

ufology, presented in alphabetical order and with cross references which makes it easy to use. There are three categories of entries: 1. the most significant 100 cases in UFO history, which are described in brief, with new findings on old cases included; 2. *people* — biographies of notable personalities in the UFO field, plus a personal “position statement” from each one; 3. *features* — articles of varying length covering many subjects such as theories and government involvement.

There are also many illustrations: photographs of people, witness sketches, and UFO photographs (some in

colour); and it is useful to have details of analyses of the best-known UFO photographs, and to know which are thought to be genuine and which hoaxes. At the end are a 14-page “Chronology of Important Events in UFO History,” a list of periodicals (compiled some time ago and now out of date), and a full, 15-page bibliography. Here is a book for reading straight through or for dipping into; but however it is tackled, you will probably find it to be compulsive reading. It is also informative, intelligent, usually accurate and objective. It is without doubt an essential reference book for every ufologist.

REPEATER WITNESSES

A Close Encounter Phenomenon.

Jenny Randles

READERS will be aware that I have written on the subject of Repeater Witnesses before, where I stated my belief that their study was of great importance to our understanding of the UFO phenomenon.¹ An attempt was then made to take the matter further and to do some specific research into the problem. I presented this work in a paper at the NUFON convention in February 1979, and have now decided to set these ideas down in a more coherent written form, since I feel that a wider appreciation of their implications might be an advantage.

The data that is presented in this paper will not prove anything. It is not intended to. Rather I hope that it will indicate that there are some significant answers to be found therein, and that this line of approach offers a prospect of new insights.

One of the dilemmas of modern ufology is that there are far too many data collectors compared with data manipulators. We lack the all-important theoriser/researchers; speculators who are content not simply to nurture an idea, but also to test it against the available data. Sadly this missing link is the key to scientific ufology, and the dearth is the major reason why ufology is not yet a science, as by every right it should be.

We already possess great volumes of data and yet we concentrate on adding more cases to the computer banks. I do not decry the validity of this, but it has to go hand-in-hand with a greater emphasis on research. We have the answers staring us in the face, but all we do is pretend that the page is not full yet and add more and more superfluous words to it.

Repeater Witnesses — what are they?

Let me start by posing a question which can be asked of any gathering of people. How many have seen an object which they would not hesitate to call a UFO? The answer would be a fair percentage (possibly as high as 25%). If the question were then posed as to how many have seen more than one thing which fits the same description, the difference immediately becomes obvious. “Repeater” witnesses are uncommon.

We know from our statistical studies that 90% of

general UFO sightings can be explained. So let us play around with a few figures. The results will be far from precise because there are so many variables, but it will at least give us a reasonable order-of-magnitude estimate.

In Britain the UFO societies collect reports of about 1,000 sightings in an average year. By our statistics this means 100 of these are *True UFOs*. Yet we also know that this figure but skims the surface. Many reports are simply never heard about. Let us guess (and it is an estimate backed up by evidence from the *Daily Express* UFO Bureau experiment in 1978) that we only discover 1 in 10 sightings. This means that something like 1,000 *True UFO* experiences occur in Britain each year.

If we now assume the population of Britain to be 50 millions, and allow 2 witnesses per sighting as a reasonable average, this gives a chance of 25,000 to one against any person in Britain being involved in a *True UFO* experience each year. In a lifetime of say 50 years that means that only 1 in 500 would ever see a *True UFO* once in that lifetime. To see two *True UFOs* would involve odds of far higher proportions — about 250,000 to one — and so on to incredible odds for several *True UFOs*.

Because we know that there are a number of seemingly genuine, and yet statistically improbable (if not impossible) *Repeater Witnesses*, then we have to face the fact that some people see UFOs more often than others, and that perhaps some people just don't see UFOs at all.

Before continuing let us define *Repeater Witness*:

“A person who, involuntarily, has several genuine *True UFO* experiences within a contracted period of time.”

I do not refer to witnesses who see what they believe to be a UFO, and then go out on all-night skywatching vigils, or follow some other ploy for conjuring up sightings. I am also aware of the tendency for a post-sighting lapse in perceptive abilities. A witness will unconsciously look out for “That UFO” again, and become prone to misinterpreting all manner of ordinary things.

The research proposal

For the purpose of this preliminary research I decided

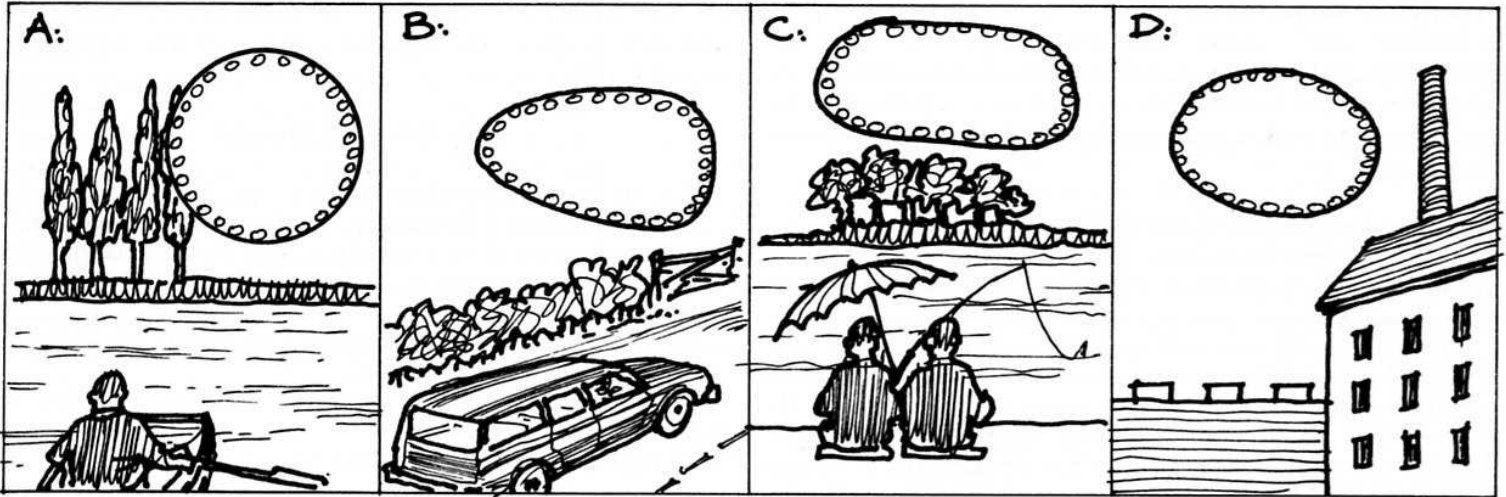


Figure 1: Independently reported sightings of very similar UFOs
A: River Thames, Berkshire, Early a.m. 1970.
B: Staffordshire, at dusk. Summer 1976.
C: River Ouse, Northamptonshire, Early a.m. 1978.
D: Eccles, Gtr. Manchester, Early a.m. 1978.

to look at *True UFO* reports in three separate categories:

- 1) *Low* and *Medium* definition *Unknowns* where witnesses had 'One-off' experiences;
- 2) *Close Encounters*, i.e. reports with a witness/phenomenon interaction which are also 'One-Offs' and
- 3) *Close Encounters* where the witness involved is a *Repeater*.²

Readers might wonder why I did not look at *Low* and *Medium* definition on "Repeaters." The truth is that although some of the repeater experiences were in this category I found, invariably, that there was a *Close Encounter* involved in the sequence somewhere, possibly as a kind of key incident.

My research was very basic for this introductory purpose. Since "Repeater" witness cases were rare on the NUFON and UFOIN records (from whence I extracted my data) I had to limit myself to 20 cases from each of the three sections. Of course this makes the results far from rigidly valid in statistical terms, but they were clear cut enough to warrant those with facilities to obtain greater data (e.g. via the UFOCAT Computer at CUFOSS in the USA) to look more closely at the problem. I have also considered certain aspects of the matter in more detail, using ten times the data used in this study. The results of this (which were wholly consistent with the trend as presented here) will be found in my new book *UFO Study*, to be published by Robert Hale, London.

I chose the data at random, primarily from the current batch of NUFON files that were in my hands to be processed for filing. They were made up to 20 (in the case of the *Repeater Witness* category) by going back *chronologically* through the NUFON files until the required number was reached.

Case Examples

Before considering results it would be appropriate to look at an example of each category chosen from the sample of 60 cases.

A: Medium Definition "One-Off"

A typical case of this type occurred in Autumn 1978 in Eccles, Greater Manchester. It involved two security

guards at a factory working on the night shift at 3.30 a.m. Their ages were 34 and 55. Both men observed the object pass slowly and silently overhead. It was basically rounded and dark — seemingly quite large — with a mass of tiny white lights in a circle on the perimeter.

This is a straightforward case which provided no logical explanation. The object was certainly not a conventional vehicle, but as the illustrations show it was also not unique. By a fairly superficial check of the NUFON records (spurred by memory of witness drawings) I found three cases which seemed to show precisely the same, or a very similar object. This is highly important because none of them involved any publicity nor, to my knowledge, were considered of sufficient interest to merit individual accounts in major UFO publications. It would be ludicrous to suggest a gigantic collusion between all these totally independent witnesses. Only one case was a close encounter in any sense, although in all instances the approach of the object was regarded as *very* close. Only one of the four was *not* viewed in the early hours, and only one *not* in *direct* association with water (the Eccles sighting was by the banks of the Manchester Ship canal where it widens towards Salford Docks).

We seem to have evidence here for a consistently

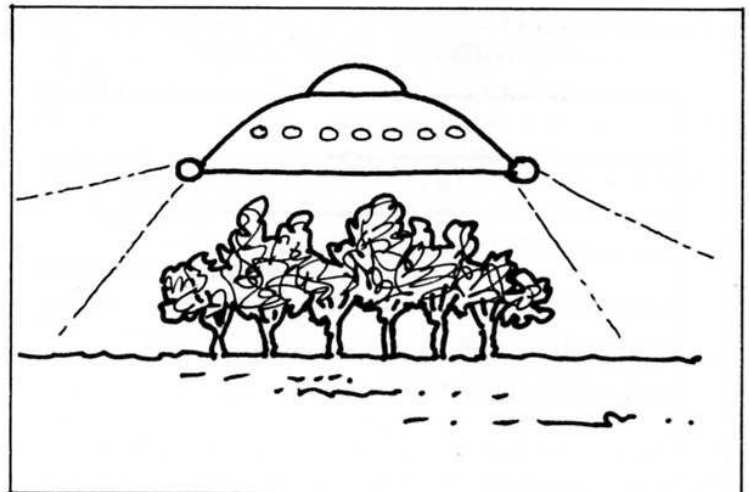


Figure 2: Irlam, G/Manchester, Sept. 1976. 6 a.m.

reported aerial phenomenon. This is very rare in ufology. I believe that considerable time could be spent in profitably picking out a UFO type and compiling an accurate list of highly similar previous sightings. The results might well be just as illuminating as the chance find above.

B: Close Encounter "One-Off"

This example occurred just yards from my former Irlam home in September 1976. When it happened at 6 a.m. I was fast asleep.

Here a typical dome-shape, with a flat base and two powerful searchlights, was seen to take off from a landed position on the moss and hover above a clump of trees. It was viewed by a man and wife (aged 30) and their 12-year-old daughter — partly through binoculars, where a row of portholes were clearly seen. It then flew off into low cloud. As the illustration shows it bears more than a little resemblance to the UFO involved in the famous Nelson car-stop case just five months later.³

What makes it a *Close Encounter* is the physiological sensation that attracted the female witness to it and deeply affected her psychologically, both then and afterwards. She was only one of the three to claim a psychic background — a detailed one — and she was the first to see the object. The connection between a catalytic psychic witness and a *Close Encounter* seems to me now undeniable.

C: Repeater Witness Close Encounter

Finally I shall refer to a typical *Repeater Witness*, uncovered by Paul Whetnall and myself in Summer 1978 when we went on holiday to the island of Ibiza — supposedly to escape UFOs!

The witnesses are a late middle aged expatriate Scottish couple. All their encounters, and there are many, relate to the past six years since they moved to the Mediterranean island (perhaps indicating that it is a combination of the right person in the right place which is responsible).

Both experienced some events — often with other witnesses present — but Mrs. C. was the catalyst witness, experiencing several phenomena alone, including the most bizarre ones. At 3 a.m. one morning she had a close encounter with a hovering orange sphere that magnetically attracted her towards it with a rhythmic "whoomph-whoomph" noise. The next day she was physically ill.

Again the catalytic witness was psychic — intensely so

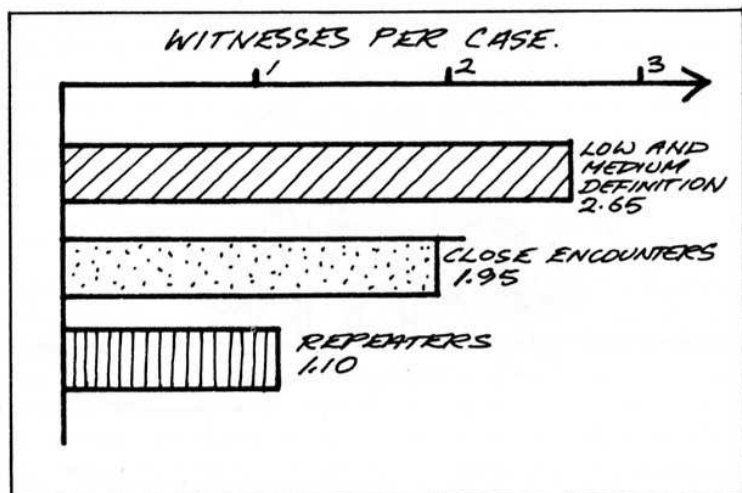


Figure 3

in this instance — but in most superficial respects her multiple encounters were very akin to the "One-Off" Irlam event.

The Research Results

Let us now take a closer look at the results.

The first thing I looked at was the average number of witnesses involved in a sighting. The results, as you can see, were very interesting indeed (Fig. 3).

The "one-off" *Low and Medium Unknowns* provided 53 witnesses, i.e. 2.65 per case.

The "one-off" *Close Encounter Unknowns* provided 39 witnesses, i.e. 1.95 per case.

The *Repeater Witnesses* provided 22 cases i.e. 1.10 per case.

In other words this is suggestive evidence that whilst low and medium definition UFOs can be seen by basically anyone who is in the right place at the right time, *Close Encounters* seem more selective. Whilst it is not unknown for others to see UFOs in the presence of a *Repeater Witness* it is most often a personal experience only. The figure for the *Low and Medium* definition cases is in fact closely similar to that which J. V. Ballester-Olmos discovered as the average per case for his Iberian data.⁴

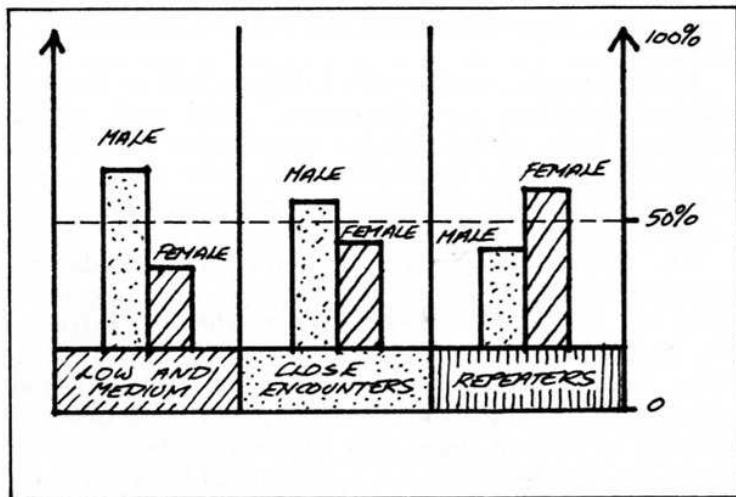


Figure 4

Figure 4 illustrates the next area I looked at. This was the sexual division of the witnesses.

The "one-off" *Low and Medium Unknowns* show 62% MALE 38% FEMALE

The "one-off" *Close Encounters Unknowns* show 52% MALE 48% FEMALE

The *Repeater Witness Cases* show 46% MALE 54% FEMALE.

This is difficult to interpret but if one considers an all over study of UFO sightings, such as those conducted by Vallée and Ballester-Olmos, there is a definite bias of about 60%-40% (or even greater) in favour of male witnesses. This is probably a factor of reporting rather than observing. More are interested in space, or air travel and, by inference, UFOs. The ratio is certainly borne out when the number of active ufologists is considered by sex. This has something like a 90% — 10% bias in favour of males.

With this in mind the more even balance for *Close Encounters* seems to hint at a *female* witness bias. However, there could be reversely operating reporting factors here. Women are more willing to accept and report psychic or subjective effects that might turn an ordinary case into a close encounter. Men tend to deny the importance of feeling, as opposed to reason and objectivity. However, especially because of the *Repeater Witness* bias, we have to wonder if women are not simply more sensitive/intuitional/psychic in a generalised sense — and possibly, therefore, more sensitive to close encounter experiences. Notice that there are more female than male mediums in the world of Spiritualism.

The next section I examined was the average age of witnesses (see Fig. 5):

The “one-off” *Low and Medium Unknowns* show an average age of 28.5 years

The “one-off” *Close Encounter Unknowns* show an average age of 23.0 years

The *Repeater Witness* cases show an average age of 38.7 years

The first figure (28.5 years) is probably close to the average age of the population of England. So why is the *Close Encounter* figure lower? Partly this is due to the number of children involved in close encounters; partly because younger people are more willing to accept psychic or subjective effects, or even very strange experiences.

Why are there so many child witnesses? Possibly their imagination is more fertile, exaggerating events into close encounters. But children do seem to report events that tie in precisely with the close encounters reported by older witnesses. It seems feasible to propose that children are more sensitive to something. If there is a sensitivity involved this is not surprising. Hearing, eyesight, etc, all deteriorate with age. At the age of 10-14 children are at the peak of their sensual faculties and are able coherently to observe and report an incident, hence — perhaps — the number of child witnesses. This is also the time of puberty when psychic researchers have noted that paranormal connections (e.g. poltergeist phenomena) appear to be prevalent.

Why was there such a big difference in the average age for *Repeater Witnesses*? Many of the witnesses were around 50-60 years of age. Probably it is true that there are many potential *Repeaters* in the *Close Encounter* category but, almost by definition, one has to have lived longer to become a repeater witness even if one has the potentiality. This may not be all of the answer, however.

I did look at two other areas. I split the type of witness up into various occupational groups but found little of significance, apart from the well-known absence of “respectable” occupations (presumably for “social fear” factors). There was a slight tendency for artistic occupations to favour more frequently the *Close Encounter*, but this could be explained by their more imaginative nature.

The other aspect considered was the location of the witness when an event took place. Only two factors stood out. Firstly, there was an overall uniformity. Most encounters took place from the living room, street or car. Secondly, in one-off *Close Encounters* only 7.5% of the events took place from the witnesses’ beds. Yet in *Repeater Witnesses* this rose to 25% (over three times as much).

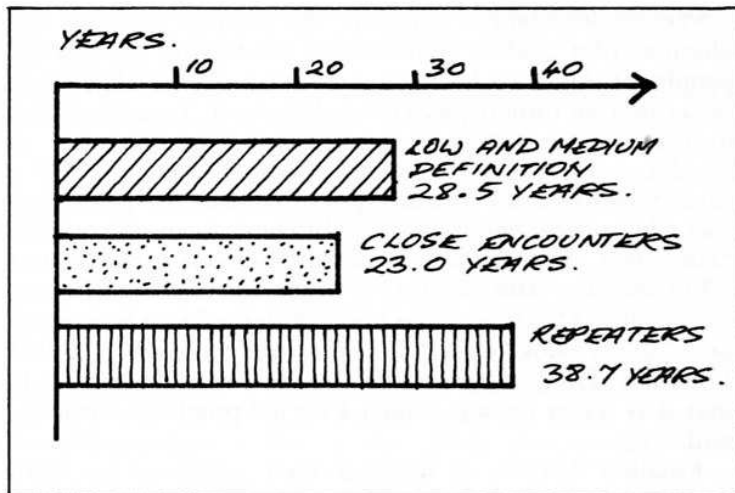


Figure 5

Tying in with this was another point, noticed incidentally as I worked along, and which formed the basis for further work. While all other cases seemed to follow the normal Vallée time-distribution curve the *Repeater Witness* events (note that many occurred in the bedroom) showed a distinct bias to late night and early morning times. Indeed 50% took place between midnight and 6 a.m.

Let us try to fit this all together.

It seems that we have at least two types of UFO. The one represented by *Low and Medium* definition phenomena are real, physical, and experienced by an average cross section of people. It is tempting to regard most of these observations as being of natural events not yet understood — especially as *Close Encounters* seem to be different. But on the evidence presented here, alone, we cannot rule out the existence of controlled devices.

Close Encounters in general exhibit clear witness selectivity. There is a tendency towards young witnesses — female observers and intuitive people with a psychic background history. This points towards the need for a sensitivity in order to observe the UFO phenomenon, enhanced by the creation of a sphere of influence centering on the catalytic witness, outside of which the UFO is not experienced.

As far as *Repeaters* are concerned, they simply seem to be older, or more extreme examples of the *Close Encounter*. Often witnesses are acutely psychic. Undoubtedly some of the most extreme *Repeaters* are not discovered because they are thought of as “nut cases.” There is bound to be an overlap since some close encounters of the fourth kind — if not all of them — are provably psychological in nature. Yet this is not an acceptable answer when other witnesses are involved, or when physical evidence is available, as it sometimes is. The difficulty in separating full psychological-based hallucinations from repeater close encounters with a high degree of psychological filtering (as is often the case) is perhaps one reason why the average witness number tends towards one per case. Hallucinations are invariably solitary witness events.

If we assume — as I think we have to do in some instances — that close encounters have a real stimulus somewhere, even though they are acutely subjective and heavily filtered by the witness’s own psychology, we have to ask the inevitable question “What is this stimulus?”

We could assume that an intelligence controls the phenomenon and is deliberately contacting susceptible people. If this is so I favour a co-existent race that exists on a different dimensional level. However, I see no reason to propose an external intelligence. The presence of psychic witnesses — a sphere of influence — and a catalytic witness all seems to point towards the possibility that the phenomenon is an unusual form of psychic experience. The witness feeds on his own subconscious UFO imagery and projects a briefly physical UFO into our reality. This theory has been explained in a little more detail in my book (with Peter Warrington) *UFOs: A British Viewpoint* (Hale, London, 1979). However, I would add that it is but a theory, which I do *not* proclaim with any authority.

Finally, there is a rational idea proposed by Paul Whetnall that the *Low* and *Medium* definition natural phenomenon stimulates the close encounter by affecting a part of the brain waves that are different in a psychic person, thus creating an hallucination. This will be UFO-

orientated due to the fact that the *True UFO* (as a *Low* or *Medium* definition phenomenon) will probably have been seen, but its precise nature will rely on the human subconscious stereotype that Carl Jung first proposed, and research by Dr. Richard Haines has confirmed.

All these ideas seem to be testable, and this is surely where we must be thinking of going now. It is worthless continuing to speculate unless we really set about the possibilities thus thrown up. This is what I suggest we do now. The answers are there. It is up to us to find them.

References:

1. "A classic Repeater Witness": Randles, J. in FSR Vol. 24, No. 6, 1978.
2. See *UFOs: A British Viewpoint*: Randles, J. & Warrington, P. (Hale, London, 1979).
3. "Frightening car-stop at Nelson": Randles, J. & Grimshawe, T. in FSR Vol. 23, No. 2, 1977.
4. "Sociology of the Iberian Landings": Ballester-Olmos, V.J. in FSR Vol. 18, No. 4, 1972.

MAIL BAG

Correspondence is invited from our readers, but they are asked to keep their letters short. Unless letters give the sender's full name and address (not necessarily for publication) they cannot be considered. The Editor would like to remind correspondents that it is not always possible to acknowledge every letter personally, so he takes this opportunity of thanking all who write to him.

On speculations about holographic projections

Dear Mr. Bowen, — I would like to thank Mr. Machin for his letter (FSR Vol. 26, No. 2) in response to my speculative article on holographic projections. He raised some interesting points that should not go unanswered.

The rather obvious suggestion that UFOs might themselves be light projections from other planets or inter-planetary craft had occurred to me in the writing of my article. I had to dismiss it as I was determined to limit my speculations to aspects of holography that we do, or will soon, have under our own control.

To be frank, no; holograms could not be beamed from other planets or even relatively near space, because light is, by nature, divergent. Even laser, the most cohesive form of light, has a degree of divergence — a beam aimed at the moon had spread over two miles in area by the time it had reached its destination, and holograms are not nearly as cohesive. A hologram is essentially a 3-dimensional projection, much as a movie is a 2-dimensional projection. A hologram beamed at this planet would probably swamp the entire globe.

Even if some method of light cohesion had been created by the cosmic projectionists how could they, from such a range, manoeuvre their images with such dexterity on a planet which they could probably not even see? And then we must bear in mind the fact that light intensities (or more accurately, the

energy of the beam) will diminish in proportion to the inverse of the square of their distance from their source.

To beam light between planets with the result of forming any visual image would require incalculable power — remember that the stars around which those planets will revolve (bearing in mind that it now seems intelligent life is unique to earth in our star system) are themselves visible only as shapeless pin-pricks of light.

Bases in the solar system as projection sources? Well perhaps, but still the practical difficulties, with any allowance for technological progress, would be virtually insurmountable.

I suggested that UFOs on or near earth might project images of "occupants" with the aim of "frightening off" any possible interference. This suggestion could be broadened to include the possibility that one airborne UFO might project one or more images of other craft like or unlike itself — this might explain accounts of incredible high speed formation flying and accounts of UFOs that seem to be "on the verge of vanishing" — the large object first seen in the Livingston case is a good example.

I applaud Mr. Machin for his concluding paragraph. Yes, a tenable solution to at least some of "their" magic is presented by the capabilities of holography, and as far as applying this explanation goes, I am by no means going to allow my case to rest. I am preparing a second article in which the pro-

jection of UFOs, by UFOs will be discussed in greater depth.

Yours sincerely,
J. G. Adams,
"Llys Meilyr",
Ponthir Road,
Caerleon,
Gwent.

A truth about holograms

Dear Sir, — After reading the article "Projection of Humanoid images" by Mr. J. G. Adams, Vol. 25, No. 6, I smelt something wrong. Having been to the Royal Academy's Exhibition "Light Fantastic" I remember that when one goes in to the exhibition room all one sees is a darkened room with a load of glass plates fixed up around it. One has to walk around the room and look in to the illuminated holographic plates before one can see the images projected in to space.

I wrote to Loughborough University (where the holograms were made) asking if Mr. Adam's claim... "we now have the capability to project, in to open space a visually solid object" is true or not? I received in reply a letter and some literature on holograms. I will quote this introductory passage from a paper on the production of a hologram.

"A hologram is a photographic plate on which is recorded a sub-microscopic pattern and which, when appropriately illuminated, can give rise to a fully three-dimensional image of an object. To the viewer this image displays all the depth and parallax effects of the original object