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An international journal devoted to the study of reports of Unidentified Flying Objects

THAT COVER-UP

To our surprise, the mass-circulation British Sunday newspaper *News of the World* has recently occupied itself in a big way with the alleged UFO landing or near-landing in the area of Rendlesham Forest (or Tangmere Wood?) in the British Eastern County of Suffolk, which was the subject of detailed reports by Jenny Randles published long ago in FSR (Vol. 26, No. 6, 1981; and Vol. 27, No. 6, 1982). This fresh interest in the Suffolk case has been sparked off by a recent success in the U.S.A., where it seems that *C.A.U.S. (Citizens Against UFO Secrecy)* have managed to secure the release of one document about it under the terms of the *Freedom of Information Act*. We understand that this document is the original U.S.A.F. report on the case, made at the time by Lt.Col. Charles I. Halt, at that date serving as Deputy-Commander of the U.S.A.F. 81st Tactical Fighter Wing stationed at the R.A.F. Base at Woodbridge, Suffolk.

In the five articles (October 2, 9, 16, and 23, and November 6, 1983) which the *News of the World* has devoted to this and other more recent British UFO reports, the newspaper has done what only fools like the current Editor of FSR are supposed to do. That is, it has accused someone of operating an elaborate and high-level cover-up on UFOs. For this is what the *News of the World* said in their Editorial Column on October 2, 1983:—

WE MUST BE TOLD

Something strange happened out there in the forest on that wintry night in December, 1980.

Our fully documented page 1 report of a UFO landing in Suffolk cannot be shrugged away.

At every turn our investigators met an official wall of silence — yet nobody disputed the basic facts.

Someone in authority, particularly in the Ministry of Defence, has the answer.

It is time we were told.

In the course of an interview lasting about 1½ hours which the Editor of FSR had on October 27 with the Editor and Assistant Editor of the *News of the World*, these last-mentioned two gentlemen stated that their articles on UFOs had led to a great increase in their readership! (The *News of the World* already sells more than 4,000,000 copies per Sunday.) *This piece of information proves that it is NOT true that the British public is no longer inter-*

ested in the UFO Problem. What it does prove is that the British public ARE deeply interested in the facts whenever someone manages to get those facts to them. There is, however, a carefully designed system in operation which is normally effective in preventing the facts from reaching them.

One of our long-standing readers has recently written to us to say that FSR has no lack of critics and enemies, and that their favourite parrot-cry is "Paranoia!".

We wouldn't know much about the Parrot Brigade, but what we DO know is that FSR has a tremendous lot of friends and supporters scattered throughout the world. This moment might, therefore, be thought a fitting one for us to commence re-publication of three or four of our own editorials or significant articles, starting from the earliest days of FSR, when ex-RAF pilot Derek Dempster was our first Editor, and leading on to a note written very recently to the present Editor of FSR by Admiral of The Fleet The Lord Hill-Norton, formerly Britain's First Sea Lord and formerly Chief of the British Defence Staff. (We gave details of an extremely important statement by him in a recent number, FSR Vol. 28, No. 4.)

The re-issue of some of these early articles and edi-

torials from our archives will admittedly delay slightly the publication of the massive accumulation of exciting current material which is already in our pipeline. But we have a new generation of FSR readers today, few, if any, of whom will be likely to know what was happening in Ufology in 1955 and 1956, and what FSR was reporting in those days, and they will surely be glad to read our reprints.

One thing, at any rate, is certain, and that is that the famous "paranoia" will be found to go back a long, long way, to the days when the present Editor (although already a contributor to FSR since Vol. 1, No. 2) could scarcely be accused of exercising any influence over the editorial policies of FSR, of whose Board he was not a member. And it now seems that we can take comfort from the fact that our grave mental illness, our thesis that there is a massive Cover-Up, is evidently shared by the Editor of one British newspaper which sells somewhat more than four million copies per Sunday and is probably seen by two or even three times that number of readers.

It looks as though FSR's most heinous offence is that, as these old editorials and articles will show, we have been on the right track throughout the nearly thirty years of our existence!

FROM THE FSR ARCHIVES 1

Editorial by Derek Dempster

FSR. VOL. I NO. 2

MAY-JUNE 1955

GOVERNMENT statements on Flying Saucers have always been confusing, and the general consensus of opinion has been that officialdom was just as anxious to know the answer to the riddle as anyone else.

But last month something happened to give rise to the belief that Whitehall did in fact have the U.F.O. answer.

*The Air Ministry announced that the results of a five-year probe into Flying Saucers by the Royal Air Force had been submitted to high-ranking officers but that it was never to be revealed to the public for security reasons.**

To the question: "Do Flying Saucers exist?" the answer is understood to be NO. No definite denial there. Just an implied denial.

Following the announcement, Major Patrick Wall (Conservative, Haltemprice) asked the Under-Secretary of State for Air, Mr George Ward, whether the Air Ministry inquiry had been completed and whether he proposed to publish a report.

Mr Ward's answer was not really an answer and contradicted his own department.

He said: "Reports of Flying Saucers, as well as other abnormal objects in the sky, are investigated as they

come in, but there has been no formal inquiry.

"About 90 per cent of the reports have been found to relate to meteors, balloons, flares and many other objects. The fact that the other ten per cent are unexplained need be attributed to nothing more sinister than lack of data."

So once again the Government have issued confusing statements on the subject. Furthermore, they have stated that 10 per cent of the sightings cannot be accounted for by conventional explanations; yet, until Mr Ward's statement the unexplained sightings amounted to only five per cent.

This still begs the question, and the Government should be asked who selects the 100 per cent and on what basis. With regard to the 10 per cent, there are plenty of people in this country who could supply the Government with the data which they say is not available.

Consider for a moment the R.A.F. pilots who have reported seeing strange objects in the sky; and there are many of them.

If they are lying, they obviously lack integrity and should be dismissed the Service. If they are suffering

from hallucinations they are not fit to fly and are therefore unfit for further service.

Yet none of the pilots who have submitted reports have been sacked, which indicates that their statements have been accepted as being true and that they are in a good state of health.

Therefore, the Air Ministry must have a good deal of data upon which to formulate some answer: 1. That

Flying Saucers do not exist. 2. That they exist and are secret weapons. 3. That they exist and are interplanetary.

From all the confusion one thing seems to emerge fairly clearly. That Flying Saucers do exist. What is not clear, however, is whether they are in fact secret weapons or interplanetary space-ships.

**My italics. G.C. 1983*

A LANDING AND CLOSE ENCOUNTER NEAR ALDERSHOT

Omar Fowler, Chairman, S.I.G.A.P.

(Surrey Investigation Group on Aerial Phenomena, Guildford, Surrey)

ON October 10, 1983, I received a telephone call from a local newspaper, with the request that I investigate a report of a UFO landing in the adjacent County of Hampshire. I duly did so. The case seems to be authentic and I give below a report on my findings.

The subject, aged 77, has spent many years in Canada, and has in his time hunted bear, fought wolves and lived in the out-back wilderness of Canada. The result is that he is not scared of anything and, as he pointed out in the interview, thought that at his age he had nothing to lose by investigating the UFO craft.

Name: Mr. Alfred Burtoo, 49 Pegasus Avenue, North Town, Aldershot, Hampshire.

Date & Time of Incident: 0115, August 12, 1983.

Place:- Basingstoke Canal Bank, near North Town, Aldershot, Hampshire.

Transcription from taped interview with O. Fowler 10/10/83. (Mr. Burtoo had written to the local paper to enquire if anyone had seen a light at the time of the incident: he did not mention a UFO, but a reporter called on him, heard the story, then phoned me for an opinion. I arranged to call and interview.)

Statement by eyewitness

"On the one o'clock news on the 11th of August, the weather report said the weather was going to be fine, and the moon was only four or five days old, which is what I considered to be ideal conditions for fishing, so I got the wife to go and get me a loaf of bread, which she did (bait). I got all my tackle ready and I moved off from here at a quarter past twelve at night (i.e. the morning of Friday, August 12, 1983). On the way up to the canal, I stopped on the road to put the dog on a lead, when I heard footsteps behind me and it turned out to be one of the M.O.D. (Ministry of Defence) po-

licemen on his duties, so we stopped and had a talk . . . After a short time he went his way and I went mine up onto the canal bank. As soon as I got there I put my tackle on the ground and undid my rod-case, stuck the rod in the ground, and tied the dog to it. Then I started to unpack my tackle-box, then, just as I started, I heard the "gong" at the nearby Buller Barracks strike one (1 a.m.). I got everything ready for dawn because that is your best time for fishing.

"I sat there on my tackle-box watching the water for any movement of fish, and decided to have a cup of tea. I poured out a cup of tea, when I saw a light suddenly appear from the South, so I put my cup down on the box and stood and watched it. It came in towards the railway bridge and I thought . . . it's not going to land on the railway bridge? I straightaway guessed that it wasn't an aeroplane or a "chopper", because it was only about three hundred feet off the ground. Then it settled down further along the towpath and the brilliant light that had been showing was extinguished. I stood there watching it and presently I saw two 'forms' coming towards me.

"The dog growled and wouldn't pack up until I told it to; two 'forms' came up to me, just over 4' high I would say, dressed in pale green 'overalls' and visors. I stood there looking at them, and they stood there looking at me and then the chap on the right waved for me to come, and that was all. I was curious, so I followed them. Well, when we got down to within fifty to sixty yards of the railway bridge, there was this object sitting on the towpath, with ten to fifteen feet over the water and about ten to fifteen feet over the bank. There were steps. They were off line to the towpath, and we had to step on to the grass to go up them. One of these 'forms' went across the corridor, which was hexagon in shape (see plan view) and the other one stood near the door, and I stood to the right of him.