

# MYSTERY FIREBALL OVER SOUTH WALES.

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On Friday, 3 October 2003, most newspapers had the photograph of a “bolide”, or fireball, taken by a schoolboy, Johnathan Burnett [See front cover of this issue –Ed]. Once again there is this strange temporal synchronicity that seems to occur around celestial (if potentially ufological) phenomena. This time when there is talk of the Earth being protected from meteoric impacts by an alien “gun”.

This photograph was submitted to NASA who published it on the Internet. NASA appeared to think it important, or did it just feel it was a welcome addition to the plan to frighten everybody to death with tales of doomsday meteoric impacts? But the details given for the object just did not fit the object depicted in the photograph. Why? It may just be put down to the way astronomers have treated the subject of meteors for so long.

But what is to be made of the extraordinary statement: “And a photo of a fireball over Wales taken by a local teenager and posted by NASA on its website, turned out to be an aircraft condensation trail. “? - What absolute drivel. The trail in no way bears the slightest likeness to an aircraft con-trail, it is a blatant falsification. Someone at NASA blundered when they put the picture on the web because the exploding object (or perhaps *vapourising object* would be more applicable here, for I know of no debris retrievals) revealed something it should not have: This fact originally unknown to that person (the textbooks giving no help), but he/she knows differently now, big-brother *is out there*: All in all there is here an imprint mildly reminiscent of the Roswell propaganda manoeuvres. The upper echelons are out to suppress the truth.

On the previous page I said the Burnett ‘Bolide’ was too slow for a meteor, on the other hand it was too fast for an aircraft.

It is obvious that, now that meteors have become a sensitive ufological issue, the debunkers will have had a major plank removed from their austere edifice, they cannot now so glibly pass off various sightings as being of meteors, or as they like to call them ‘bolides’; a strange



First picture of fireball taken by Johnathan Burnett



Second picture, 2 minutes later

and somewhat out of date name for a large (badly understood) meteor.

Over recent years the danger from meteoric impacts has been over egged, of late it has to have been noticed that the ‘dangerous meteors’ have of late become ‘dangerous asteroids’, not due I suspect to PC, but something else, of which - ‘the people cannot be told’! ■

## UFO STATUS: FRANCE, CHINA, AND THE USA.

A global status report, compiled by FSR.

### ➤ (i) France

**French government continues to fund research into UFOs. Trans-en-Provence ‘landing’ case still baffles scientists**

A book called *A Crack In The Sky*, published before 1982 (and edited, I believe, by Gordon Creighton) dealt with the subject of the then French government’s attitude to UFOs. France had been witness to many UFO sightings and alleged interactions with aliens since the early 1950s and the French defence ministry finally admitted that there

were good grounds to believe that UFOs did in fact represent alien visitations of some kind.

The book is worth reading, if you can track it down, but if you can’t, *The Humanoids*, published in 1969 and edited by the then FSR editor Charles Bowen, details – in a chapter written by Jacques Vallee - the UFO wave of 1954. If one doubts the sanity of the French defence ministry in declaring UFOs to be for real – in terms of alien ‘visitation’ in some way - a reading of the 1954 wave, and subsequent books by Vallee, should dispel those doubts.

Today, little has changed, it seems. In September 2003, the following item appeared in a usenet newsgroup, alt.alienvisitors, after publication in *The Times*, 5<sup>th</sup> Feb. 2003. - P.W., FSR.

### **Do aliens really exist? Just ask France's official UFO hunters, By Adam Sage**

Flying saucers and alien spacecraft have long been favourites of film and TV producers, but Jean-Jacques Velasco believes that not all UFO sightings can be dismissed as products of over-active imaginations.

On a cold Monday morning 22 years ago, Jean-Jacques Velasco was sitting in his office when a gendarme (police officer) rang to tell him about a strange incident. Renato Nicolai, a retired technician, had been working in his garden in Trans-en-Provence, near Nice, when he saw a dark, round object come down from the sky, settle on the ground and take off again, the gendarme said. Over the years, Velasco has heard many such stories, and disproved most of them. But this one was different - this one was credible, he believes.

Something seems to have landed in Trans-en-Provence, he says, and that something has never been identified.

But who is Velasco? Another 'crackpot' determined to find a flying saucer? No, he is a scientist working for the state-run National French Centre for Space Studies (CNES), where he heads a department responsible for analysing what are commonly called unidentified flying objects (UFOs) but what are officially known as unidentified aerospace phenomena (UAP).

A neatly-dressed, bespectacled man, Velasco talks with the careful precision of an academic who is keen to be understood. He is not saying that he has come across visitors from another planet; he is saying merely that events occur for which science has yet to find an explanation, and which merit further inquiry.

Velasco's department was set up in 1977, the year that *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* was released amid a global UFO fever. Across the world people thought they saw strange figures, flying saucers and bright lights.

But there were few serious attempts to probe the issue. The CNES set up the Service for Expert Appraisal of Atmospheric Re-entry Phenomena (SEPRA). Based in Toulouse, the department is as pedantic as its title sounds: the staff are state-employed scientists, shaped by a prudent, rigorous and somewhat bureaucratic culture. In France such bureaucracy can often be cumbersome and painfully rigid. Yet in this domain at least, this rigidity offers a guarantee of impartiality that is rare as far as UFOs are concerned.

Last year, when the CNES was told to reduce its 1.3 billion budget, the organisation's president, Alain Bensoussan, ordered an audit into SEPRA's work. A wide range of French scientists was asked whether it was worth continuing research; almost all said yes.

One reason is because, unlike most other UFO-hunters, SEPRA's staff are neither seeking publicity nor peddling an obscure belief in extraterrestrial civilisation. They say they do not know whether extraterrestrial beings exist or

not, and look disparaging when you ask them to voice their hunches on the question.

They do not have hunches, only statistics. Yet the statistics that Velasco has made public are eloquent. Since, 1977, SEPRA has received some 6,000 reports of alleged UFO sightings. Of these, 110 are from civil or military aircraft crew, and the rest from ordinary French people who have almost invariably contacted their local gendarmerie.

In 21.3% of cases there is a clear, indisputable and banal explanation: a firework display, a novel lighting system involving a luminous balloon, a cloud above the Pyrenees that is shaped like a flying saucer. In 24.9% there is a probable explanation, and in 41.3% the information is too vague to be of use.

But in 12.5 per cent of cases - about 750 sightings since 1977 - the evidence is detailed and inexplicable, and is thus categorised as an unidentified phenomenon.

Most alleged UFOs are spotted by the sober and sensible, says Velasco. 'In all our statistics on the people who see these phenomena only one in 1,000 is not credible because of alcohol. People go to gendarmerie spontaneously; mainly because they want to know what they have seen.'

Yet a witness's good faith is not enough, and the story must be corroborated. Consider, for instance, a case reported in 1994, when the crew of an Air France flight from Nice to London saw a dark, 300-metre long object over the Paris region. The object disappeared before the aircraft had got near it, and the flight continued without difficulty. A few days later Velasco travelled from his office in Toulouse to the military aviation control centre outside Paris, where he was given a read-out of the radar information from the day in question. It revealed that an unknown object had indeed flown over the French capital.

Consider, too, the Trans-en-Provence case. Velasco went through the usual checks with the gendarme. Was there evidence? The apparent answer was yes, as there were marks in the grass where the object had supposedly landed.

Velasco drove to Trans-en-Provence and took ground samples. These showed that the area had been heated to between 300°C and 600°C, that it had been compressed by something weighing up to a tonne and that the plants there had been affected by a strong electromagnetic field. Velasco concluded that Nicolai had indeed witnessed a strange happening.

So should we conclude that little green men were taking a look at Provence from their spaceship? Velasco dismisses such ideas. "We cannot say whether there is a link between the question of extraterrestrial life and that of non-identified aerospace phenomena," he says. "But we can show that UFOs exist. The problem is interpreting them, and I hope that scientists, and other people, look at this question more seriously."

#### ➤ (ii) China

**Report CNN's Kristie Lu Stout. [www.cnn.com](http://www.cnn.com)  
To Chinese UFO buffs, it's a serious science.  
HONG KONG, China — Joseph Wong, a lab manager**

at Hong Kong's City University, is a man of science. His job is to assess the structural performance of buildings.

But familiar as he is with hard data, Wong is also a fan of the unexplained.

'If something flies over, there's a very good reason for trying to understand why they're here, why they come to us, what is their relationship between us and them,' he says.

Wong is the Chairman of Hong Kong's thriving UFO club — exploring 'unidentified flying objects' or, to the uninitiated, 'flying saucers.'

The club meets once a month to explore otherworldly topics like 'E.T. Civilization' and 'Alien Kung Fu.'

Members occasionally meet at a cyber cafe called UFO Station in Hong Kong's Tsim Sha Tsui district. The spot is home to Hong Kong's own version of the X-files.

The dark monitor-lit café has UFO books, newsletters, and old news clippings of close encounters — material that UFO club members take very seriously.

'In order to understand UFO phenomena, we need to have a broad understanding of different disciplines,' says Albert So, university professor and Hong Kong UFO club member, 'including mathematics, physics, history, philosophy, even some sort of paranormal activities and all that.'

Hong Kong's UFO enthusiasts, like So, are not dreamy stargazers, but researchers who see their passion as a science. So much so that they're lobbying for a university degree program in 'UFology.'

'The graduates of this programme will grasp at least all the major knowledge in order to understand UFO phenomena, and also other technologies and any skills related to UFOs,' says So.

'After students or friends finish this degree, they may have their own understanding about this universe,' Wong adds.

"Maybe they will be able to come up with a new universe model, new way of life, or whatever."

It sounds like a tough sell, but it may not be hard to pitch in mainland China, where there is little taboo about discs that glow in the night or theories on visitors from out there.

### **Flying boats in China.**

China's state-run media reports on UFO sightings. Even the government's Ministry of Science and Technology treats the topic with respect. 'It seems that people in the East are more open to discuss issues related to UFOs,' So says.

'Perhaps that is something to do with the culture of the races. In particular, Chinese. Chinese is a kind of race who easily believes in something supernatural.'

And they may have been believing for a long time. UFO researchers point to an ancient drawing of the 100-year story of an emperor meeting a flying boat — a compelling artefact in support of UFO study, but not the only one.

'For me, it's not very important whether there is really a UFO that can fly or not,' Wong says.

'It's when we are investigating this, I think it's the process that actually helps us to understand more about ourselves or our planet.'

For club chairman Joseph Wong, the truth may be out there, but the payoff is personal — studying aliens helps to satiate a very healthy, and very human, curiosity."

### **➤ (iii) USA**

Despite assertions in some quarters that the East is more fascinated by UFOs and aliens than the West — opinion polls in the USA don't support that view. Following decades of official denial that UFOs equate to alien visitation, the public — with one eye perhaps on views coming out ex-military personnel and people high up in government — continues its strong belief that planet earth is being visited by aliens. Polls rarely show that fewer than 66-80% have this belief. Here is a typical poll report, from CNN.

#### **Poll: U.S. hiding knowledge of aliens**

(CNN) — Nearly 50 years since an alleged UFO was sighted at Roswell, New Mexico, a new CNN/Time poll released Sunday shows that 80 percent of Americans think the government is hiding knowledge of the existence of extraterrestrial life forms.

While nearly three-quarters of the 1,024 adults questioned for the poll said they had never seen or known anyone who saw a UFO, 54 percent believe intelligent life exists outside Earth.

Sixty-four percent of the respondents said that aliens have contacted humans, half said they've abducted humans, and 37 percent said they have contacted the U.S. government. The poll has a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percentage points."

In another view from the USA, below is a report from [www.space.com/news/ufo\\_poll\\_021025.html](http://www.space.com/news/ufo_poll_021025.html)

#### **Political bid**

The latest round of UFO disclosure pressure on the government includes the independent candidacy of Stephen Bassett seeking a seat in the 8th Congressional District of the State of Maryland.

Bassett is a long-time lobbyist and activist on a quest to demystify the UFO phenomenon. His campaign slogan is 'Disclosure 2003.'

'For the past five decades the human race has been caught between two worlds, two paradigms. While millions of people worldwide have come to understand they are not alone in the universe, that an extraterrestrial presence has become manifest about the planet, the governments of the world, frozen in place by fear and indecision, have been unable to publicly engage this new reality. This cannot continue,' Bassett states in a web site campaign proclamation.

'It is time for the United States of America, a nation which views itself as a leader of nations, to formally acknowledge this extraterrestrial presence. During the campaign the premise will be put forth that conditions under which the United States government can end the UFO/ET truth embargo will be ideal in the coming year - thus the name 'Disclosure2003,' ' he explains." Meanwhile, a (former) top aid to (former) President Clinton, said to be have been on of the most powerful men in the US during the Clinton years in office, is continuing his fight for the 'truth' about the ufo subject to be revealed the American people. ♪

## “PSEUDO-CRYSTALS FOUND IN DUST OF ABDUCTEE HOUSEHOLDS.

George Sassoon of , Lochbuie, Isle of Mull, Scotland, draws our attention to an article entitled *Alien Dust* in the *New Scientist* of 26<sup>th</sup> July, 2003, and remarks that it is remarkable to see it in a mainstream science journal.

The item reports on the work of William Levengood, a former scientist from the glass industry, who has been examining the contents of the house dust of people claiming alien visitations and/or abductions, and comparing it with that from households not making any such claims.

He examined the dust at high magnification under a microscope. He says: “To my utter amazement, I found these extremely interesting particles, a few micrometres in diameter, they were tiny glass-like spheres.”

The best place to go for further information is his website at [www.abduct.com](http://www.abduct.com)

The “glassy particles” were first discovered in 1997 when an experiencer (abductee) recalled her night-time encounter with aliens and a beam of light that shined on the floor next to her bed.

The woman was awakened by the beam of light. She thrust her arm into the sparkling beam of white light and watched it shimmer on her arm. In the morning, she contacted Dr. Levengood and told him what happened. He went to her home and collected dust samples from the whitish dust residue on her furniture where she had reported seeing the sparkling beam of light during the night.

This dust contained unexplainable “glassy particles” and “pseudo crystals” which were unidentifiable. This discovery led Dr. Levengood to search for other clues in household dust.

“Pseudo crystals” come in a wide range of shapes and colors, including hollow or solid spheres. The particles are occasionally amber in color and vary in size from 1 micron or more, which is 1/1,000 of a millimeter.

Other more elongated particles include the “pseudo crystal.” These forms are often clear and contain definite non-cellular, non-plant structure. A visual inspection of the “pseudo crystals” under 450x magnification gives the appearance of a fiber optic arrangement.

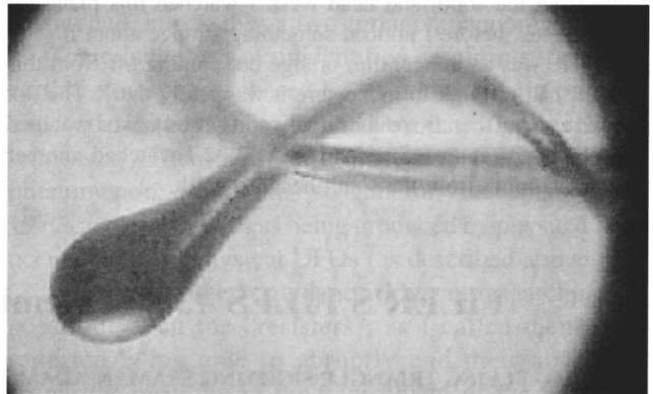
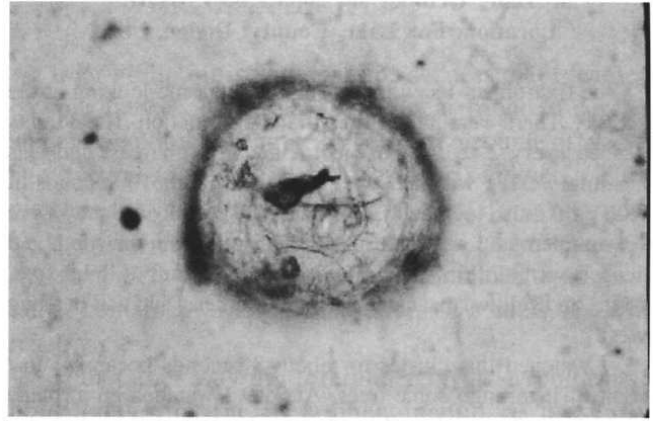


Photo credits for “pseudo crystals” Dr. William C. Levengood of Pinelandia Biophysics Laboratory of Michigan © 1999.

While “pseudo crystals” come in a variety of shapes and colors, some have a “head” shaped like a falling liquid droplet. The shape of a liquid droplet depends on the viscosity of the liquid. The similarity between a “pseudo crystal head” and a liquid droplet suggests the “pseudo crystal” may have been formed from a liquid.

You can have your house dust analysed for a fee by Pinelandia Biophysics Laboratory of Michigan. They can be contacted via the website at [www.abduct.com](http://www.abduct.com)

Comments or questions may be directed to Marilyn Ruben at Alien Abduction Experience and Research at [abductions@aol.com](mailto:abductions@aol.com). ■

## UFO SEEN OVER BURNLEY, LANCS.

**B**urnley cabbie Mr Steve Haworth and a passenger watched a mysterious flying object suddenly appear, perform a series of mind-boggling manoeuvres and then simply disappear without trace above the town, early on Saturday morning.

I thought it was an aircraft at first, said Mr Haworth, of Burton Street. Then, when I weighed up all the pros and cons, I decided it couldn't possibly be. The part-time taxi driver was taking a customer from his Huffling Lane home to work in Waterfoot.

They were travelling along Bacup Road when they turned a corner and first saw the object in the sky. It was only 7-45 in the morning, but there wasn't a cloud in the sky. It was beautiful and clear, he said. I immediately thought the object was a plane, but it wasn't small, it wasn't high up and it was moving slowly.

The silver cigar-shaped object with a small pulsating light in the middle, stopped and hovered. Then it changed shape as it started going forwards and backwards in a perfectly straight line. It did this twice before vanishing into thin air. There was no noise and no vapour

trail, added Mr Haworth. If it had been an aircraft we would have heard it from where we were. It did not take-off, it just simply disappeared.

This is not the first time an unidentified flying object has been spotted in the sky above Burnley. Sightings date back to 1869 and have been reported at regular intervals throughout the decades since.

Descriptions have varied from a round, glowing disc and a line of bright lights, to a pulsating cigar-shaped object just like Mr Haworth described. He added: “The whole experience only lasted three minutes. I remember looking at the clock in the car, it was 7-45 a.m. and by the time the object had disappeared it was 7-48 a.m.

I'm so glad I had someone with me who saw what I did, otherwise I would have been doubting my sanity. Im just curious to know what it was. I have considered and dismissed all the sensible options, a UFO is the only logical explanation I can think of.

Source: <http://www.burnleytoday.co.uk/>

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