

routine, Dr. Hynek went back to teaching, taking the chairmanship at Northwestern in 1960.

He is survived by his wife, the former Miriam Curtis; four sons and daughter, Scott Josef, of Waltham,

Mass.; Joel Curtis, of Leonia, N.J., Paul Curtis, of Scottsdale, Ross Allen, of Lake Forest, Ill., Roxane of Hanover, Mass.; and five grandchildren.

# MYSTERY SWIRLED RINGS IN ENGLAND (1985)

*Pat Delgado*

Mr. Pat Delgado, of Alresford, Hampshire, is one of our new FSR Consultants whom we have not yet had an opportunity to introduce. He is a fascinating man, with more than 52 years of experience covering a wide range in the electronic and electro-mechanical fields, mainly in research and development. (The many members of the British public who enjoy their morning tea in bed will be delighted to know that, as we understand, Pat Delgado is also the designer of the celebrated *Goblin Teasmade* device.)

Perhaps more important than that however, so far as "our subject" is concerned, is the fact that Mr. Delgado spent seven years in Government service at the Woomera Rocket Testing Range in South Australia. One may suspect therefore that he knows more about the UFO Problem than he is free to say. His work there, he tells us, brought him into close association with sophisticated optical and radar-tracking systems.

Here in Britain he and the *Daily Express* photographer Chris Wood and FSR Consultant Omar Fowler are the three men who have made the deepest study of these "swirled rings in the corn", and we can think ourselves especially fortunate in having not only Pat Delgado's carefully thought-out findings but also, to back up and illustrate those findings, the superb professional photographic skills of Chris Wood, chief photographer for the *Daily Express* for the whole of the South of England, to whom we all owe a very special vote of thanks. (These photographs are all covered by copyright, and have been made available for reproduction in FSR only.)

Prior to his becoming an FSR Consultant last year, Pat Delgado had of course already written two reports for us on the rings in the corn. (See *Cheesefoot Head Mystery Rings*, in FSR 27/5, March 1982, and *Mystery Rings Again At Cheesefoot Head*, in FSR 29/1, October 1983.)

So far as we know, precisely similar or almost similar, phenomena have been reported from both Canada and Australia in earlier years. For reports on the rings or "UFO nests" as they were called, in the sugar-growing State of Queensland, see *Queensland Again*, by Judith Magee, in FSR 12/2 (1966), and *North Queensland UFO Saga 1966*, by Stan Seers and William Lasich, in FSR 15/3 (1969). — EDITOR.

## Introduction

THE continuing mystery of the groups of swirled rings found in cereal crops has gained momentum in 1985, both in the number of ring groups seen and in media and public interest. The increase of reported sightings is probably due to greater public awareness because of past and present media coverage, also to the readiness of observers to report ring sightings knowing they will not be open to ridicule, because the groups remain in the fields for about two months until the crops are harvested. At some sites traces of the rings are still visible, even as the next crop begins to grow. Reluctance to report circle group sites is also well diminished by the fact that anyone can photograph them, walk into and examine them (with permission), carry out scientific tests and take precise measurements.

The first thing that seems to strike the casual visiting observer is the precise mechanical features displayed by the sharpness of the ring edges and the attractive geometrical layout especially when enhanced by a low sun angle.

Whenever the ring groups are discussed the ques-

tions debated come under the general heading of "How are they constructed?" and answers to the following questions would be extremely interesting.

1. What is the force that causes the cereal crops to be laid gently flat in a clockwise direction?

2. Why does the pattern of rings, usually consisting of five, have the largest in the centre with the smaller ones appearing equispaced round the outside?

3. Why are the edges of the circles so sharply defined?

4. Why are there apparently no tracks visible to some of the rings and apparently no tracks connecting them? I say apparently because in some aerial photographs very faint tracks can sometimes be seen under close scrutiny but not to all the rings.

5. Why are they always constructed at night? This question arises because in no case have any ring groups appeared during the day when they were not there earlier the same day.

6. Why have there been no sensible and thoroughly practical answers to this mystery after such a prolonged annual occurrence, namely, about forty years.

## Meeting

To discuss these questions I decided to arrange a meeting of people who shared a common interest in this subject for the purpose of pooling practical experience and ideas to see what, if anything, came out of the melting pot so to speak.

This meeting was arranged for October 13th, 1985, at the Arlebury Park Sports Centre, Alresford, Hampshire. The prominent speakers present were: Omar Fowler (SIGAP, U.K., and FSR Consultant); Paul Whitehead (FSR Consultant); Lt.-Col. Edgecombe, Army Air Corps; David Adamson; 'Busty' Taylor (Civil Pilot); Paul Fuller (BUFORA); Martin Payne (Farmer); Arne P. Solomonsen, and myself. Other guests were wives, relations and friends.

My opening remarks at this meeting are for the most part covered by the foregoing part of this article, and were to officially establish the reason for the convening of the meeting, and to express the hope that there would not be too much digression.

### "Daily Express" photographs

Chris Wood, chief photographer for the whole of the south of England for the *Daily Express*, was to have been the next speaker but unfortunately was unable to attend the meeting because of a pre-arranged holiday commitment. However, he very kindly gave me a package of notes and photographs to read and show on his behalf.

Of the six groups of rings reported this year (1985) he has visited and photographed five of them. The ring groups were at:-

1. Cley Hill, near Longleat and Warminster, Wiltshire.
2. White Horse, Bratton, near Westbury, Wiltshire.
3. Tolymare Farm, near Findon, Sussex.
4. Gander Down, near Alresford, Hampshire.
5. Fonthill Bishop, Wiltshire.
6. Goodworth Clatford, Hampshire.

Chris had not visited the Cley Hill site but the presence of the rings was confirmed by a Mr. Brian Hocken who lives on the farm and a Dr. Terence Meaden. Of the five sites measured, four of them had a large circle of 46 ft. diameter with the four smaller ones of 13 ft diameter with a distance of 56 ft from the centre of each small circle to the centre of the large circle. These figures varied slightly at different sites due to one person carrying out the measuring in sometimes breezy conditions, but care and patience was taken to get it as accurate as possible. Some of the small rings were not at 90° to each other but appeared to be 5° plus or minus.

The description of Chris Wood's visit to the Findon site was most interesting. He interviewed various peo-

ple who were living on the farm and nearby when the rings appeared. They were first seen at 5.50 a.m., 29th June, 1985, by Mr. Ken Johnson and a gamekeeper, Mr. Martin Moyer. Mr. Johnson said he was first attracted to the site by a cloud of steam or smoke just above the field. He described it as *"A hazy mist from the centre circle, smoky, dewy, coming up from the ground, almost as a series of fountains. There were no signs of anyone walking through the field. I am convinced it was not a man-made thing."* Mr. Johnson has a number of business interests, and normally "has both feet firmly on the ground", but in this instance he was clearly shocked by the sudden, unaccountable appearance of the rings. His wife mentioned that a relative had been walking a dog in a nearby wooded area and had discovered a fresh 'swathe of damage through the trees'. This was during the same morning. A woman living only a few hundred yards from the rings said her family had heard no sounds or seen any lights during the previous night. Her husband is a herdsman on the farm and had been up till 2.00 a.m. that morning.

Chris supplied superb photographs to accompany his notes. They showed rings at various sites taken in 1983, 1984 and 1985. He also supplied all the carefully measured and gridded site drawings.

### The Military Report

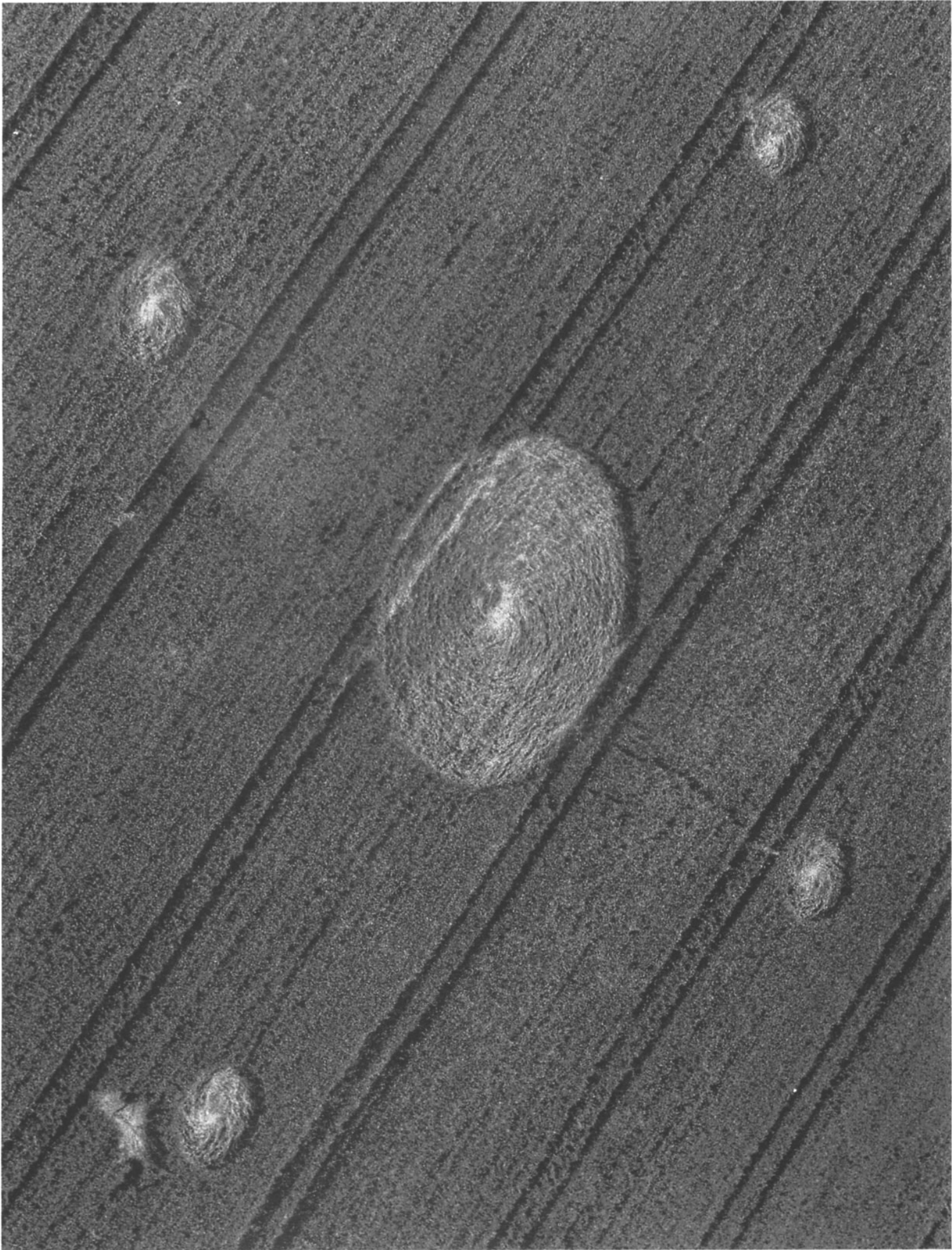
Next, Lt. Col. Edgecombe, A.F.C. A.A.C., was invited to give his views. Lt. Col. Edgecombe is Safety Officer at Middle Wallop Army Air Corps., Wiltshire. He commenced by reading his report which he had sent to the Ministry of Defence (M.O.D.) (See text of Report, attached as an appendix to this paper.)

He continued by saying that many of the air crews had become interested in the ring phenomenon, and, because of this, he had suggested in the Air Base Newsletter that a watch be kept for ring groups next year because some can only be discovered from the air, as the Westover Farm rings were.

### "Jelly" found at a site

Omar Fowler told us how he was invited by 'Busty' Taylor, the civil pilot who also reported the previously discussed rings to the Army Air Corps., to accompany him to the rings to investigate some fluorescent jelly-like substance he had noticed in the central ring. Omar told us how he collected a sample of this jelly and the outcome of having it analysed. (For the inconclusive results of this analysis, see Report to be published later).





## Other Theories

David Adamson contributed next by explaining how electro-magnetic currents affect some plant life and how cereal crop stalks and grass blades can be made to bend and lie flat in a swirled configuration. He said this phenomenon was described in a book, *'Piece for a Jigsaw'* by Leonard Cramp.

From this point onwards various speakers put forward theories on how the rings may have been constructed.

The most obvious one involved the use of a pole or chain held at the centre of a circle and dragged round. Against this theory is the fact that the crops are never damaged in any way other than lying flat, no breakage and no bruising. Anyone who may consider this theory might be the answer may be interested in the following test carried out in a wheat field.

### Tests to ascertain pressure required

To find out what pressures were required to flatten the wheat stems I took a wooden rod, 36ins. long, and laid it down between the wheat stalks where it rested about 1" above the ground. To the centre of the rod I attached a spring balance that extended to a maximum of 20 lbs. After I had pulled the rod a distance of 12" the spring balance had reached its maximum of 20 lbs. The rows of stalks initially pulled over by the rod leant against the next stalks, they then bent over and leant against the next row of stalks and so on, with the cumulative effect that the affected stalks created a curved pattern causing the rod to want to ride up the curvature of the stalks. To keep the rod at low level I had to press down very hard on it, I would estimate about 20-25 lbs. If these figures are applied to a 23 ft. long pole (46 ft. diameter ring) which is fixed at one end and the free end pulled a distance of 1 ft., it would require a cumulative pressure of 90 lbs. and that is without about another 80-90 lbs. weight to keep the pole from riding up the stalks as the ring is constructed. Consider now that while all this is going on, the puller's feet are digging into the ground and crushing stalks in the process. Remember: the stalks in the rings are never seen to be damaged, and there are no holes or crush marks in the ring centre.

*During my wheatfield tests I tried very carefully to walk between the drills, which are about 4" apart, without leaving any trace. I found it impossible and that was in daylight. As one foot passes the other damage occurs, as well as the foot on the ground damaging the stalk bases.*

I described my tests to the meeting and the pole or chain theory was written off.

## UFOs as possible cause

Inevitably, the possible connection of the rings with UFOs was suggested, and again various possibilities were put forward of how a UFO could cause the crop to become swirled. *The spinning electro-magnetic current theory was suggested mainly because this would not harm the crop.* The weight of a craft resting on the rings was a point raised, and this allowed me to describe another experiment I had carried out in the wheat field.

### A further test

By trial I found the flattened wheat would easily support a weight of 144 lbs. per square inch. The reason for this is that the stalks in the rings are mostly flattened tangentially to their radius arc, therefore they are overlaying one another in a fairly uniform condition, and walking on them after they have been flattened one can appreciate the support underfoot.

The calculation for the total weight support in a 46ft. diameter circle is simply:-

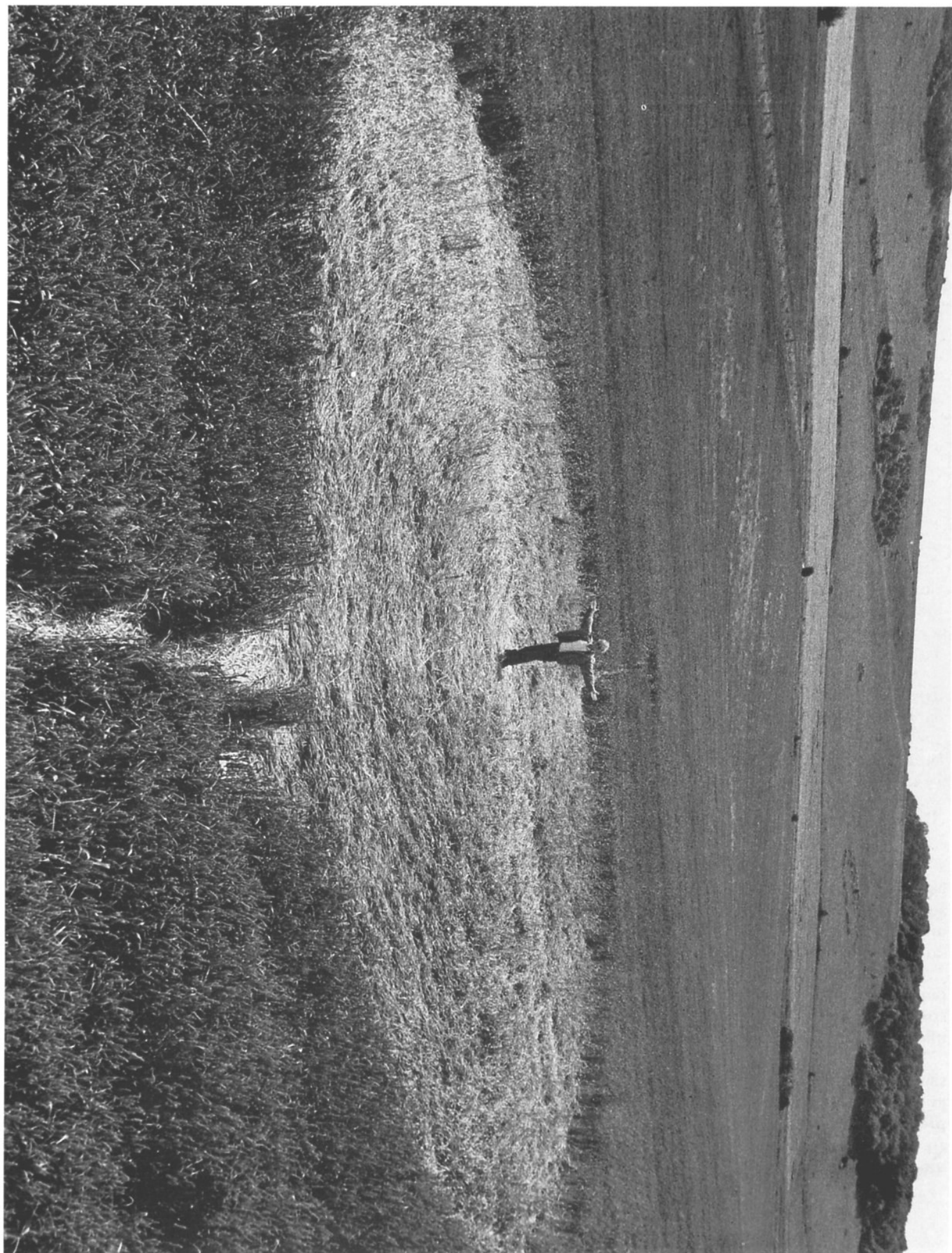
$$\begin{array}{rcl} 46\text{ft. dia.} & = & 1662 \text{ sq. ft.} \\ & & 1662 \times 144 = 23932 \\ & & \text{sq.ins.} \\ \text{at } 1/4 \text{ lb. sq. in.} & & \frac{23932}{4} = 59832 \text{ lbs.} \\ & & \frac{59832}{2240} = 26.7 \text{ tons} \end{array}$$

The four small rings under these circumstances will support 2.4 tons each, a total of 9.6 tons. Total of five rings = 36.3 tons. Even half this weight is significant, 18.15 tons.

The same conditions applied to the 62ft. dia. Findon ring would result in approximately 48 tons plus the four small ones.

### Further aerial surveillance planned

Lt. Col. Edgecombe and 'Busty' Taylor both agreed that an air surveillance another year could easily bring to notice many more groups of rings other than those easily seen from vantage points. (The Westover Farm rings cannot be seen from any road). Further to this, during a recent interview I had with a local retired Hampshire council byways maintenance worker, he stated he had personally known of these ring groups for the last eight years in the Cheesefoot Head, Hampshire area and also he knew many farmers who know of ring groups on their land but do not report it as they fear



public intrusion. He also said he knew of two more ring groups this year, close to an area known as Cheriton Woods in Hampshire, and local people have known about them at least since the end of the last war — 1946, and they are called the “Cheriton Rings” locally.

### Views of the Farmers

Martin Payne and his wife Petronel are both interested in this subject and have been for many years, especially as they are associated with farming and know most of what there is to know about growing cereal crops. He said the trained eye could easily pick out even a faint track in standing crops.

### Paul Whitehead describes parallel universe

Paul Whitehead put forward some very interesting points related to the parallel universe theory, and how it might be possible for the rings to be the result of a power source as yet unknown to us but operating in conjunction with magnetic or electro-magnetic sources from the earth. The rings may have no aerial significance at all but might be the result of spinning power columns from within the earth's crust. It seemed to be generally agreed that something along these lines is the only one that conforms to the crops being undamaged in the rings.

### Suggested causes

Among the suggested answers put forward to the question “What causes the ring groups to be found as they are?” were:-

1. The rotated pole or chain theory.
2. Spinning electro-magnetic currents from under a UFO or craft of some kind.
3. Spinning electro-magnetic currents from within the earth.
4. Biochemical introduction to the fields to study public reaction.
5. The power of thought.
6. Some device lowered from a helicopter.
7. Spinning wind columns.
8. Helicopter downwash.
9. Over-fertilization at that point by turning farm machinery.
10. The ‘Fairy Ring’ virus.

### A competition suggested

It was suggested that a competition be organised with a substantial reward to any person or persons who could present a set of rings in a cereal crop with exactly the same characteristics we have become accustomed to, without showing any tracks, without sound or lights, at night, and without being seen.

### Cases in Australia and Canada

The ring phenomenon is not confined to the south of England. The Australian book, shown to me by Paul Whitehead, titled ‘*Alien Honeycomb*’, by Leonard Ryzman and John Pinkney, carries descriptions of many sites of swirled grass and other vegetation rings and ring groups.

The Canadian book ‘*Gateway to Oblivion*’ by Hugh Cochrane also contains descriptions of swirled grass rings. Both these books carry names of observers and site locations.

The phenomenon is world-wide, the mystery remains; meanwhile interested parties will continue to gather information and statistics and we would be most grateful to anyone, anywhere in the world, who can report sightings of rings or ring groups.

### The verdict: “Not man-made”

*The question was put to the meeting by the farmer, Martin Payne, “Are we all agreed that, in our opinion, these ring groups are not man-made”. The answer was “Yes”, except for one person present who was still not fully convinced it was not the work of the Government for some unknown reason.*

The rings are now becoming well-documented, especially through the media. However, the local and national daily papers present their stories and photographs about the rings along with the enormous coverage the television companies TVS and ITV have transmitted nationwide, the documentation is considerable, and we will continue to add to it.

### Lt.-Col. Edgecombe's report to Ministry of Defence

#### Unusual Occurrence (UFO?)

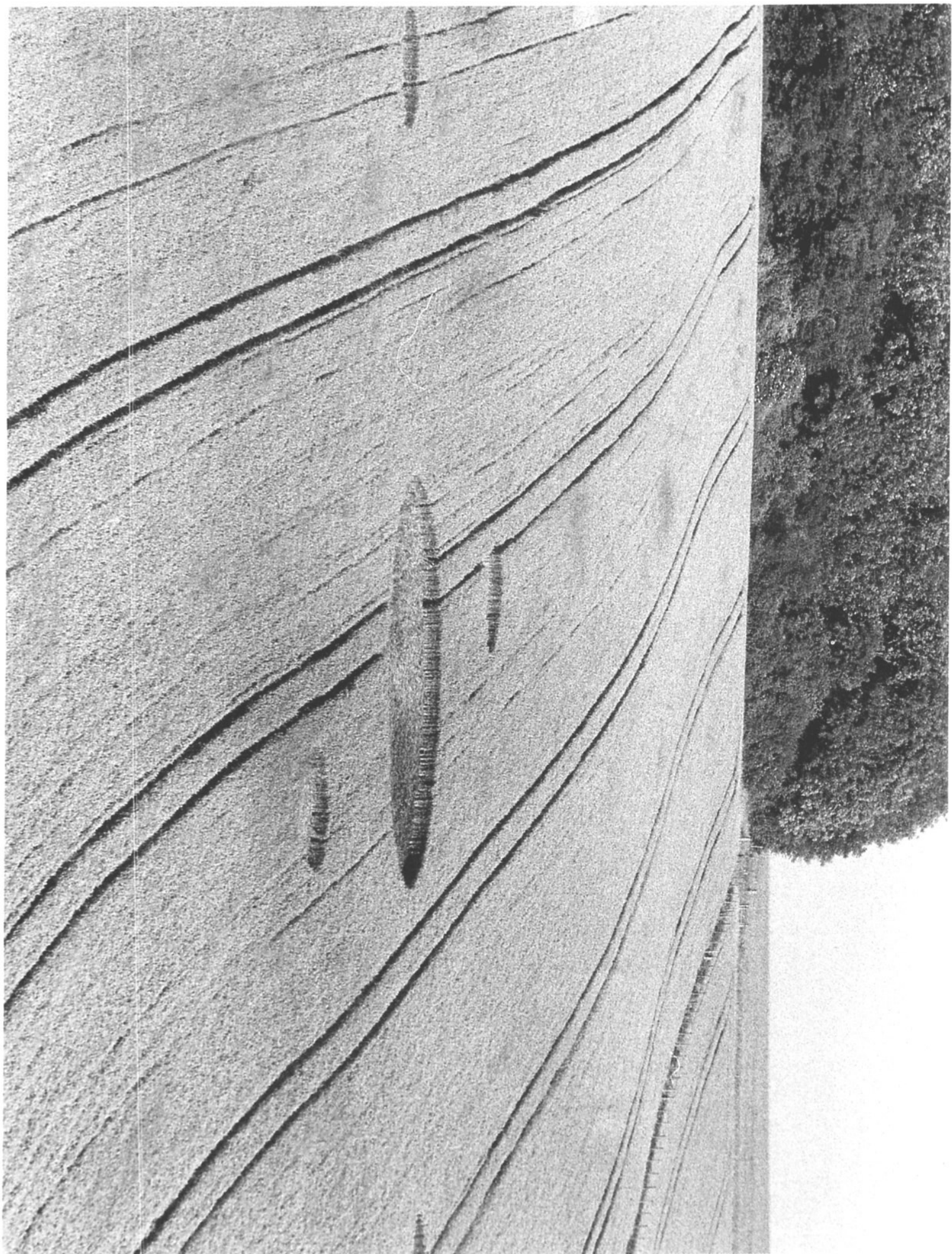
1. On Monday 5 Aug 1985 Mr. Adrian Liddell of WESTOVER FARM, GOODWORTH, CLATFORD, who farms near the AAC Centre, Middle Wallop, telephoned to report some extraordinary depressions in a field of near-ripe wheat, and asked, “What on earth we (The AAC) were up to now?” I took the Aircraft Accident Investigation Officer (AIFSO) Maj Garrow REME with me and went to inspect the scene.

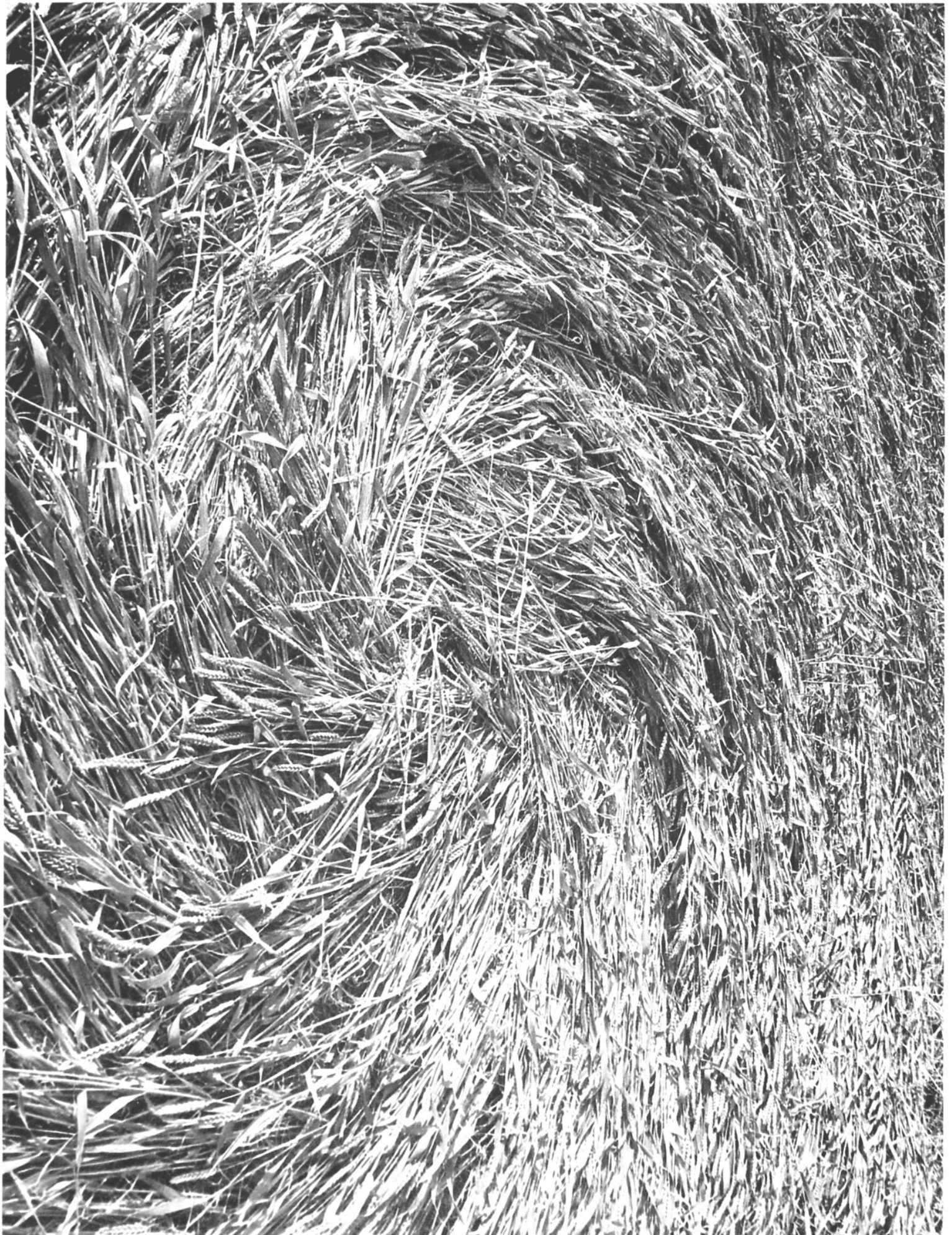
2. The site, Grid Reference 346392 was in a virgin, unweather-damaged, near-ripe field of wheat. We found the following:

- a. An exactly circular hole in the wheat in which the wheat had been laid flat in a clockwise twist 40 ft in diameter. (As if a plank had been put with one end at the centre and then swept round in a complete circle). There were one or two stalks of wheat

Gander Down, Alresford, 6th July, 1985  
© Daily Express









standing which had sprung upright again. The wheat on the edge of the circle was completely upright and undamaged.

b. Four separate, smaller circles approx. twelve feet in diameter, exactly similar to the larger one. These were set in a precise square, NORTH/SOUTH and EAST/WEST, with their centres 43 paces from the centre of the large circle.

c. There were absolutely no tracks in the wheat. To have set the holes in such a precise pattern manually would have required a tape-measure or string, and the users would have been bound to leave tracks in the wheat.

d. All but one of the holes touched onto the main furrows in the wheat, and could therefore be approached from the edge of the field without leaving tracks. However, there was no way of moving from one to the other without leaving tracks in the wheat, except by going some 200 yards to the edge of the field, and then back down another main furrow. One of the smaller holes was completely isolated.

3. Maj Garrow took some polaroid photographs which are included with this report. Mr. SCOTT, a semi-professional photographer, took some 120 mm colour photographs. I subsequently took Mr. SCOTT, and we photographed the scene from the air. By that time some half a dozen sightseers were on the scene and a track, which had not been there when we were on the ground, had been made out to the isolated hole.

4. Present at the initial viewing were:

Lt. Col. G. J. B. EDGECOMBE AFC AAC

Maj. I. Garrow REME

Mr. & Mrs. A. Liddell (Farmer, Westover Farm)

Mr. E. B. Scott (Farmer, Redrice Farm)

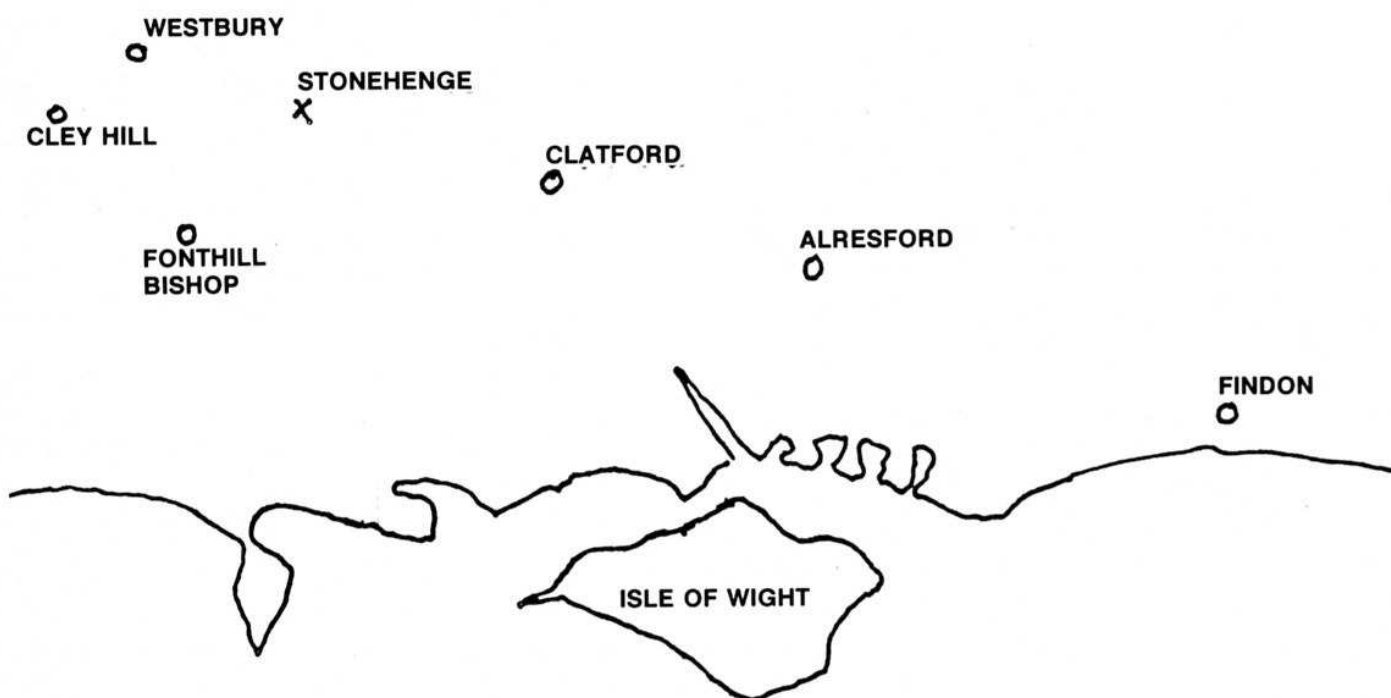
And two others.

None of us could offer any reasonable explanation.

Photos on pages 10 and 11 —  
Gander Down, Alresford, 6th July 1985  
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(See STOP PRESS, page 21)

O-DENOTES CIRCLE SITES 1985  
(NOTE ALIGNMENT WITH STONEHENGE)



# THE UFO CONNECTION: STARTLING IMPLICATIONS FOR AUSTRALIA'S NORTH WEST CAPE, AND FOR AUSTRALIA'S SECURITY

W. Chalker B.Sc.Hons ©

Bill Chalker's important and exclusive report appeared originally in the March/April 1985 issue of *Omega Science Digest (Australia)*, and he has given us the necessary permission for it to be reproduced in FSR. As the article falls into two separate parts, the first of which is a discussion of the book *CLEAR INTENT*, while the second relates to a serious UFO happening in Australia in 1973, I have taken the liberty of separating it accordingly into two sections. As we have already given a great deal of attention (FSR 29/5, 29/6, 30/1, 30/2 and 30/3 all relate) to *CLEAR INTENT* and matters linked thereto, it may be wondered why we have decided to give so much further space to it by reproducing the whole of Mr Chalker's article. The answer of course is that *CLEAR INTENT* is a meaty and tremendously important book. Not all of our readers have yet managed to see a copy of it, and what we have been able to quote from it so far has necessarily been brief. There were many other important points which we were thinking of presenting in further articles soon, and it so happens that Mr Chalker's article does include a good many of these.

EDITOR

## INTRODUCTION

RAAF (Royal Australian Air Force) files document a remarkable sighting on October 25, 1973. On that very day, at the same top-secret site, a full nuclear alert was declared. Science is often defined as the ordered arrangement of ascertained knowledge, including the methods by which such knowledge is extended and the criteria by which its truth is tested. This narrow definition of science permits us to embrace the clandestine world of intelligence. It is a branch of science which few of us are privy to.

Today's world of Intelligence is mind-boggling. One of the biggest and most secretive organisations is the American National Security Agency (NSA), its initials often seen as meaning *No such agency, or Never say anything*. Its operations are massive and perhaps not a little disturbing in scope.

Recently, some of its operations were described in a fascinating book by James Bamford, entitled *The Puzzle Palace* (1982). The so-called 'Ears of America' exist as "the world's most secret espionage system".

Therefore, considerable interest was generated when a United States District Court recently ruled that the NSA did not have to accede to a *Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)* request to supply a civilian group — CITIZENS AGAINST UFO SECRECY (CAUS) — with hundreds of UFO documents in its possession.

The extraordinary ruling stated that the release of the documents "could seriously jeopardize the work of the Agency and the security of the United States." With regard to the balance between public interest about UFOs and the NSA's need for secrecy, the court further rules that "public interest in disclosure is far outweighed by the sensitive nature of the materials and the obvious effect on national security their release may well entail."

\* \* \*

## PART I: *Clear Intent*

The continuous ties of UFOs to national security and the claims of constant secrecy surrounding Government UFO documents, are the main themes of an explosive new book entitled *CLEAR INTENT* (Prentice Hall, 1984). It is subtitled *The Government Coverup of the UFO Experience*. While it is short on detailed critical analyses of the many Government UFO documents that dominate the book, the authors of *CLEAR INTENT* — Lawrence Fawcett and Barry J. Greenwood — present a powerful case for a 'cosmic Watergate'. Some of their conclusions are:—

- "UFOs are a real, material, physical phenomenon, completely unidentifiable in conventional terms".
- "UFO's display intelligence of a very high order".
- "UFOs have overflowed US military and other Government facilities since World War II, as evidenced by official US document releases from a variety of federal agencies".
- "This activity has extended to other nations, as evidenced by official US Government document release".
- "Despite tight secrecy regarding release of UFO documents, Government officials most closely associated with UFO data of national security importance probably do not have a definite 'answer' to the UFO problem, but they monitor the phenomenon in pursuit of an answer".

During late 1975, numerous 'penetrations' into several Strategic Air Command bases along the US/Canadian border by 'unknown objects' occurred. Describing one report, a Loring Air Force Base teletype