were left standing there in a state of shock.

Suddenly, in place of the mist, there was a more solid looking object. It was about thirty feet across at the base and the sides rose up sharply to about twenty-five feet in height. It had delta appendages that came out of it, I don't know whether they were landing-gear or not. It had no windows, no markings, no flags, or country of origin, nothing that I could recognise.



Betty Luca's sketch of the large craft

At this point Sgt. Bustinza, myself, a disaster-preparedness man, and my shift-commander, were ordered to move in on this object. I noticed that when we were standing close to it our shadows were cast upon it at an angle. Somehow this object was 'pulling' our shadows. This effect was strange because we had no lights behind us. **(Once we had got our lighting equipment into the forest, none of it would work!)**

Shortly afterwards, we were ordered back to our original position. At that point the whole object was surrounded by our security police at intervals of about ten feet; there were a lot of personnel out there! Then a light moved out of the side of the object and split into three.

(H) In each light you could make out what appeared to be individual 'beings' of some kind. I saw clearly what looked like eyes, facial features, clothing and some other device, but I couldn't make out the legs and the lower extremities. It was almost as if the

beings were translucent.

One 'being' moved towards the front, there was a lot of activity, cameras filming all the while. Our Wing-Commander, Lt.Col. Williams, stood nearby with other senior officers (I recognised him, as he was six foot plus). He conversed with the people in his group and then he approached the three 'beings' or whatever you wish to call them. **As he stood in front of the centre one, it adjusted its head up to his height and to me this proved that these things were in fact alive!**

There was no sign language, no hand-shakes and no exchange of Milky Way candy bars! What happened next was what could be described as a 'face-off'. If there was any communication it must have been by telepathy, who can say, I've never stated what it was. Suddenly there was sound in the woods like a tree breaking and these 'beings' retracted under a delta type of thing on the craft. Their arms moved up tight and then after a minute or so they moved back closer. I was only about twenty-five feet away from all of this activity. I could see them clearly, **they were not standing, and there was no three dimensional-shape to them.**

The two British bobbies were still taking pictures, but then I saw their cameras taken away from them. (I understand that they are no longer police officers at Woodbridge; one had a mental breakdown and the other was virtually ridiculed off the Police Force and now has an alcohol problem).

Then my shift-commander told us to return to our vehicle. We went back over the rise and headed back to the trucks. When we reached the parking area, we could see strange lights in the sky and these strange blue things moving around. We boarded our vehicles and headed back to Woodbridge with our group.

According to other witnesses, a smaller triangular object appeared after I had gone. It was so small that one of the personnel grabbed the object by putting his arms around it. The object then moved about ten metres with him holding on to it. I know that the person concerned subsequently suffered severe health effects. Then another guy got into his pick-up truck and a 'being' passed right through the windshield. It seemed they could go through metal and solid objects. The driver could see its face quite clearly and he went 'bonkers' and kicked the windshield right out of the truck. Other witnesses who were at the scene have told me that a beam then shot down out of the sky and this 'being' ran straight up the beam into a dark shape hovering above. It wasn't possible to make out what it was. The next morning, I was back at Bentwaters, having coffee with a number of the other guys who had been at the incident. I noticed that my eyes were watering profusely and I had a metallic taste in my mouth. My buddy looked at me across the table and said "what the hell happened to us?" I started to talk, but Sgt. Peniston told me to shut up.

At about 10a.m, I got a phone call to report up to the Security Chief's office. When I arrived the first thing

"mother-craft."

2. Page 9, line 55 left side, please add the word "to" at the beginning of the line, — to make sense.

3. Page 11, line 10 right side, it says: "(see arrows on diagram)"; but you or someone omitted to print Grant's diagram of the "interior of the circular room in which he found himself, in his dream"; so those words in parentheses refer to a non-diagram!

Yours sincerely,

P. M. H. Edwards,
3835 Clarndon Road,
Victoria, B.C., Canada V8N 4A4
February 11, 1982

[I regret the fact that the phrase "see arrows on diagram" was not deleted. The diagram was omitted for two good reasons: first there were considerations of space availability; secondly, I found it rather complicated and confusing, and as both our available artists were out of action at the same time, and the task was left to me, I decided to leave well alone and rely on the written word! — EDITOR]

**The Rendlesham affair and
the "recession in UFO reporting".
Also the Hastings UFO Explanation**

Dear Sir, — I wish to comment on two items in the current issue of FSR (Vol. 27, No. 4).

On page 21 Gordon Creighton adds a footnote to the Juan Benítez article on 1980 Spanish cases, requesting to know where the evidence is for a December 1980 British UFO wave. I would refer Gordon to my "A Policeman's Lot" article in FSR Vol. 27, No. 2, where I make reference to the period November 21 to 28, which seems to have been the locus of the wave so far as Britain is concerned. During that period (unparalleled in my recollection as an active investigator) a remarkable number of high strangeness cases were squeezed into a few days. They included two contact cases (the only ones in 1980), a radar-visual over Flyingdales early warning station, two chases (one involving police across several counties), an object over a North Sea Oil Rig and an EM interference/animal disturbance low level object in the East Midlands. Some of these have been in FSR, others will no doubt appear in due course. In December itself, there was relatively little activity but there was the intriguing affair at Rendlesham Forest.*

In my opinion this burst of activity is exceedingly important for several reasons. Firstly, there was *no* media stimulus for it. The fact that a knowledgeable (but not investigative) ufologist, such as Gordon, had no inkling that a mini-wave had occurred, proves the point in itself. What is more it came during a year when UFO sightings were almost non-existent (about 150% fewer than in a mundane previous year). Almost all the important UFO events to occur in Britain during that year (and for most of 1981 for that matter) were sandwiched into this tiny time slot.† It can scarcely be coincidence, I would argue. And I would like to see a sociological or psychological theory that can explain it too! In my current writing project, *UFO Reality*, I make play on this fact, suggesting that it is truly one of the most significant pieces of evidence we have of a genuine *external* enigma. For this kind of mini-wave has happened before and is never recognised until afterwards. I coined the term "Crazy Days" to cover such eventualities. If, as Juan Benítez says, the phenomenon was repeated in other parts of northern Europe then the importance is doubly emphasised. Would Sr. Benítez care to produce a report on the progress of this wave for FSR? I might then produce one on the pattern of the UK "Crazy Days." The comparison would be rather interesting, and I think rather important.

Secondly, I would refer to reader Mrs. P. M. Tustin's letter and press cutting about the Royal Greenwich Observatory and their "explanations" of UFO reports, in particular the case of October 4, 1981, from Hastings, reproduced in FSR on page 25.

It might interest Mrs. Tustin, and other readers, to know that not everyone at Greenwich seeks to cast doubt on ufology. Indeed I do not know if anyone does. For Phillip Taylor, one of the scientists there, is in fact a UFOIN investigator! Phillip (no relation to the Taylor cited in the newspaper item) investigated this case for us and produced a marvellous case study which proves beyond all reasonable doubt that the two women *did* view the moon (just as his Greenwich colleague had admittedly "guessed", when asked for an "instant quote" by the press). Phil finds this conclusion hard to understand, to say the least, because the case is a complex one with severe physiological effects. Neither witness believes him, of

FSR VOL 27N #5
ANO 1982
MES MARCH

THE RENDLESHAM FOREST MYSTERY

DOT STREET

In February, 1981 I heard from a friend and associate, Brenda Butler, of an alleged UFO landing and CE3 near Woodbridge which is nine miles north-east of Ipswich, Suffolk.

Brenda had heard from several people who claimed to have witnessed a UFO landing in Rendlesham Forest sometime around the beginning of January, 1981. She had little information regarding the sighting other than that an object with three legs, together with "entities" who appeared to be doing something to the craft, had been seen. It was claimed that communication had been made between the entities and personnel from the near-by USAF/RAF base at Bentwaters.

On Wednesday, February 18th, 1981 Brenda and I went to the air-base to see the Commander. Whilst talking to his secretary we mentioned the January sighting to which she replied (without prompting) "The beginning of January?" When we confirmed this she seemed more determined that we should see the commander.

He asked for some form of identification and I showed him my BUFORA membership card, but this he did not accept and said that without proper identification he could not say anything. We told him what we knew of the sighting and he said that he knew nothing about it. He asked if we were going to continue our investigation and when I said "Yes" he asked what we intended to do with our information. I said we would do the same as he would do - file it! We left his office with the distinct impression that he knew far more than he was admitting. A visit to the site where the landing had allegedly taken place revealed nothing out of the ordinary.

Several days later Brenda heard from a man, who refused to identify himself, that the report was true. He gave her directions on how to get to the site. This witness later said that he had been told to speak to no one about the sighting - and later still he denied all knowledge of it.

On February 24th we again visited Rendlesham Forest and attempted to locate the landing site but the directions we had received proved somewhat vague and we were unsuccessful. Finally we went to the Forestry Commission office and spoke to the man on duty. He said that he had been working in the office on January 1st, 1981 when a man came in and said that he had just been talking to a farmer who, on December 29th, 1980, had heard a very loud noise which had frightened his animals. The farmer also said that at the same time the area around his farm had been illuminated by a very bright, white light. The farmer had telephoned RAF Woodbridge who sent men out to investigate. The whole episode, he said, had lasted about four hours.

No one seems to know who this farmer is - and we have heard that he has been told (presumably by security people at the air base) to say nothing about the incident. We have also been unable to trace the man who told this story to the Forestry Commission employee.

Another forestry worker told us that the husband of his wife's friend had also seen a UFO on the night of December 29th and that his account tied in with that of the other witnesses. He then showed us on a map exactly where the incident was supposed to have happened. His men had been right through that part of the forest but had seen nothing untoward. It is worth noting that since the incident tree-felling has taken place in that part of the forest.

B.B., No 4. MAY-82

After leaving the office we talked to people living in the immediate area. At one farm the residents told us that they had been visited by two men on January 1st, who had asked the same questions as we had. One of these two unidentified visitors also mentioned that they had interviewed Forestry Commission workers. The people at the farm said that they had heard that something had happened on that night at the air base bomb disposal site which is nowhere near the site pointed out to us by the Forestry Commission representative. No one at the other houses we called at knew anything.

I am still investigating this report. With all the information gleaned so far, the account of the landing/CE3, appears to be as follows:

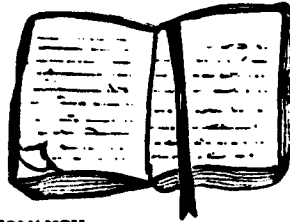
On the evening of December 28th, 1980, a farmer living near Rendlesham Forest was woken up by restless cattle. He went outside to investigate and noticed that the sky was a bright as day. At the same time he heard a loud and unusual noise unlike that of any aircraft (living next to an operational air-base he is very familiar with their sounds). He contacted RAF Woodbridge/Bentwater who sent out security men to investigate. The farmer then became aware of an object, seemingly in some sort of trouble, hovering over the forest. When the security men arrived they too saw the object and contacted the base who then sent out more personnel. By this time the object had landed and three "entities" surrounded by a white glow were seen floating around the "craft" which stood on three legs some 30ft apart. The "entities" appeared to be doing something to their craft. It is said that some sort of communication took place between the base personnel and the "entities" and that the former were instructed to leave their weapons behind and assist with the damaged craft (one report suggests that the craft was, in fact, removed to the air base). A member of the public witnessed all this activity and what he says ties in with reports from other witnesses. The incident lasted about four hours. We have also been told that during this period there were power failures in the area. Because of the involvement of the British government, all of the witnesses who initially contacted us (some air base personnel) now refuse to discuss the matter. One witness actually denies any knowledge of the incident. Witnesses say that they have been told to keep quiet and they fear for the security of their jobs if they do not. I know one of the witnesses personally and can vouch for his honesty - but even he refuses to talk about the matter. For obvious reasons I have not revealed the names of any witnesses.

On February 18th, 1981 Brenda Butler telephoned the Ministry of Defence about this incident and later wrote to them. The Ministry denied all knowledge of the subject and said that they had no information to give.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Dot Street is now actively investigating UFOs on behalf of BSIG and BUFORA. She can be contacted at Lowestoft (0502) 84606.

BOOKS



THE ANCIENT SCIENCE OF GEOMANCY Nigel Rennick (Thames & Hudson £3.95. 180pp)

An absorbing book this, for - as with UFOLOGY - Geomancy touches on or encompasses so many other subjects; astronomy, geology, leys, architecture, to name but a few.

The author roughly defines the practice of Geomancy as "the science of putting human habitats and activities into harmony with the visible and invisible world around us" the "concept of harmony with the natural environment."

Chapter headings include "Natural Geomancy"; "The Omphalos" "Images In The Earth"; and "Sacred Geometry" and 128-odd photographs include Stonehenge, St Cerid's Well, The Omphalos of Delphi, Salisbury Cathedral, the Glastonbury Zodiac and the Big Horn Medicine Wheel at Wyoming.

The Chapter on Sacred Geometry examines the relation of symbols, such as the cross, pentagram, triangle etc., to religion with references to the Holy Sepulchre Church at Jerusalem, the Taj Mahal, the Pyramids and the other holy places. Lay enthusiasts will find much to interest them and references to Alfred Watkins are well to the fore.

Indeed an absorbing book.

HT

BRITISH MEGALITHS

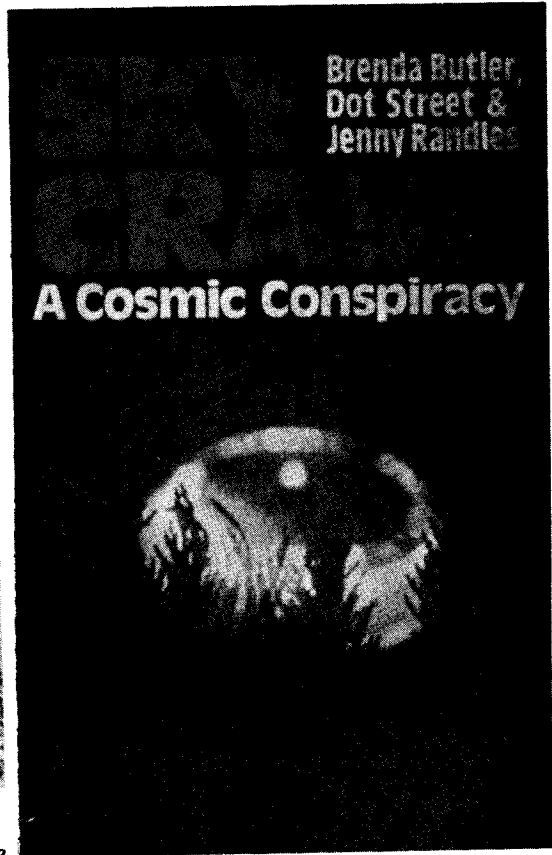
J.T. Graham (Watford College, Hampstead Road, Watford, Hertfordshire £1.00. 17pp)

If your studies embrace such concepts as ley lines, astro-archaeology and such like, this little booklet is likely to prove a very useful reference source. Each section, be it geology, force fields, folklore, astronomy etc, while not giving information regarding specific sites, does identify the main 20th century sources of factual information and popular lines of speculation. There is a good bibliography and index. This handy little guide will save you hours of poring through library lists.

BW



Two of the authors, Brenda Butler, left, and Dot Street, on the site of the alleged landing of the spaceship in Rendlesham Forest.



The cover of the new book which claims UFOs landed in Suffolk.

'Like the one that got away...'

THE Rendlesham Forest "Sky Crash" incident has been entered in the files of officialdom as "unexplained."

USAF and Ministry of Defence officials accept that something took place... but both say they have no interest in the matter.

The "Sky Crash" story is like the fisherman's tale of the one that got away... it gets bigger each time it is told.

That is the view of Capt. Victor Warzinski, in command of the USAF public affairs department on the Bentwaters/Woodbridge twin airbase.

He told the EADT, "I do not think there was ever any doubt that something happened which we cannot explain."

Off-base incident 30-12-80

But, he said, there was "not the slightest shred of documentation" beyond the report by Col. Halt which is headed "unexplained lights."

Any incident which took place off-base did not come under the jurisdiction of the USAF. The Halt report was therefore sent to the Ministry of Defence and the matter was left to them to handle "as they felt most appropriate."

The USAF had no other course of action open to it beyond making the report available "as a matter of courtesy." Any other action would have been "like sending out our cops to enforce British law," he said.

Asked specifically about the traces of radiation allegedly found at the site, he said that these were "only normal background counts — the sort you or I would get if we went out anywhere and took readings."

The readings were not officially taken. They were obtained by

off-duty personnel. Asked why they went to the site unofficially and at night he said, "Your guess is as good as mine."

The USAF would not comment on any of the speculation in the "Sky Crash" book. But of the incidents in general, he said, "I do not get the feeling that there has been any cover-up in any sense of the words."

Remembered

He added, "It is like the old fisherman's tale of the one that got away... it gets bigger each time it is told. The fish in reality does not get any bigger but the story sure as hell does."

The case was instantly remembered by both Ministry of Defence officials contacted by the EADT yesterday.

Spokesman Mr. Dermot Hill said the Ministry's DSO department had investigated the incidents and had found no defence or military significance or implication and had therefore taken no further action.

'Reasonable people'

"It was looked into and there being no military explanation was lost interest in it.

"I can see perfectly well that reasonable people who are interested in such things would find it very interesting. I am not in any way saying that these people must be crankish or anything of that sort... I am simply saying that the MoD was satisfied there was no military significance."

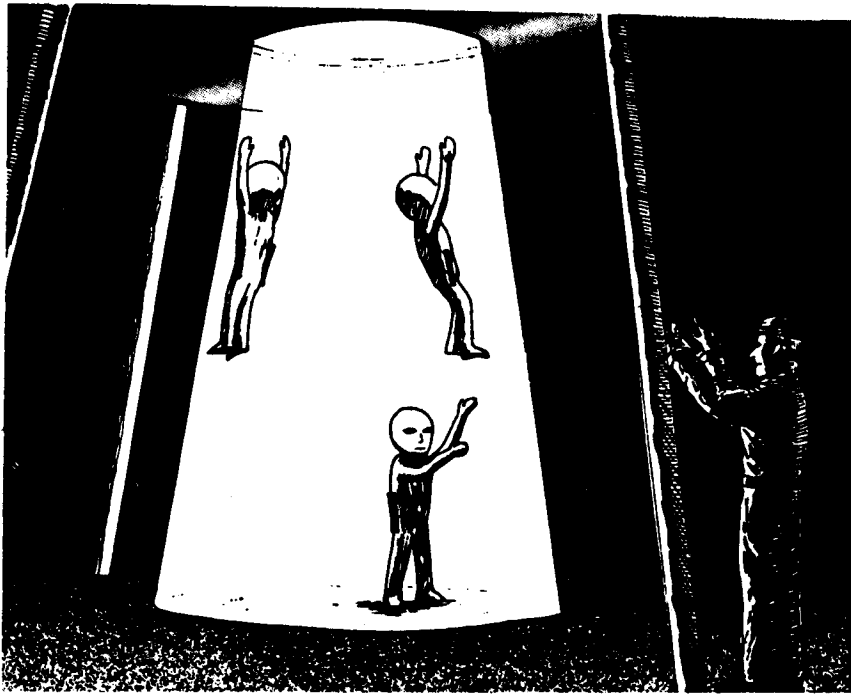
Col. Halt's report was "thorough" and it was "basically all we have on our files about it."

M, JAN - 84

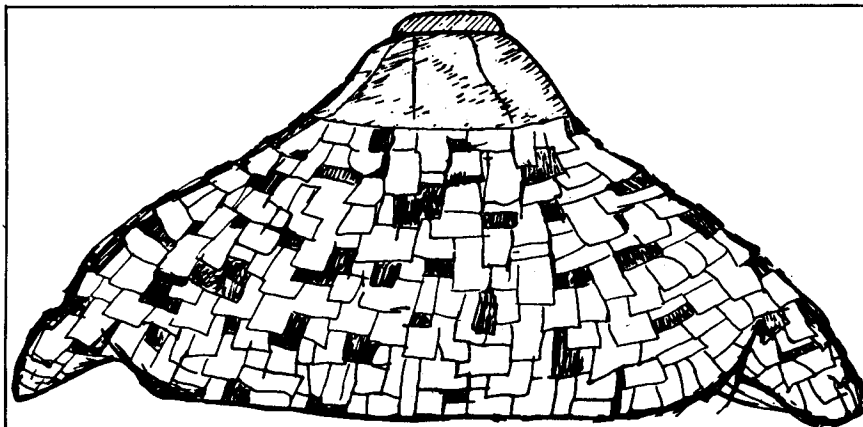
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RENDELESHAM FOREST, CONT.

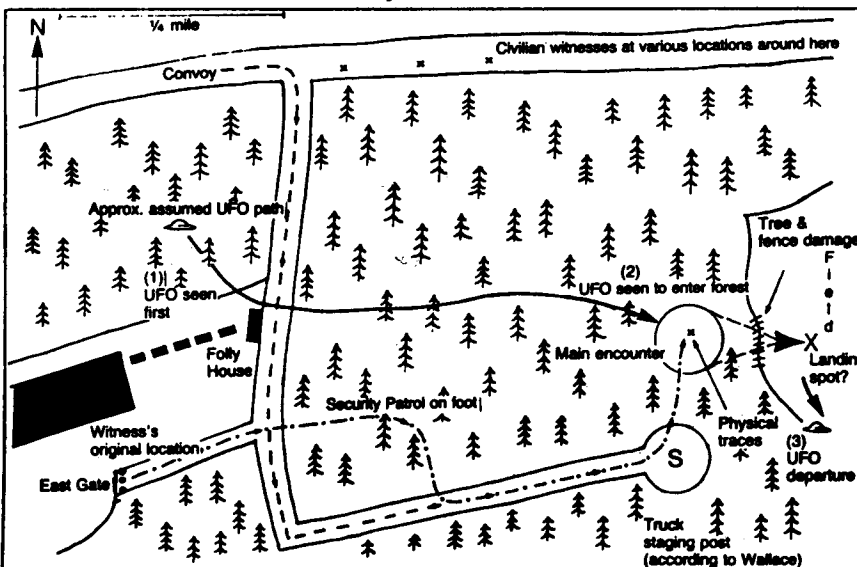
"SKY CRASH" material
from
"East Anglian Times"
October 25, 1984



The American serviceman's view of the alien contact with the base commander.



The craft which appeared after the alleged light explosion on December 30, 1980, as described by an American airman.



Map of the path taken from USAF Woodbridge to the site of the alleged encounter with the space craft.

MEDIA & UFOS, CONTINUED

an immediate story may be in order and should be reported by someone like Walt Andrus who is level-headed about the phenomenon.

Other ways in which you may aid the news media in keeping the public informed of UFO happenings include:

1. Providing interviews with recognized scientists like Dr. Hynek and Dr. Saunders.
2. Holding conferences such as this which pull together the views of experts in the field.
3. Making appearances before groups such as luncheon clubs always making sure speakers provide reporters with adequate summaries of their remarks.
4. Releasing pictures of sightings if they tell a significant story.
5. Assisting reporters and editors in pulling together isolated reports and facts so that they may be presented in a total context possessing meaning. A good example here is the significance of the events in 1954 as pointed out by Jacques Vallee.

These are some suggestions I leave with you in the hope that by obtaining your cooperation we in the news media can present a clearer picture of the UFO significance. Additionally, let me say that I'm sure you'll find news media representatives willing to give our field objective treatment if you'll make yourselves available for providing answers which newsmen may need to handle information about UFO's intelligently.

As your so-called keynoter, I'm privileged to welcome you to Quincy an open-minded city, a truly great city that welcomes new ideas and a city wherein scientific research in many fields has reached a high level of sophistication. Thus, the scientific trend in our exploration of UFO's will attract to its echo a warm welcome from all of us here to all of you.





A document released by the U.S. Air Force under The Freedom of Information Act confirms that a landed UFO and entities were seen near Rendlesham Forest in Suffolk on December 30, 1980. However, the case has now been safely explained away as caused by a distant lighthouse.

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FSR, Vol. 29, No 3, 1984

Artwork: Eve and Contributors

concealments or additions. Our motto all these years has been **Progressu Et**

veritate (For Progress and Truth) – and we will stick to that. **H.C. Petersen**

Spacemen return to Britain

By: W. Raymond Drake

On October 2nd 1983, the 'News of the World', Britain's leading Sunday newspaper, on its front page in banner headlines proclaimed

UFO Lands in Suffolk. And that's official!

Colonel's top secret report tells the facts. Mystery craft in exploding wall of colours. Animals flee from strange glowing object.

The full report by Keith Beabey states, –

»A UFO has landed in Britain – and that staggering fact has been officially confirmed.

Despite a massive cover-up, News of the World investigators have proof that the mysterious craft came to Earth in a red ball of light at 3 a.m. on December 27, 1980. It happened in a pine forest called Tangham Wood just half a mile from the USAF base at RAF Woodbridge in Suffolk. An American airman who was there told us there were three beings in silvery space-suits aboard the craft.

Farm cattle and forest animals ran berserk as the spacecraft, a sloping silver dish about 20 feet across its base, silently glided to land in a blinding explosion of lights. About 200 military and civilian personnel, British and American, witnessed the astonishing event. The airman said the visitors appeared to be expected. Two nights later a series of fast moving objects beaming powerful lights earthward were spotted over the base by a number of airmen.

It sounds like Aliens coming to Earth in the film Close Encounters, but the PROOF that an Unidentified Flying Object landed in Britain is irrefutable. The key witness is Lt. Colonel Charles I. Halt deputy commander, of the USAF 81st Tactical Fighter Wing stationed alongside the RAF at Woodbridge.

With the help of UFO experts in Britain and the US we have obtained a copy of his official report on the incident. On official USAF notepaper and headed »Unexplained Lights«, Colonel Halt wrote:

'Early in the morning two USAF security police patrolmen saw unusual lights outside the backgate at RAF Woodbridge. Thinking an aircraft might have crashed or been forced down they called for permission to go outside the gate to investigate. The on-duty flight chief allowed three patrolmen to proceed on foot. The individuals reported seeing a strange glowing object in the forest. The object was described as being metallic in appearance and triangular in shape, approximately two to three metres across the base and approximately two metres high. It illuminated the entire forest with a white light. The object itself had a pulsing red light on top and a bank of blue lights underneath. The object was hovering on legs. As the patrolmen approached the object, it manoeuvred in between the trees and disappeared. At this time the animals on a nearby farm went into a frenzy. The object was sighted approximately an hour

later near the back gate. The next day three depressions one and a half inches deep and seven inches in diameter were found where the object had been sighted on the ground.'

His report goes on: 'Later in the night a red sun-like light was seen between the trees. It moved about and pulsed. At one point it appeared to throw off glowing particles and then broke into five separate white objects and disappeared. Immediately thereafter three star-like objects were noted in the sky, two objects to the North and one to the South, all of which were about 10 degrees off the horizon. The objects moved rapidly in sharp angular movements and displayed green and blue lights. The objects to the North appeared elliptical through a 8-12 power lens. They then turned to full circles. The objects to the North remained in the sky for an hour or more. The object to the South was visible for two or three hours and beamed down a stream of lights from time to time.' Numerous people including himself witnessed these events, Colonel Halt concluded.

Last week he declined to say anything further when we called on him at the base. 'This is a very delicate situation,' he said. 'I have been told very clearly that I could jeopardize my career if I talked to you about it.'

But before filing his report Colonel Halt sought advice from the RAF base commander, Squadron Leader Donald Morland, who told me, 'The colonel sat in my office and was a very worried man. I know Colonel Halt well and respect him, and I fully believe he was telling me the truth. Whatever it was, it was able to perform feats in the air which no known aircraft is capable of doing. I put the events the Colonel related to me down to inexplicable phenomena.'

The Colonel's report confirms the strange events in the forest that night, but lacks the eye-witness detail given to us by Art Wallace, a USAF Security Policeman, now back in America as a civilian. He was sent to the site in a convoy of military vehicles from nearby Bentwaters that night and describes what he saw: 'We looked up in the sky and saw a red ball of light coming towards us from over the trees. There was no noise, no sound at all. We were all mesmerised. All of a sudden, the red light exploded. The place was filled with an explosion of colours, all kinds of colours. We were momentarily blinded, and when the colours died down there was the machine.'

Art said there were beings in the craft, but he could not see them as he was on the wrong side. 'But others did. They said there were three, wearing silver suits.' Art Wallace - we have changed his name for security reasons - tells his story on page 3 today.

One theory is that the craft was a military space vehicle returning to earth from a top secret mission, but that would hardly explain why Colonel Halt knew nothing of it.

Last word goes to game-keeper Roger Boast, who lives in his cottage near the airbase. 'Something happened that night. The cattle in a nearby field ran amok. And deer and rabbits ran from the woods. It is all very strange.'

This fascinating report was confirmed by the Air Chief. The »News of the World« published »There has been no hoax«, says the man who was in charge of the USAF base at Woodbridge when the UFO came down. The Wing Commander, now Brigadier-General Gordon Williams, said back home in America. 'I recall Lt. Colonel Halt's report. I don't know exactly what happened. It is all there. He is not a man who would hoax

the British Ministry of Defence, or the American Air Force Department.'

Despite official silence, »News of the World« reporters discovered that the UFO was tracked on radar by RAF Watten, 50 miles from where it landed. Radar technicians reported »Tracing unidentified object«. They followed its progress across the east coast until it disappeared off the screen. USAF Intelligence officers later checked the tapes of all radar installations in the area.

Page 3 of the London »News of the World«, Sunday, October 2, 1983, had big headlines:

**UFO lands in Suffolk –
the airman's story**

The Forest Exploded With Blinding Light

The first searing thought to penetrate US Airman Art Wallace's brain as he saw Britain's first authenticated UFO landing was that he was seeing something from Star Wars. To Art, the mystery machine that landed silently in a forest in an explosion of red light looked like »the spaceship from the movie«.

He told me: »It appeared to have a triangular shape and was covered with pipes and valves and things. It was about 20 feet across the bottom with sloping sides up to the top 12 ft to 15 ft high ... certainly big enough to handle people.«

Art's rendezvous with the unbelievable came in the early hours of December 27, 1980, after he was ordered into a jeep at ~~RAF Bentwaters, Suffolk~~, where he was a security guard. The jeep drove in convoy towards the nearby RAF Woodbridge, then pulled up on the edge of lonely Tangham Wood. Said Art: »We were all told to hand in our weapons. I had a M16 rifle. Then we took lights into the wood.

Amazing things seemed to happen then. I noticed animals running in panic from the forest. Fuel gauges on the vehicles registered empty when we knew they were full. As we approached a clearing we could see some very bright lights. We were a bit shook up to come across a US medic treating one of our security police who appeared to have broken down and was crying.

The clearing was full of RAF and USAF security people – about 200 of them. Several movie cameras had been set up, and choppers were flying above. Then we saw an object. It appeared to be resting on the ground and looked like a giant aspirin. It was transparent. We were in awe, never having seen anything remotely like this. Nearby, there was an airman carrying a radio. Suddenly we heard a chopper pilot telling him »Here it comes«. We looked up and saw a red ball of light coming towards us over the trees. In the distance, it looked about 100 feet high and appeared to come in to land. It came down right over the transparent aspirin on the ground. There was no sound at all.

We were all mesmerized. All of a sudden the red light exploded. The place was filled with an explosion of all kind of colours. We were blinded. When the colours died down we looked again, and there was a machine there. A captain motioned us to approach the ship. We walked up close enough to touch it. It was giving off a metallic bluish light. There were three groups of about four security men circling the thing. I could see our shadows on the craft. As we walked they moved. But when we stopped the shadows seemed to take another place. It was weird.

Suddenly a green light came on at the top of the spaceship. It moved down the sides of the craft until it reached our heads then bounced from one to the other along the side. Just like the ball

bounces in a video game. Then I realized the spaceship was inhabited. There were beings aboard. I didn't see them because I was on the wrong side of the craft. But others did. They said there were three and they were wearing silver suits. I had a strange feeling and seemed to black out. The next thing I knew it was about 5 a.m. and I was waking up, lying half across my bunk. I still had my uniform on and was up to my knees in mud.

To this day I don't know how I got back to the barracks, or what happened after I saw the green light bounce off our shadows. My room-mate said I'd been brought into the room by some people – he didn't know who – and just dumped on the bed. Later that day, myself and several of the guys who had been on the field were given the once-over with a geiger-counter but we were never told why or what the results were. We were all called to the base security office at Bentwaters and told what we'd seen had been classified top secret.

Several civilians were doing all the talking. We took them for CIA. They said if we ever told the story, no one would believe us. One guy added that if we did talk, then bullets were cheap. I thought, »This guy is actually threatening our lives.« He obviously meant it. Looking back, the one thing that bothers me is that the officers and civilians present seemed to know all about it – they weren't all that surprised.«

Art Wallace – that isn't his real name – was honourable discharged from the USAF in June 1st. He is now aged 22. If named, he could be jailed for saying what he saw.

Attempts to penetrate the mystery have been made by two Suffolk UFO spotters, Mrs. Brenda Cutler, 38, of Leiston, and Mrs. Dorothy Street, of Oulton Broad. Said Brenda: »We met a wall of secrecy.«

But they have linked up with American UFO expert, Larry Fawcett, who questioned Art Wallace and obtained a copy of the report on the incident by Lt. Colonel Halt, USAF deputy-commander at RAF Woodbridge. »The Colonel later saw us in his office,« said Brenda. »He was upset because the report had leaked out but he then became helpful. He even pointed out on our map the places he said the craft had landed.«

At the Defence Ministry in London a Spokesman would only say: »We are aware of the report, but this is a matter for the USAF, not us.«

But a USAF Spokesman at Mildenhall, Suffolk, said: »All reports of this incident are now with your Defence Ministry.«

This story of the UFO landing was reported on BBC 1 morning television, Monday, October 3rd 1983, quoting many of the details mentioned by the »News of the World«. The same morning the London »Daily Express« stated: 'The MoD said the report is on file. The Ministry keeps these reports for statistical purposes, it does not act upon them.'

Below a photograph of the Earl of Clancart the »Daily Express« added: 'But a senior member of the House of Lords accused Whitehall of »cover-up, one big cover-up.«'

The »Daily Express« continued: 'Lord Clancarty, 72, who heads a world-wide network of UFO investigators called Contact, said: »Not only am I personally convinced that a UFO landed there – I already heard something about it – but I know for sure that such machines are being used by both the Americans and the British. Both sides have been working like mad on this secret project. Apparently they have succeeded in locating some form of electromagnetic energy in outer space which powers these things. Naturally no-one wants to