

Surrey Investigation Group on Aerial Phenomena

3 Grantley Road, Guildford, Surrey GU2 68W
Telephone (0483) 37322

THE NEW SIGAP BULLETIN . NUMBER 1 JULY 1977

Welcome to this, the first in a new series of bulletins to be produced and published by the Surrey Investigation Group on Aerial Phenomena.

As you may know, the last publication to be produced by the group was the 'Esher May Fair' edition of 'Pegasus', a journal which has been associated with the group since 1969.

In recent months, there has been a great deal of renewed interest in the subject of UFOs, and consequently we have decided that demand is sufficient for the group to become more active.

Apart from the constant trickle of local reports, we have been heavily involved in a number of other investigations, principally, the sighting of UFOs from a British Airways Trident by the pilot, his crew, and many of the passengers. This report came to our attention a year ago, and it was only fairly recently that the pilot, in an effort to establish an explanation, brought the case to public notice.

Despite the widely reported explanation that the objects seen by the pilots over Portugal were balloons, there are still a number of anomalies which we are still investigating.

MEMBERSHIP

We have enclosed a draft leaflet which explains the aims of the group. It is designed to inform people who enquire about the organisation and it is hoped will encourage them to apply for membership. You have been invited to join SIGAP and an early reply to the above address would be appreciated. Please understand that the annual fee of £3 is designed to cover administrative costs, postage and investigation expenses.

NEXT MEETING

This will be held on Tuesday 19 July at the Wooden Bridge Hotel on the Bypass at Guildford at 9.15pm in the saloon bar. This will be an informal meeting and will follow one of our regular broadcasts on the hospital radio service, Radio Lion. The new season of meetings will recommence on Tuesday 6 September. A programme is being prepared and details will be circulated to members as soon as possible.

BULLETIN FORMAT

In common with other literature, the format of this interim bulletin is temporary. Photocopies of some existing investigations have been attached for your information.

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1977

THE NEW SIGAP BULLETIN

2# SEPTEMBER

STRATEGY FOR THE NEXT TEN YEARS

Ten years in ufology is a long time. In ten years, ten hypotheses can be considered and thrown out of ten different windows for ten different reasons. Out of ten 'experts', perhaps only one survives after ten years - and out of ten groups, perhaps only one survives.

One of those survivors is the Surrey Investigation Group on Aerial Phenomena. The reasons for its survival are harder to ascertain than the fact of its existence. But Sigap has played a major role in both the local and national ufological scene. It has investigated local sightings with an enthusiasm undampened by the prevailing winds of public opinion and political expediency.

Much of the group's success has been due to the loyalty and strength of those who have supported the group since its inception in 1967. Under the chairmanship of one man for eight of those years, it has weathered the storms of public ridicule, and private power struggles within the existing organisations in this country.

It is inevitable that in studying a subject as elusive as ours, personalities play an important part in the organisational structure. Unfortunately, the pursuit of this charismatic form of leadership often ends suddenly, and leaves a bitter taste in ones mouth. Many of us have seen the demise of many a group because of the inflexibility of its representatives. More sadly, the cause of ufology has been advanced not one iota.

The strength of Sigap lies in its flexibility of approach. It floats with the tide and drifts with the wind. It does not commit itself to rigid policies which could later prove embarrassing. It co-operates with those who wish to co-operate. After all, its primary purpose is to investigate reports of unusual aerial phenomena - and this it has done steadfastly for over ten years. Let's hope that in ten years time, ufologists have ironed out many of their differences - differences which, if channelled in the right direction, could be utilised for the good of our cause.

Richard Beet (0483 37322)

NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting will be held on 21 September (Wednesday) at 8.30 pm in the Prospect Country Club, Prospect Road, Ash Vale, Surrey. Those of you who attended the tenth anniversary celebrations will remember the cordial and intimate atmosphere of this club.

The subject of the meeting will be *Strategy for the next ten years*, a subject discussed in this issue's editorial. Bring along your ideas and proposals - after all, Sigap is your group.

MEMBERSHIP

If you have still not re-applied for membership, please do so as soon as possible. The costs of producing an dispatching information is being met out of the pockets of a few.

over/

Please regard this notice as your personal invitation to join 'Sigap'. The annual fee of £3 (recalculated by the committee in June to take account of inflation over the past five years) is designed to cover administrative costs, postage and investigation costs. Please write, enclosing cheque, postal order or money order, to:

Michael Prewett FBIS, 65 Cheyne Way, Farnborough, Hants.

Michael Prewett

UFO ACTIVITY IN THE BASINGSTOKE AREA

We have recently received a number of reports from the Basingstoke, Hants area, the latest one being from Yateley on the night of Friday 9 September. This report, of a golden disc with a flashing light, is currently being investigated by one of our local members. We hope to publish details in the next Bulletin.

Over the last few years, there has been a noticeable increase in UFO activity around the Reading/Basingstoke area. This has included a disc-shaped object hovering near a school, and an object, described as a 'half-ball bearing' shooting across the sky from east to south west. This object was traced from Andover through to Fleet on 24 May this year. One witness, a Mr Dooley, was cycling home through Fleet at 10.50 pm when he saw the object and nearly fell off his bicycle as the object zoomed overhead.

Our main interest however, has been at Basingstoke, where on the night of 27 August, Mrs Hilda Downes of Winklebury Estate saw a bright star-like object, described as being six inches in diameter, split into two. This sighting, which occurred just before 11.00 pm, astounded Mrs Downes, who had gone outside to put her milk bottles on the step.

A section "split" from the main star-like object, zoomed across the sky and disappeared in the direction of the Lancing Bagnall factory half-a-mile away. Mrs Downes described the object as at first appearing like a ball of condensed smoke, and then appearing as a large dinner plate or disc. The object's silver colour was described by Mrs Downes as being like "the wartime Barrage balloons. The event had taken place in just a few seconds from start to finish.

As this was not the first time Mrs Downes had seen something strange in the sky she was curious, and decided that this time she must do something about it. When a neighbour suggested looking in the telephone directory for a UFO investigation group, the problem was solved, an Sigap were quickly on the scene.

Mrs Downes has previously seen a bright 'star' that shone a beam of light to the ground. She described the light as being bluish-green, and was emitted from a very bright 'star' with six or seven points of light.

An interesting postscript was when Mrs Downes mentioned the sighting of a local farmer who delivers potatoes to the estate. He had told her that one night on his way home to the farm, about two miles away, his van was followed by a very bright light. This incident occurred while he was driving along what is known to be an old Roman road. We are hoping to contact this farmer, and aim to report on this investigation in the next issue of the Bulletin.

Omar Fowler (0252 41012)

WHAT IS THE MOON?

By now we know that the moon is not just a romantic golden disc in the night sky. It would seem that the moon is not a fragment of the earth but probably came from outside the solar system.

This is the astounding theory recently produced by two Soviet scientists, Michael Vasin and Alexander Shcherbakov.

Information from the Apollo manned landings shows that the age and composition of rock samples on the moon are totally different from those on earth. Does this mean that the moon is an artificial satellite sent to orbit the earth millions of years ago by alien beings? If this is not the case, why did the moon vibrate for 3½ hours when a rocket booster was deliberately crashed into it?

The scientists have an answer to this. They maintain that the moon is a hollow sphere with a soft outer shell two miles deep. They also believe that there is an impenetrable hull which even meteorites cannot pierce. The types of metal found in lunar rock suggest that they may be the remains of the outer skin of an artificial satellite. These were chromium, titanium and zirconium.

If modern scientists were to duplicate this feat, these are the metals they would use.

Perhaps the man in the moon is not so far fetched after all!

Credit: 'Mysterious Spaceship Moon' by Donald K Wilson

Michael Mercer (04866 5234)

THE STRANGE CASE OF THE MOTORWAY, THE WANDERER AND THE UFO

It all started at the end of June. Omar Fowler was contacted by Bufora's national co-ordinator, Ken Phillips, who in turn had heard a strange story, related to him third hand.

Apparently, at about 13.00 hours on 23 June (this time and date was confirmed later) a man was found wandering on the M3 between junctions 1 and 2 by the motorway police. He was taken to Ascot Police Station where he claimed to have met beings from an unidentified flying object.

The police, thinking he was under the influence of drugs, sent him to Heatherwood Hospital - however this test proved negative.

Following extensive enquiries, we established that in fact a man had been found on the motorway, was taken to the police station, and subsequently transferred to Heatherwood Hospital.

The 'witness' was detained at Heatherwood for one night and was then moved inexplicably to Fairmile Hospital at Wallingford in Oxfordshire. We wrote the following letter to the Medical Director of the hospital, in fact, a mental institution.

"...We have been informed that a man was apprehended by the Police after being found wandering along the M3 on 23 June last. This man claimed that he had seen a UFO and that he had met people from this craft...We are most anxious to interview this man if it is possible. We appreciate that he may be undergoing some form of treatment and that this would not be advisable.

"However, we would assume that just because someone says he saw a UFO that he would not automatically be admitted not related to the sighting of a UFO and that it would not interfere with his treatment, we wonder whether we would be able to interview him.

over/

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THE NEW SIGAP BULLETIN

#3 NOVEMBER

BASINGSTOKE FLAP CONTINUES

UFOs continue to be seen in and around Basingstoke. Interest in the area is unusually high and this has resulted in some interesting multi-witness reports.

Reasons for a flap are always difficult to determine. A common school of thought is that UFO sightings increase proportionally to the amount of publicity given to the subject. In this case, both Sigap and UFOs in general, have received more than their usual share of attention. Chairman Omar Fowler has already given two Thames Valley Radio interviews, as well as a spot on Southern News (BBC) television based at Southampton. These interviews alone have generated a number of reports - add to these, the series of UFO articles in the new 'Star' newspaper, based in the Camberley/Farnborough/Aldershot area, the number of reports increases still further.

But whatever the reasons, one fact remains. UFOs continue to be observed, by all sorts of people, in all sorts of circumstances. Publicity about UFOs, whether good or bad, nearly always unearthes a hitherto unknown report. And the more reports we have to go on, the nearer we shall surely be to establishing the nature of the phenomenon.

ACTIVITY LOG - BASINGSTOKE AREA

Date	Event	Witnesses (Prime)
23/24 February	Twenty children saw a disc-shaped object fly across the sky. They later drew sketches of an orange object.	Elizabeth Olive(11) Margaret Lee(11) Deborah Knight(10)
<i>Observed from:Worting School, Basingstoke</i>		
14 March 22.00 hours	Two men saw orange red disc fly overhead at night.	Mr R Sheldon
<i>Observed from: Popley, Basingstoke</i>		
April 22.00 hours	Bright star-like object seen with beam of light .	Mrs Downes Mrs Neoll
<i>Observed from: Winklebury Estate, Basingstoke</i>		
24 May 22.55 hours	Whitish-silvery bright light, shaped like a half ball-bearing, travelled across Andover/Fleet/Aldershot area. Three independent reports received.	Mr R J Vincent Mr Dooley Mr Scott-Cree
<i>Observed from: Andover, Aldershot and Fleet</i>		

continued on next page

ACTIVITY LOG - BASINGSTOKE AREA (continued from p1)

23 May 12.30 hours	Flying "black blob" changing shape watched by schoolboys through their binoculars.	C Huggett S Streak M Simson S Burke G Cleaver N Groom
<i>Observed from: Wokingham, Berkshire</i>		
27 August 22.58 hours	Large star which split in two. One section, shaped like a dustbin lid, flew over.	Mrs Downes
<i>Observed from: Winklebury Estate, Basingstoke</i>		
9 September 2020 hours	Ball of fire flew across sky west to east Two independent reports received.	Mrs Routledge Mr Tucker
<i>Observed from: Yateley and Bracknell</i>		
3 October	White round object	Mr Turner
<i>Observed from Odiham, Hants</i>		
7 October 2025 hours	White/red lights in diamond shape	Mrs Heggie & family
<i>Observed from: Chinham Popley, Basingstoke</i>		
11 October 1820 hours	Flying "dustbin lid" Silver with red glow	Miss A Brown (14)
<i>Observed from: Quantock Close, Basingstoke</i>		
(OCT)	(REPORT AWAITED)	MRS CABALLERO
14 September 2100 hours	Oval object with fins and changing colour	M Trott (10) C Rafferty (11) M Rafferty (10)
<i>Observed from: Popley, Basingstoke</i>		
7 October 2105 hours	Red and yellow flashing object travelling fast. Four objects, changing direction.	Mrs Dervin + Heggie family (see also above)
<i>Observed from: Chinham, Popley, Basingstoke</i>		
12 October 1830 hours	"Column of light" towards the west	Miss Helyer + friend
<i>Observed from: Farnham, Surrey</i>		
13 October 2130 hours	Fast white light travelling towards the south west.	Mr Bright (17) Mr Crabb Mr D Green Mr S Green
<i>Observed from: Stratton Park, Basingstoke</i>		
29 October 1745 hours	White light + red ball. White object changed to orange and began to pulsate with red object.	Mrs J A Robson Mr M W Robson
<i>Observed from: Overton, Hants</i>		

Are we alone?

Is spaceship Earth a solitary oasis of life in an otherwise barren universe?
Or are we heading for the most momentous event in the history of the human race – contact with another civilisation.

Many people believe that we are already being visited by extra-terrestrials. Astronomers and scientists have declared that millions of planets beyond our own Solar System may be inhabited by intelligent life and that many civilisations may exist far in advance of Earth's in every way.

Unidentified flying objects have been seen for thousands of years. They are mentioned in the Bible and in ancient Sanskrit books, although the number of sightings has increased substantially since the late 1940s. UFOs have been seen in increasing numbers over every continent. Enemy and allied airmen encountered them during World War II.

A number of countries have already accepted the reality of the phenomenon, and many others have carried out or financed scientific investigations into the subject. It is believed that many authentic photographs and films are filed with the Defence Departments of various governments.

Persisting and gaining credence with the passage of time has been the growing belief that intelligent life exists in outer space. With this increasing belief has come intensified controversy. Reports of close encounters with UFOs, and in some cases, with their occupants, have brought fear and curiosity, conjecture and debate.

Would you care to join us in our search of the unknown? We cordially invite you to share our experiences of this, the most challenging and exciting phenomenon of our age. Membership brings you our newsletter, *Sigap News*, information about our free book and tape library, and details of our regular meetings held in Guildford and Ash Vale.

To investigate the UFO phenomenon locally, a small group of people got together early in 1967. The outcome – the **Surrey Investigation Group on Aerial Phenomena**. Primarily founded to investigate reports in Surrey and surrounding counties, Sigap has contributed to studies in many parts of Southern England.

News of a sighting – often through the Sigap 'Hot-line' – Farnborough 41012 – triggers an instant and well-established course of action. This preliminary enquiry procedure is designed to eliminate obvious explanations. With so much going on in the sky today – much of it generated by man himself – over 80 per cent of reports can be explained in terms of natural and man-made phenomena.

If Sigap investigators find no immediate explanation as a result of preliminary enquiries, the group will send someone to interview the witnesses, and where possible, will visit the site from which the observation was made. Sigap then calls on the expertise of its own consultants in an effort to explain the sighting. The group liaises with similar organisations throughout the country, and often finds a pattern of activity consistent with that in other areas.

Our most significant reports are sent to the Center for UFO Studies in Evanston, Illinois, USA. The Center is run by Dr J Allan Hynek, Professor of Astronomy at Northwestern University, and for 20 years, was consultant to the US Air Force on UFOs.

Surrey Investigation Group on Aerial Phenomena

To the Executive Secretary

Surrey Investigation Group on Aerial Phenomena, 65 Cheyne Way, Farnborough, Hants

Please enrol me as a member of Sigap. I enclose £3 (cheque/PO) for one year's membership.

Name..... Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss

Address..... Post code.....

Occupation..... Date of birth.....

Qualifications.....

Do you wish to investigate reports.....

Telephone number (Home)..... Office.....

FOR OFFICE USE..... MEMBERSHIP NUMBER.....

BOYS PANIC AT SIGHT OF UFO OVER MYTCHETT

CASE S801

by OMAR FOWLER

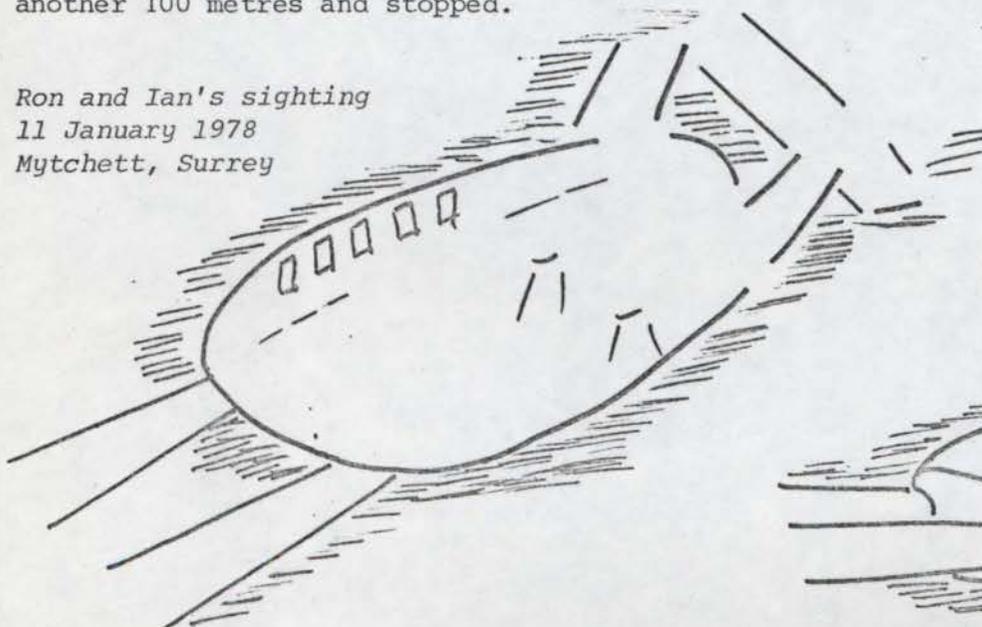
Two 15-year old Mytchett schoolboys, Ron Hills and Ian Hoole, were returning home after paying an evening visit to a local youth club. The day was Wednesday 11 January 1978, and the time, about 9.35pm. It was a blustery night, so Ron and Ian decided to run home together, "just for a bit of sport, just to keep fit".

As they ran towards the top of a nearby railway bridge along the Mytchett Road, they noticed what they described as a large object flying over them. They first thought that it was an aircraft, but noticed that it had what appeared to be two headlights which lit up the clouds ahead of it. On the underside of the object were two red lights flashing on and off alternatively.

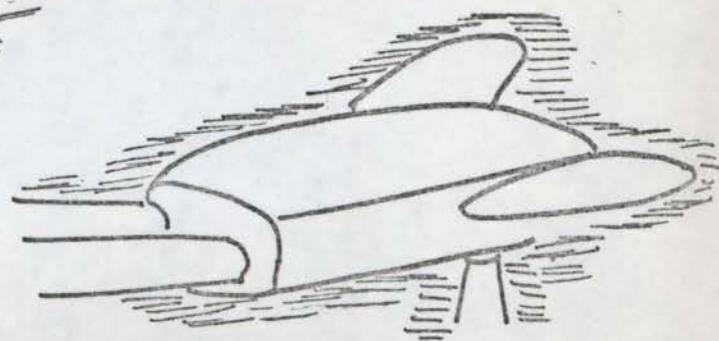
By now, the object seemed to be getting lower. They could make out a large dark shape, and could hear a faint noise. They were quite sure at this stage that the object could not be an aircraft because, as the commented later, it was by now so low, that had it been a plane, the noise would have been tremendous. As they watched, the object moved off into the distance. Both Ron and Ian were speechless, and more than a little scared. They continued home, discussing what they had seen, and within a few minutes, were approaching their homes, some half-a-mile further on.

As they walked, they caught sight of the lights in the distance, between some rooftops. The lights, they noticed, seemed to be moving from side to side. The boys stepped out into the centre of the road to get a clearer view of the object, which was now directly ahead of them. They decided to make another run for home, and as they did so, they could again hear the noise of the object. This time, it appeared to be getting louder. Catching sight of lights again, they realised that the object was getting closer... and seemingly following them. They ran about another 100 metres and stopped.

*Ron and Ian's sighting
11 January 1978
Mytchett, Surrey*



Below: Surrey and Hampshire, 1974



It was then that the most frightening incident of their experience occurred.. The

A CLASSIC PILOT SIGHTING

The following incident was related by Donald Keyhoe of the Washington-based National Investigation Committee on Aerial Phenomena to 'True Magazine', August 1950. This summary has been translated from the Danish magazine 'UFO Nyt'.

"We were flying 140 kilometres east of Chicago, when Captain Manning suddenly saw a mysterious light. It was evening - 2025 hours on 27 April 1950 - when the Transworld DC3 was flying at 600 metres over Gosham Indiana.

"On the left of the cockpit sat Captain Robin Addicks, a heavily-built man who had been with TWA for ten years. They flew a couple of minutes at 1200 metres when Captain Manning suddenly saw a peculiar red light approaching. The DC3 was flying at 280 kph but the light was with them all the time. Then it changed to orange - like a fireball. It was burning clearly on top but not at the bottom. For a moment he thought he was going mad. He had heard of UFO reports from other pilots. He turned to Captain Addicks. Addicks took the microphone and called up TWA Chicago. "We have observed a remarkable object", he radioed. The air traffic controller could not help.

"Both pilots continued to look at the object which they estimated to be 800 metres from them. They kept the aircraft on course at the same speed. Manning wanted to veer closer, but the object receded and returned on a number of occasions.

"They asked others in the aircraft to observe the phenomenon. On board were two Boeing engineers, who were described as being 'amazed'.

"The sighting was reported widely in newspapers".

RESEARCH UNCOVERS 'NEW' LIFE FORM

Biologists working for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the US National Science Foundation have identified a 'new' form of life on Earth, possibly dating back to the planet's first billion years.

The new form - previously thought to be a type of ordinary bacteria - is a METHANE-PRODUCING organism, representing a line of evolutionary descent that is totally separate from the two traditionally-recognised lines - animals and plants, and bacteria.

The organisms may be the oldest of life forms too - coming not only before plants and animals, but also before bacteria.

The finding was made by a research team headed by Dr Carl Woese, Professor of Genetics and Development at the University of Illinois, an expert on the genetic code.

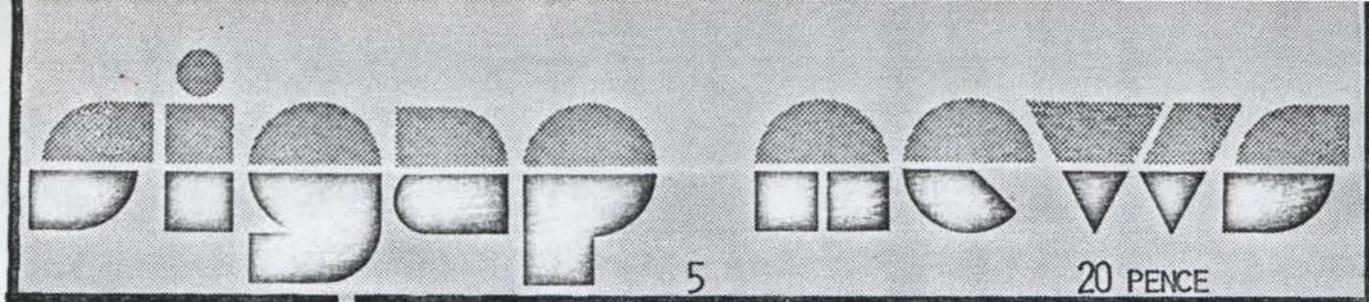
Methane-producing organisms appear to be ideally suited to what scientists believe to have been the Earth's primitive atmosphere. The organisms can:

- * Get all their food and energy from very simple compounds such as carbon dioxide and hydrogen, the main gases in a primitive atmosphere.
- * Not use any of the complex chemicals most other organisms require as food such as sugars and amino acids.
- * Grow at high temperatures (65 - 70°C).

They are now found only in niches swept clean of oxygen, such as deep in hot springs at Yellowstone.

The researchers said that the discovery creates new hope that science will ultimately find out a great deal about the creation of life on Earth,

continued on next page



APRIL 1978

REPORTS HOT UP

by RICHARD BEET FRAS

UFO reports are coming in at the rate of two a day at the time of going to press. Sightings in the Farnborough area of Hampshire, together with reports from all over Surrey are contributing to the biggest flap in the area since the spate of sightings around Basingstoke last year.

The *Daily Express*, (of Close Encounter serialisation fame) carried a centre spread in its 7 April issue. It linked sightings from Farnborough, Ash in Surrey and Ashdown Forest, implying that the same object had been seen travelling from west to east. Investigations were however soon to prove that this was not the case, and that sensationalism was to be the name of the game.

We first got to hear of these reports through member Alan Franklin, a journalist living at Alton. The first event was reported by a caretaker at Ash Walsh school, who telephoned the police after observing a multi-coloured object for over an hour. Constable Alan Craggs was called out after the caretaker had telephoned Mount Browne police HQ to report the object. Mount Browne claimed that they were unable to put him in contact with a UFO organisation, and so sent a constable to the scene. PC Craggs, with the caretaker, watched the object for about 20 minutes on (5 April in the evening). It changed colour "through the spectrum", moved erratically in the sky over Twesledown, Aldershot, travelling north.

At about the same time, a woman at Farnborough telephoned police to say that her young son had been frightened by an oval-shaped object which gave out golden flashes as it hovered over playing fields in the area. Towards the east, at a farm near Kingstanding in the Ashdown Forest area of Sussex, at about 22.30 hours again on 5 April, an object was reported as breaking in two as it fell from the sky. On impact, the object started a gorse fire, and appliances were sent to the area.

Of course this was just what the *Express* had been waiting for - an event to substantiate the publicity they had given to the subject a few weeks earlier. Under the banner "Close Encounter of the REAL Kind" the paper went mad. The impression was of a multi-coloured UFO which had swept in from the west, over Aldershot, past Guildford, and had finally crashed in flames in a Sussex forest. A picture showed police the following day searching the Ashdown Forest, armed with geiger counters in the event of radioactivity. Real science fiction stuff.

But what are the facts?

- * The Farnborough lady's son had run indoors from a local recreation field to say that he and two friends had seen a "large, cigar-shaped object 'HOVERING' over the playing fields. Time - 21.00 hours. It was not moving. She ran out to see lights flashing she could not explain.
- * The police at Guildford received a call from the Ash caretaker at 21.50 hours. The caretaker had already been observing the light for an hour and a half.
- * In Sussex, the flaming object hit the ground at 22.30 hours.

This period of observation, from about 20.20 hours at Ash, to 22.30 hours in the Ashdown Forest does not give the impression of a consistent trajectory.

The object also appears to have undertaken some remarkable shape changes.

At Farnborough it was "cigar-shaped"; by the time it reached Ashdown forest it was a flaming object; while in Ash, the caretaker and the policeman were looking at a stationary, or near-stationary object changing colour.

From the information that Sigap has (we have interviewed both the caretaker and the Farnborough woman), it would be illogical to assume that what was reported that night in three locations, was due to the same object. Our preliminary conclusions are that:

- * The son of the Farnborough woman did see something strange, something similar in appearance to the recent local reports of disc-shaped objects with a kind of fin. The flashes she observed may have been caused by an army flare, or by military exercises in the area which we understand were taking place that night. We also understand that some night flying from the Royal Aircraft Establishment was under way on that Wednesday evening.
- * The school caretaker and the policeman from Guildford were looking at the planet Jupiter, now at a magnitude of -1.7 in the constellation of Taurus. Atmospheric aberrations caused by moving dust particles and tiny crystals of ice high in the atmosphere can cause an observed distant source of light to appear to change colour. Observing the light source for more than a few minutes, particularly by using binoculars, would give the impression of erratic movement for two main reasons. First, the difficulty in establishing a suitable reference point (Jupiter's elevation above the horizon would have been about 40 degrees). And second, but not least, would be eye fatigue. By the time the constable arrived on the scene, the witness would be so convinced of movement and colour changes, his description (we suggest) would influence even a policeman's reasoning.
- * Both Bufora and the British UFO Documentation Centre have carried out investigations into the report from Sussex. At the time of going to press, Bufora's investigation results were not known, but both BUDC and the local police force were convinced that the cause of both the UFO and the fire was an army flare, possibly fired as part of a local exercise involving army cadets.

There are lessons to be learnt from this series of experiences.

- 1 Don't believe everything you read. National newspapers are fighting for survival, and they will do anything to increase circulation. Already this year, national dailies have lost 27,000,000 copies due to strikes.
- 2 Don't believe your eyes. What you think you are seeing is not necessarily the reality.
- 3 Policemen can get it wrong too.
- 4 Out of bad, comes good. The publicity given to these incidents have provoked a spate of reports which are still coming in. We have at least four further reports which tally with that of the Farnborough boy. These reports are being investigated.

It is possible that a large-scale military exercise was taking place on the Wednesday night. If so, it would account for much of the aerial activity, friendly or hostile! We are surprised that we were not contacted sooner by the police, and we shall be taking steps to ensure that communications between Sigap and the police are improved.

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NEXT MEETING

The next Sigap meeting will be held as usual, at the Prospect Club, Prospect Road, Ash Vale, Aldershot.

Our speaker will be:

ALAN WEST--Director, British UFO Documentation Centre

who will be talking about the work of his organisation.

Alan is a past Director of Bufora, and for a short time was Liaison Officer for that organisation. All members and friends are welcome.

Date: WEDNESDAY 19 APRIL - 8.00pm

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS

Omar Fowler and Richard Beet were invited as representatives of Sigap to the press preview on 3 March of the film *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*. Its a film not to be missed by ufologists, and unless you are prepared to wait until about August, you will have to travel to London for the privilege. Star performances from Richard Dreyfuss and four-year old Cary Guffey add the human touch, while the special effects are out of this world. The optimism of this friendly encounter, and the blind faith of the hosts is perhaps a little too much to hope for but who cares? I hope to include a full review in a future issue of *Sigap News*. (Richard Beet)

A QUESTION OF IDENTITY

It is Sigap policy to withhold the names of witnesses when discussing sighting reports. This is to save them from any embarrassment and also to prevent them from further visits from other organisations or individuals. Unfortunately, owing to the rush to get the last issue of 'Sigap News' into print, we failed to edit the names out of the reports. It was consequently published without consultation in a local trade promotional newspaper. This caused embarrassment to the witnesses and their families for which we apologise.

Sigap News is protected by copyright, and although we are usually happy for extracts of any length to be used or adapted, we do ask for an acknowledgement to be printed, together with notification of intended publication. (Mike Prewett)

SIGAP FILM

The 16mm film about Sigap, reported in the last issue of *Sigap News*, is about to be born. Director/Producer David Furnage from the West Surrey College of Art and Design will begin filming later this month in a number of locations in Surrey, Hants and possibly in London. (Richard Beet)

BUFORA CONFERENCE - NOTTINGHAM

We hope to report on this event in the next issue of 'Sigap News'.

SKATEBOARD UFO

CASE s804

In issue 4 of *Sigap News* we reported that two boys at Basingstoke had heard a whirring noise and had seen a UFO on 30 January. A Case summary, by Omar Fowler follows:

On Monday 30 January 1978, at approximately 20.00 hours, two boys, one 13½ and the other 14, were playing on their skateboards on a quiet road in the Brighton Hill Estate area of Basingstoke, Hants. A few street lamps lit the scene and there were few people about.

The boys were playing with two others when they all happened to notice a bright light in the sky moving in their direction. One of the other boys commented that it was most likely an aeroplane, and at that stage, the other boys moved off leaving the two, Tony and David, by themselves.

The light had by now moved closer, and the two could begin to make out a round shape in the middle of the glowing orangy-yellow light. As it approached, the whole glowing light seemed to be spinning. It continued to come closer and began to hover. Only a series of lights around the centre of the body continued to rotate.

The boys gave the following details:

- * The object approached to about 100 feet from the ground.
- * It was oval in shape
- *** It had a row of yellow lights rotating around the centre (subsequently estimated at 80 revolutions per minute).
- * As the lights spun, a small green light could be seen at each revolution.

The yellow lights were clear in outline on the leading section, but were blurred on the trailing part of the light, that is, half round in front and blurred at the back. The green light could be seen in the line of yellow lights, appearing regularly.

Other lights could also be seen, and a red dome was situated on top of the body. Behind that, a red light seemed to be suspended just above the body, as though on some kind of aerial, although no details of aerials could be seen. A white light was positioned on the forward part of the body, and a rhythmic doning noise, like that of bees, was heard.

The object was seen to reverse a little, then came forward again and continued to hover. Tony and David described the object as being the length of a house roof. By this time they were scared and began to run for home. One of the boys dropped his skateboard, but quickly retrieved it and ran on. After a short time, they stopped and glanced back - but the object had gone.

They ran home, scared and shaken, to tell their parents.

(Omar Fowler)

CLOSE ENCOUNTER WITH CHARLES BOWEN

We were all pleased to see Charles again, after his visit last year to our 10th anniversary celebrations.

His visit, on 22 February, coincided with the massive publicity being given to CE3K, and to UFOs in general by both the *Daily Express* and *The Sun*.

Charles gave us all an interesting insight into the methods used by the press

to extract information. The Express had spent a long time with Charles, and its reporters had taken pages of notes detailing cases from *Flying Saucer Review (FSR)*, of which Charles has been editor for 14 years. It was not until the end of the series in the Express, that any reference to the sources of information was given - extremely galling for those who provided all the details.

Charles Bowen shared our opinion that the film (CE3K) would lead to surges of people seeing things - a mixture of objective sightings and hoaxes. There would be enough information he said to keep us all going for years.

The discussion broadened later to encompass the 'Establishment view', Russian attitudes to UFOs, the influence of the CIA (particularly the Robertson panel report, and of course, the Condon Report.

We hope that Charles enjoyed his visit as much as we did, and we look forward to seeing him again in the not too distant future.

A FIRST WORLD WAR PHENOMENON

An extract from: Air Observation - Warplanes of World War 1

The behaviour of the engine went from bad to worse, and the vibration became more and more intense. Once more, I thought it would peter out before we were within gliding distance of British territory, and I therefore made ready to burn the machine - the last duty of an airman let in for the catastrophe of a landing among enemies. But the engine kept alive, obstinately and unevenly. 'V' held down the nose of the machine still farther, so as to gain the lines in the quickest possible time.

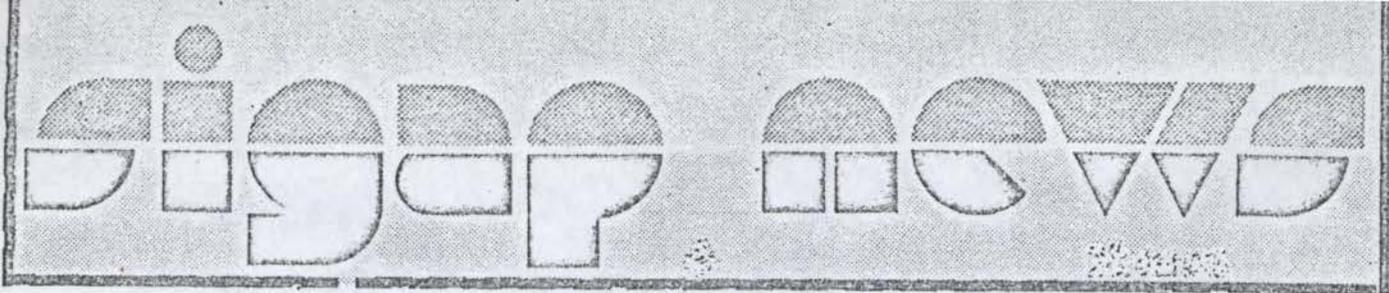
Soon we were treated to a display by the family ghost of the clan of Archibald, otherwise an immense pillar of grey-white smoky substance that appeared very suddenly to the windward of us. It stretched up vertically from the ground to a height about level with ours, which was then only 5500 feet. We watched it curiously as it stood in an unbending rigidity similar to that of a giant waxwork, cold, unnatural, stupidly implacable, half unbelievable and wholly ridiculous. At the top it sprayed round, like a stick of asparagus. For two or three months, similar apparitions had been exhibited to us at rare intervals, nearly always in the same neighbourhood.

At first sight the pillars of smoke seemed not to disperse, but after an interval, they apparently faded away as mysteriously as they had appeared. What was meant to be their particular branch of frightfulness I cannot say. One rumour was that they were an experiment in aerial gassing, and another that they were of some phosphorous compound. All I know is that they entertained us from time to time, with no apparent damage.

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Editor: Richard Beet, 3 Grantley Road, Guildford, Surrey GU2 6BW (0483 37322)



EDITORIAL

WALKING THE TIGHTROPE

Since its formation 12 years ago, Sigap has always maintained the role of an independent investigation group. This decision was not made as the result of trying to act as a 'secret society', but because in our opinion, larger organisations have failed to act in what we consider to be a scientific manner.

The big question has always been: After the investigation of a UFO incident has been completed and the report fully written up in every detail, what then? Should it be passed onto a larger organisation, which may not even have the resources that are available to ourselves? It is more likely to be filed away to gather dust in some corner. Would it not be wiser to make it available to the world at large or to a scientific body? The aim of our group has always been to investigate the UFO event *fully* and then to pass on the report for *further study*.

In recent months, members of our group have had the opportunity to listen to the executives of other larger UFO investigation organisations. In most cases the story is the same - what to do with the UFO reports. Unfortunately, it is often the case that the investigation of UFOs' takes second place to the power struggles which have been a regular feature of the larger groups. This has bred conflict, and inter-group rivalry has drained the life blood from some of the larger organisations, an event that we have watched with deep regret.

However, life must go on, and although we too have had our ups and downs, any differences have been quickly settled and the search for the answer to the UFO mystery goes on.

So, what do we do with the UFO reports? We believe that our present course is correct and that by passing reports to the Center for UFO Studies which is run by Dr J Allan Hynek and to *Flying Saucer Review* for publication, we have done our best to make our reports available for scientific study.

We have for many years co-operated with other groups and often pass on interesting cases for comparison and information, and we shall continue to do so. However, we believe that the particular 'tightrope' that we have chosen is the right one.

Omar Fowler

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*****
* NEXT MEETING                                     8.00pm ADMISSION FREE
*
* Wednesday 9 August at the PROSPECT COUNTRY CLUB, Ash Vale, Aldershot
*
* SUMMER EVENT will include a report by MIKE PREWETT on his recent visit
* to the US. Movie films of a recent satellite launch will be featured.
* Peter Hicks from Guildford's RADIO LION will be telling all.
*
*****

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OPEN REPORTING

We reproduce an item which appeared in a recent issue of 'Today', Florida's daily newspaper.

NAVY TRACKS UFOS NEAR OCALA

OCALA (AP) Unexplained lighted objects in the night sky over a remote sector of Florida forest were sighted and tracked on radar at a Navy electronic warfare centre, naval personnel have confirmed.

They say one object hovered in midair, then sped away after eluding computerised tracking gear with a hairpin turn.

"The computer wouldn't handle it," said Lt Commander John Sullivan, base commander of the Navy's Pinecastle Electronic Warfare Range in the Ocala National Forest of North-Central Florida.

Sullivan was not involved in the series of reported sightings that took place over a two-hour period Sunday night. But he permitted detailed interviews of three base personnel by the 'Ocala Star Banner' on Monday.

One was SK-1 Robert J Clark of Detroit, duty officer Sunday night when a civilian called at 10.05 pm to ask if the base was using any flares.

Pinecastle uses sophisticated electronic equipment to train pilots to evade enemy weapons in combat.

"I told her there were no flares in the area, and that the range wasn't operating at the time," Clark said.

The phone rang again, Clark said, and a man who wouldn't give his name reported that he and seven others travelling on route SR 19 near Silver Glen Springs had also seen something strange.

The man described the sighting as an object 50 or 60 feet in diameter with flashing lights, Clark said. The caller said it flew right over the top of the vehicle he was driving, close enough to get a good look before it disappeared.

Clark logged the second call and contacted the Naval Air station at Jacksonville for details on all known aircraft currently over Pinecastle area. Jacksonville reported no known aircraft currently over Pinecastle area.

"So we got out the binoculars and went up on the tower," Clark said. "We located an object due north, approximately 1500 feet above the trees. We watched it for 15 or 20 minutes and it looked like it was pretty stationary".

Mr Timothy Collins of Cambridge, Mass, a navy radar technician for eight years was manning the radarscope. "I've never seen anything like it and I don't want to see anything like it again," Collins said. "First it was heading south and then it was heading north. All in the split of a second... planes just don't have a turning radius like that."

('Today', Wednesday May 17 1978)

Here we have a most interesting report. Seen both visually and on radar, the sighting was reported on the front page of Florida's most important daily, serving as it does, the Cape Canaveral area. The report is similar to hundreds which have found their way into the files of UFO investigators.

But there are two significant points about this report. First, it has been treated as a serious news item by the paper, and does not carry the sly and clever innuendoes so often seen in British newspapers. UFOs are taken seriously in the States, and the media appears to treat them as such. Second, and perhaps more importantly, the case, had it occurred in Britain would NEVER have seen the light of day. In the first place the MOD would just not have released ANY information about such a report. If the story

had leaked out to the press, the Government would have slapped a 'D' notice on the information. And press interviews with military witnesses would invoke howls of laughter from Defence Press Offices. "We have nothing to say", would be the only statement.

UFOs are just one example of the restrictions in our freedom we face in this country. The Official Secrets Act, brought in during the First World War to stop soldiers from talking about the true position, is now used to gag millions of employees, from the Ministry of Agriculture to the Post Office.

It is often said that the UK has less spectacular sightings than the US or France. In reality, the only difference is that witnesses in the US or France can be supported by official evidence. British UFO witnesses do not have the basic freedom to ask for support, and requests are often met with derision by the authorities. It is not surprising that the media treat the subject as a joke, when they get nowhere with those who hold the key to the evidence.

The sooner this country gets a Freedom of Information Act, the sooner we shall solve the mystery of the UFOs.

Many thanks to Mike Prewett for supplying the press cutting.

AN UNUSUAL INCIDENT AT CHURT

CASE S817

6 APRIL 1978 - THURSDAY EVENING - At about 2100, two local girls, one 13½ and the other 14, were walking down a road in Churt, near Farnham, when they both saw an oval-shaped object in the sky. It had green, red and white flashing lights, and was hovering over some nearby trees. After about five minutes, both girls ran back to the home of one of them, and told her parents.

Before long, they returned for another peep. The object, they estimated, had been hovering only about 400 yards from the house, which is situated in wooded country. By now, it had moved further away, and could be seen lower through the trees, glowing and completely silent.

This time, before running away again, they were able to study the object in more detail. It was silvery and glowing, and the green lights were flashing faster than the other (red and white). Both girls described "windows" around the top of the "saucer" as appearing like "flies eyes", that kind of insect-like structure. (See sketch overleaf). The girls did not see the object move away as they ran back to the house a second time.

Later, both girls described the object as shimmering, similar to light shining on silver, and they also mentioned that the green lights were flashing faster than the others. The windows were unusual in having the "insect - eye" features, which is something we have not come across before. The incident occurred during the April 'flap', but no other witnesses have yet been traced.

Note: The light features were as follows: Red, top right. White, top left. Green, bottom.

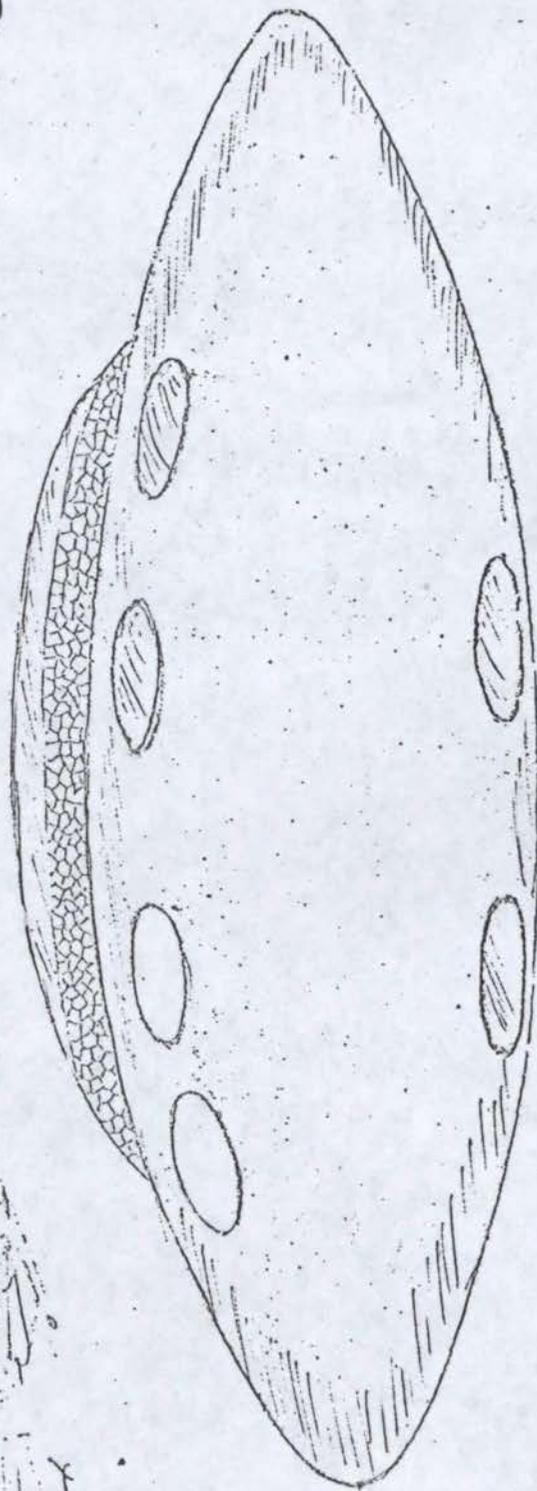
INVESTIGATED BY OMAR FOWLER

STAND BY FOR CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF A PUBLISHING KIND

Watch out for Penthouse Publication's latest offering - Nova.

Gerard Van der Luen describes Nova - due to reach our magazine racks late September - as the first magazine of the space age, and the first major magazine to combine science fiction and science fact.

"Nova isn't going to be a nutter's magazine" he says. "Its going to be written by some of the world's best science writers and will present a totally balanced view of all aspects of the future".



OBJECT SEEN BY TWO GIRLS AT CHURT, NEAR FARNHAM - SEE PAGE 3

SUMMARY OF SIGHTINGS (JANUARY - MAY)

<i>Number</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Details of incident</i>	<i>Remarks</i>	<i>On tape</i>
801	11/1/78 (2135)	Two boys saw a glowing square object which followed them. (Mytchett)	CE1	Yes
802	19/1/78 (2000)	UFO flew along next to a car on main road (Hanworth)	CE1	Yes
803	25/1/78 (2105)	Cigar shaped object seen flying from direction of Blackbushe. (Farnborough)	LITS	Yes
804	30/1/78 (2000)	Two boys playing on skateboards had encounter with UFO (Basingstoke)	CE1	Yes
805	25/1/78 (0738)	Black strip seen crossing the face of the moon. (Farnborough)	LITS	No
806	8/2/78 (2030)	Multicoloured light in sky. (Yateley)	Sirius	No
807	7/2/78	Lights moving over Basingstoke	LITS	No
808	(0250) 10/2/78 (1830)	Glowing light moving backwards and forwards over Wimbourne	LITS	No
809	23/1/78 (2035)	Object flew low and appeared to hover and then flew off at high speed.	CE1	No
810	10/3/78 (1547)	Lights seen descending to the ground, (Dorking)	LITS	No
811	6/2/78 (2315)	Metallic pie-shaped object, hovered and then flew off. (Chertsey)	CE1	No
812	30/3/78 (2345)	Driving down M3, witness saw orange light falling slowly from the sky. (Winchester)	LITS	No
813	25/11/77 (2030)	Light, changed colour and fell to the ground. (Basingstoke)	LITS	No
814	24/1/78 (2300)	Red ball seen travelling West to East. (Bristol)	LITS	No
815	19/1/78 (1700)	Light seen near moon, observed through binoculars. (W Byfleet)	LITS	No
816	27/3/78 (0010)	'Mexican hat' UFO seen low over Farnham.	CE1	Yes
817	6/4/78 (2115)	'Saucer' UFO seen over Churt. (Near Farnham)	CE1	Yes
818	6/4/78 (0030)	Metallic wingless object flew over Farnham bypass. (Farnham)	CE1	Yes
819	5/4/78 (2000)	Cigar shaped object with windows seen over Farnborough.	CE1	Yes
820	5/4/78 (2150)	Bright light changing colour seen over Ash.	LITS	No
821	6/4/78 (2145)	Bright object flickering in sky seen over Farnborough RAE (Aldershot)	LITS	No
822	15/4/78 (2110)	Bright multi-coloured light in sky (Basingstoke)	Jupiter	No

Number	Date	Details of incident	Remarks	On tape
823	16/4/78 (0105)	Cone-shaped fiery object in sky over Basingstoke/Aldershot/Guildford/Bookham. Travelling West to East	-	No
824	30/3/78 (2115)	Light hanging in the sky Seen near Churt (Farnham)	LITS	Yes
825	11/4/78 (1930)	Silver-grey "column" in sky near Leigh, Surrey		
826	23/4/78 (0230)	Glowing magnesium type circle seen in sky near Odiham.	-	No
827	5/4/78 (2000)	Bright lights in sky at Epsom Downs	LITS	No
828	-/8/75 (1600)	White balls seen in sky, like meteorological balloons, but did not move. (Hook, Hampshire)	CE1	Yes
829	5/4/78 (2320)	Bright object moving in sky	LITS	No
830	10/4/78 (2150)	Crescent-shaped object seen moving across the sky. (Dunsfold)	-	No
831	4/5/78 (1930)	Cloud-like object moving fast across sky. (Basingstoke)		No
832	9/5/78 (2155)	Cigar-shaped object with lights passed over Tongham, Surrey. Traced from Kent/Sussex earlier in evening.	CE1	Yes

A further list will be published in a later issue of *Sigap News*.

REPORT OF THE LAST MEETING (17 MAY)

GUEST SPEAKER - KEN ROGERS, Chairman British UFO Society.

Report by ANN DENT

Two vivid lights in the night sky seen by Mr Robert Stevens, of Tongham, sent him rushing for powerful binoculars. This is just one of the Surrey UFO sightings being investigated by the Surrey Investigation Group on Aerial Phenomena.

A first-hand account of the engineless and silent object was given by Mr Stevens (32) to a meeting of the group.

Mr Stevens said that on May 9 at 2155hrs he spotted the two lights in the direction of the Hog's Back. Being a keen aircraft spotter, he thought at first it was a low-flying plane and dashed for his binoculars.

He rushed out of his house in Grieve Road on The Laurels estate and caught a different view. He explained: 'As it turned I saw it was cigar shaped with two lights at the front and two at the back and a red static light in the middle.'

He watched the UFO for four minutes before reporting it to the Royal Aircraft Establishment at Farnborough and to Mr Omar Fowler, of the Surrey Investigation Group. It was seen also by Mr Stevens' wife, Janette.

An account of another recent local sighting came from Peter Inwood (50), caretaker of Walsh Middle School, Ash. He told of a bright white light that changed colour to red and blue. It was seen also by Mr Inwood's wife, Barbara, daughters, Jacqueline and Christine and PC Alan Craggs, of Ash Police.

Mr Ken Rogers, chairman of the British UFO Society, guest speaker at the meeting, gave a list of reported sightings on April 5, the same day as Mr Inwood's.

These came from Kent, Sussex, Oxfordshire, Farnborough, Chilworth, Farnham, Staffordshire and Lancashire. He felt that all sightings were worthy of scientific investigation but felt there were too many amateur associations trying to tackle them.

Mr Rogers said: 'I envisage one national body divided perhaps into counties and regions with evaluation panels' He would like to see all sighting reports sent to one central source and the publication of one periodical on sale to the public. He felt there was a great deal of interest in aerial phenomena but that all organisations should be linked.

Mr Richard Beet, a member of the Surrey Investigation Group, felt it would be impossible to get people to report sightings to one centre. 'People have different theories so there are always differences of opinion. The trouble is we do not know what we are investigating.'

Mr Rogers said this was because ufology was followed only as a hobby but Mr Beet answered: 'Science is advanced by the interest of amateurs.' Mr Inwood said he had no idea who to contact, he did not know what organisations existed and would like there to have been a central phone number.

Mr Rogers felt ufology was amateurish and underfinanced. 'Its groups are like secret societies - too many societies collecting too many reports and where are they going?' he questioned, 'I do not wish to be disillusionary, but they only go into filing cabinets.'

He said that if the UFO subject was going to be solved it could only be by working efficiently both locally and nationally together.

'People want information.' Mr Rogers said. 'If they are bold they ring the police or a newspaper so it seems the only source of publicising sightings is the press.'

'From the point of view of investigation societies this meant a time lag and a cold trail. If there was a central number then members could be alerted and get out on hillside watching, Royal Air Force bases and airports could be asked if there is a normal explanation and so we would be on top of the situation.' he said.

Mr Rogers felt that if ufology was given a government grant, it could be properly organised. 'At present the Ministry of Defence is only interested from the point of view of security.'

But the Surrey members did not favour his suggestion and Mr Beet said: 'The trouble with commercialisation is that concentration would go to the more spectacular aspects and we would lose our scientist members.'

The chairman of the Surrey group, Mr Omar Fowler, said there had been 32 substantial reports in the county during the year and of those, 11 were close encounters in which people were able to give details of shape and size.



Omar Fowler & David Furmage discussing the script during the shooting of the SIGAP film.

IT WAS REPORTED IN AN EARLIER ISSUE OF SIGAP NEWS THAT A SHORT DOCUMENTARY WAS BEING MADE OF THE WORK OF OUR GROUP. FILMING IS NOW COMPLETED, AND WE ARE AWAITING THE RESULT.

THE FILM WAS PRODUCED BY STUDENTS AT THE TELEVISION PRODUCTION DEPARTMENT OF FARNHAM COLLEGE OF ART AND DESIGN.

CIGAR SHAPED OBJECT TRACKED ACROSS SOUTHERN ENGLAND

TUESDAY NIGHT - 9 MAY 1978 - CASE S832

An unusual cigar-shaped object was reported travelling quite slowly across Kent, Sussex, Surrey and was last seen flying across North Hampshire.

The first report was received from a newspaper journalist, who first saw the object at 2105hrs from Lamberhurst (Kent) and described it as a bright white light in the distance. Fifteen minutes later, the journalist, who was driving home, passed through Hurst Green, where he again stopped his car and watched the object as it passed overhead which he estimated as 2,000 feet.

The object could now be seen more clearly, and apart from the white light, a red light was also visible. The lights did not blink and there was no sound. The craft was last seen flying in the direction of Ticehurst. He rang up Gatwick Air Traffic Control, but they could not explain the sighting.

Thirty five minutes later, and a further fifty miles away (it was by now 2155hrs) at Tongham, near Aldershot Hants, a 32 year old man was sitting at home watching television, when he noticed two bright lights, side by side, approaching from the direction of the 'Hogs Back' (a part of the North Downs). Based on this second report, the flying 'cigar' had been travelling at about 85 miles per hour. If it had proceeded in a straight line across the country on a bearing of 280 degrees, it would have passed over East Grinstead, Gatwick Airport and Godalming, in Surrey.

This second witness had been a keen aircraft spotter for many years and because of this, took a keen interest in the flying object approaching his house. He ran upstairs to get a 'fix' on the object with his binoculars, but what he saw shocked him - the craft had no wings, it had a body about the size of a BAC 111 jetliner, a red light on the top and two bright lights on the front and rear similar to car headlights. The lights at the rear were evident when the craft turned while passing overhead. It changed direction slightly and headed off in a straight line just south of Aldershot (heading NNE).

The object was completely silent and was flying at an estimated altitude of 1,000ft. The flying cigar was also seen by his wife and was viewed for about four minutes before finally moving out of sight into the distance.

The witness, an experienced observer, viewing the object with binoculars, described it as oblong and having a sharply-defined shape. We accept the report as fully substantiated and one which cannot be explained by conventional standards.

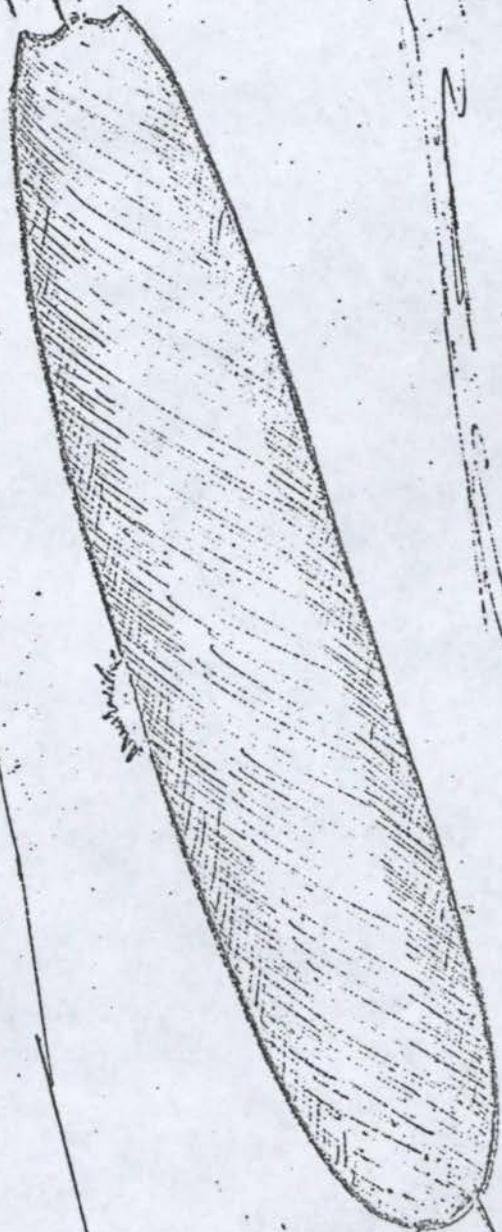
INVESTIGATED BY OMAR FOWLER

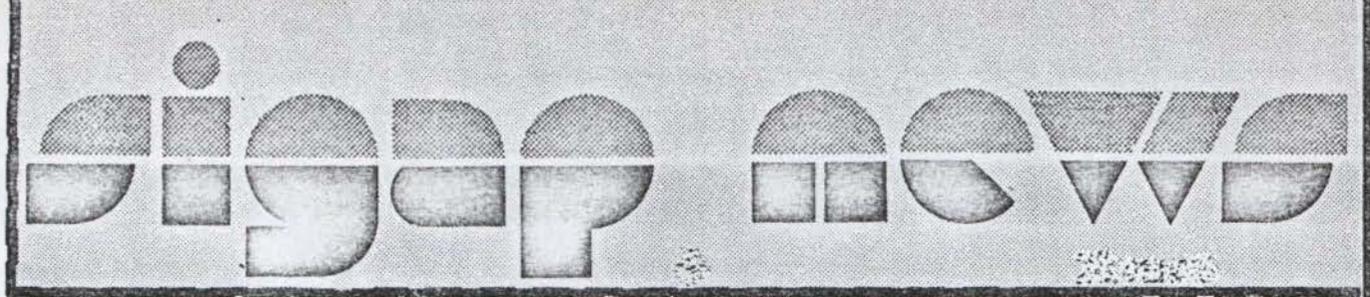
Illustration of object on next page

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IMPRESSION OF OBJECT TRACKED OVER
SOUTHERN ENGLAND ON 9 MAY THIS YEAR





THE NEW YEAR STARTS WITH A RUSH

(See new reports inside pages)

.....

JEAN ROOK OF THE "DAILY EXPRESS"
TELLS SIGAP "TIME WILL PROVE US RIGHT" page 5

.....

NEWS REPORT FROM AUSTRALIA ON
"THE NEW ZEALAND UFO" page 6

.....

" MEXICO SCENE " By Richard Colbourne. page 7

.....

Greetings to all our members and Best Wishes for 1979. Once again we have an interesting collection of UFO news and events for you in the newsletter. Unfortunately we have been unable to produce our publication in the usual high quality print, but we are sure that the contents will make up for the small loss in presentation.

It is intended to produce the SIGAP NEWS on a more regular basis in order to keep members up to date with the local UFO news and events.

This issue will cover the latest reports received in 1979 and a full list of reports investigated in 1978 will be ready in time for our next issue.

We intend to up date our list of investigators and anyone who is interested should fill in the form enclosed with this issue and return it as detailed. The work involves visiting and interviewing witnesses of UFO "events" and it is intended to discuss our investigation procedure at the next SIGAP meeting at the "Prospect Club" on February 15th (details inside).

A 1937 UFO IN SURREY

By: Major F. Turner-Bridger
(Interviewed by M. Prewett & O. Fowler)

About September or October 1937 at about 4pm in the afternoon, my wife and I were motoring back to Haslemere where I then lived. We were returning from a visit to my sister who lived in Sussex.

On turning onto the main Haslemere road near Northchapel, I turned into a side road and suddenly pulled up as I saw a mysterious object. It was over on my left, at the brow of Blackdown Hill.

On the summit, I noticed this unusual object hovering, it was like a flaming orange circle with a lump in the middle, the whole thing was surrounded by orange flame.

I was watching this curious object when I noticed that another car had also pulled up behind me. The object obviously noticed the cars in this isolated place, then suddenly flew back along the edge of Blackdown Hill out of sight. I waited some few minutes and then noticed that the same object had re-appeared again some distance along the ridge than previously.

I presumed that in this very lovely and isolated spot, the occupant had been surprised to find a car below and on the appearance of the second car it retired back along the ridge. I watched from below as it disappeared at a terrific speed.

I sat there and began to wonder what it could have been and as Farnborough (the experimental aircraft establishment) was only a few miles away, I imagined that it was a new special aircraft of some kind being tested out.

At that time (1937) I may add that many peoples minds were on a possible war and therefore I decided not to say anything.....

N.B. Major Turner-Bridger had previously served in Kings Own Scottish, Borderers in the trenches in the First World War, before being wounded and transferring to the Royal Flying Corps in 1916.

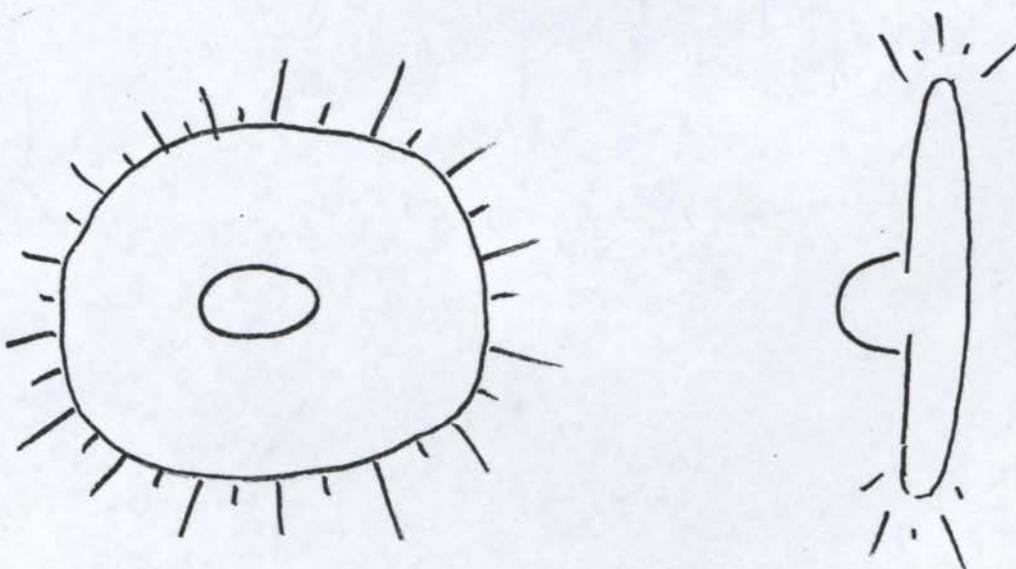
It seems unlikely that even if the object had been reported to the R.A.F., that any action would, or could have been taken to investigate the incident.

A sketch of the object and picture of Mike Prewitt discussing the incident with Major Turner-Bridger appears on the next page.

The interview was carried out at the Majors home in Southsea, Portsmouth in August of 1978 .



Mike Prewett discusses the 1937 UFO with Major Turner - Bridger.



Two sketches supplied from the witness: Plan view & Side view.

The interview was recorded and is now on file and available for reference at any future date. This is standard procedure for all witness interviews.

IN THE SKY

.....

Waking up no reason why,
It was 2a.m., I looked to the sky,
Up there a brilliant light I could see,
I had a feeling, it was looking at me.

Then I got up and went to the door,
no star like that had I seen before.
It was bright, six inches long,
so silently there it shone.

Once or twice it went quite dim,
then the brightness shone again.
I stared at it, I could'nt believe,
and when it went I was quite relieved.

So back to bed with a grin,
thinking of that thing I had seen.
I was'nt dreaming, it was quite true,
someone is up there, but I don't know who...

Mrs R.Cutler.

(our first poetic report)

.....

AS A MATTER OF INTEREST

.....

During 1978, UFO Lectures were given to the following:-

The "Ghost Club" : London.
Ladies Circle: Fleet.
Young Wives Assc:Frimley.
Workers Educational Assc: Haslemere.
Surrey Young Farmers: Guildford.
Woking Science Fiction Club.
Astronomical Society of Haringey.
The Vogue Society: Windsor.

Radio Talks to:-

Radio Lion (Hospitals) & Radio 210 .

VIEW FROM THE PRESS.

As a result of the extensive publicity given to the New Zealand UFO', various explanations were given in the Press, ranging from the planet Jupiter, to lights from Japanese fishing boats reflected in the sky.

Jean Rook of the Daily Express wrote in her column on January 3rd 79, " I don't care if they are balloons, aircraft, hallucinations or Patrick Moore lit up, Nothing will crack my belief in Flying Saucers".

This prompted yours truly, to write to the "First Lady of Fleet Street" and the following reply was received:-

DAILY EXPRESS

Express
Newspapers
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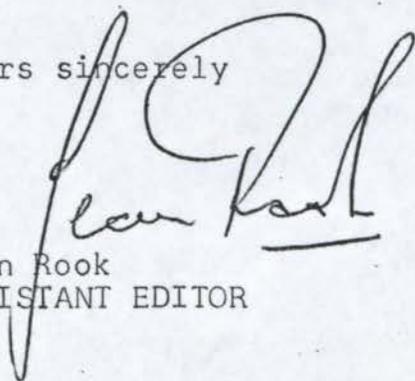
11 January 1979

O F Fowler Esq MISM
149 Mytchett Road
Mytchett
CAMBERLEY
Surrey

Dear Mr Fowler

Many thanks for your letter and the extremely interesting enclosures. I am sure that time will prove us all right.

Yours sincerely


Jean Rook
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Application to assist with area investigations & interviews.

Name:-

Address:-

Telephone No.:-

Any Transport:- I can cover area(Town)

I will/will not be able to assist within 24/48 hrs of a call.

Any previous experience of interviewing the public:- YES/NO

Please return this form to:-

Omar F. Fowler
149 Mytchett Road
Mytchett
Camberley, Surrey
Tel. Farnborough 41012

Your Signature..... Date.....

TODAY:
Now for
the real
Test...
— BACK PAGE



CUE
DYING
... AT 17

TOMORROW
You and
the stars
for '79



YOUNG West Australian
Kim Hughes (right) led
Australia's chase for runs in
the Third Test at the MCG
yesterday.

Hughes delighted the
crowd with a soaring six
and four boundaries in his
innings of 48 as Australia
battled to set England a
large total to chase in the
last innings.

At stumps Australia was
7-163, with a lead of 278.

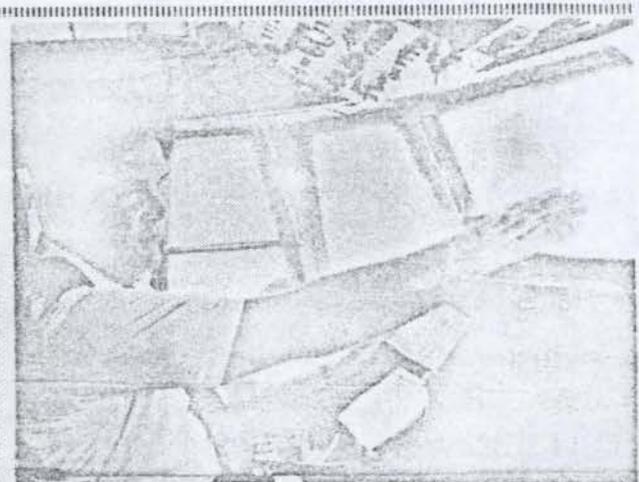
● Report, more pictures,
Page 55 and Back Page.

The Sun
NEWS-PICTORIAL
PHONE 63-0211 (Classified 63-0351) 10c

Melbourne, Tuesday, January 2, 1979 64 Pages

Bureau forecast — Early drizzle about the coast. A few clearing
showers in east, otherwise fine. ● Details, Page 55.

635,865
Average
daily
sale
Sun offices



● ABOVE: Capt. Vern Powell shows how he first saw a UFO over
Cook Strait on an earlier flight. BELOW: Illuminated in the night
sky like a distant planet . . . the eerie picture of the latest UFO.

AIR FORCE PUT ON UFO ALERT

By DAVID GUTHRIE-JONES

A STRIKE squadron of the New Zealand Air Force was on stand-by for a possible UFO sightings over the country.

One or two of the country's Skyhawk fighter-bombers would be sent up if radar at Wellington airport picked up positive "bleeps," a defence official said.

The move follows several sightings of UFOs by planes and ground radar from near the Kalkoura mountains on the northern tip of the South Island in the past few days.

One unidentified object filmed by a TV news crew flying from Wellington to Christchurch early on Sunday morning. New Zealand time was shown on Channel 0 in Melbourne last night (See Page 2).

It was filmed by freelance cameraman David Crockett, who was commissioned by Channel 0 reporter Quentin Fogarty.

Fogarty, 32, had arranged to fly in a four-engine turbo-prop Argosy freighter, carrying Sunday newspapers on a similar run to one on which people reported seeing UFOs on the night of December 20-21.

On that earlier flight Captain Vern Powell, who has been flying for 26 years, reported seeing white objects with a red tinge moving at tremendous speed.

On the ground, Wellington airport radar picked up five "very strong radar targets" in an area where nothing should have been.

Quentin Fogarty said yesterday that on Sunday morning's flight, he was about to go "on camera" to say there was nothing happening when the Argosy skipper, Capt. Bill Startup called to the film crew to come up on the flight deck to see UFOs.

Capt. Startup told The Sun by phone from New Zealand yesterday: "We spotted lights which were

confirmed by ground radar in Wellington.

"Air traffic control then told us there was an object about one mile behind us, and I turned the plane around to have a look.

"We spotted something which kept accelerating to get close to us and would then fall back. I know of no plane which could carry out such a manoeuvre.

"We made a two-minute orbit, then continued the run because we did not want to push our luck," said Captain Startup, a pilot for 23 years.

Wife was scared

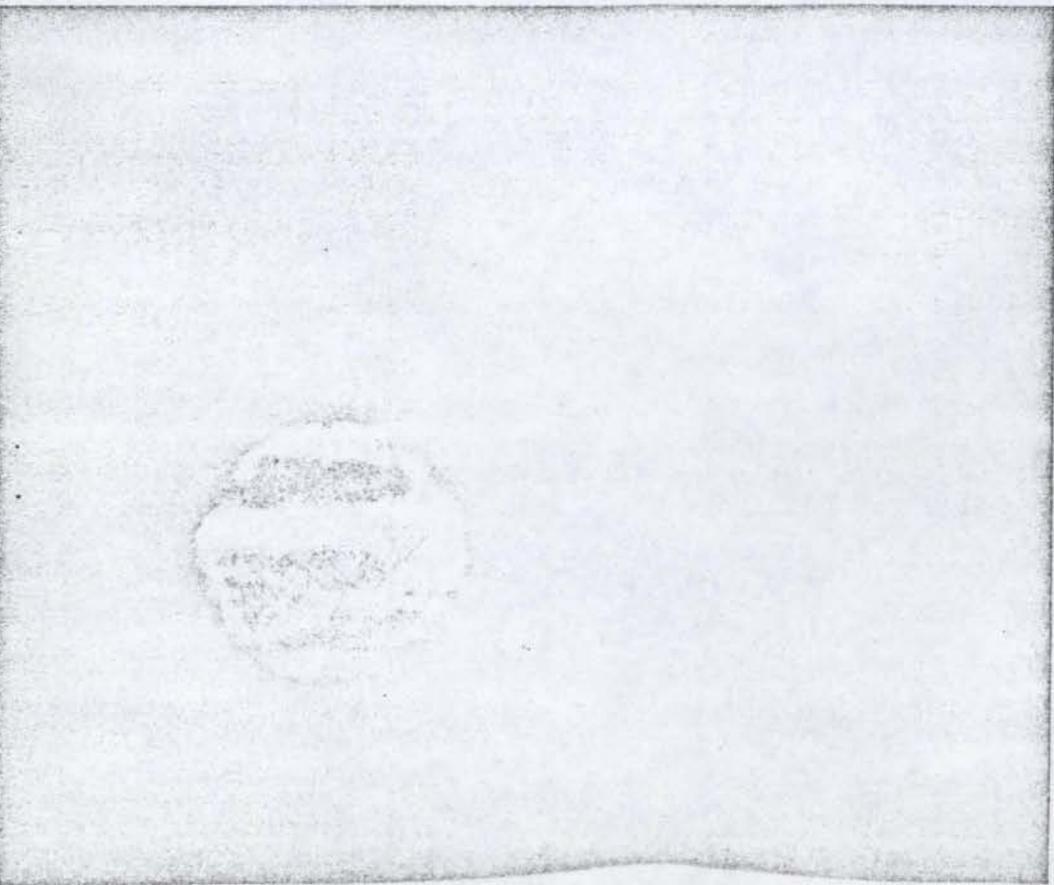
At Christchurch, the cameraman's wife, Mrs. Ngaire Crockett, who accompanies her husband on assignments, left the flight because she was "frightened," her husband told The Sun last night.

Local New Zealand TV reporter Mr. Dennis Grant then joined the others for the return trip.

Capt. Startup said: "As we were climbing out of Christchurch at 2000 feet, I spotted a light travelling parallel to us.

"We turned 90 degrees and got within 10 miles of it. It overtook us, stayed above us, came in front and then shot away."

Mr. Crockett said: "At one time there was an object travelling about a mile behind us. Later there were three following us. It got a bit scary."



Are UFO's Flaming "Coronas" ?
.....

I was informed of an "OVNI" sighting which was supposed to have occurred about 7.30pm on the evening of Sunday 3rd December 78.

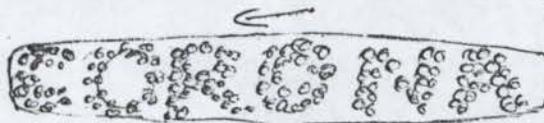
An engineer with Fermitex saw a wing shaped object which had approached to within "5 blocks" and had incandescent lights or flames upon or under it. I have since met the witness and he is willing to fill out a form, questionnaire, provided he can do so in Spanish. (SIGAP will supply these) .

I have since witnessed myself, a very strange spectacle which may account for the sighting.

An aircraft carrying an advertisement for "Corona" flew over me the other evening. The sign is illuminated by small bulbs on the underside of the wing and the lighting sequence moves from right to left. It is very effective when seen flying overhead, however when seen at an angle of 45° or less the words cannot be seen and only a rippling light effect is visible. The polluted atmosphere could have accounted for the orange effect, it is certainly one of the most spectacular man made "UFO's" I have seen.

The papers have recently carried headlines saying "The OVNI'S (UFO's) ARE BACK", but so far I have been unable to obtain a copy. However I did read recently in the "NEWS" an English language paper, that information has just been released of a landing in Spain 18 years ago and the occupants were captured. The details were to have been released at the forthcoming IBERIAN UFO CONFERENCE, I will try and get more details.

(Richard Colborne recently moved to Mexico and will be a regular subscriber).



Richards sketch showing details of the lights.

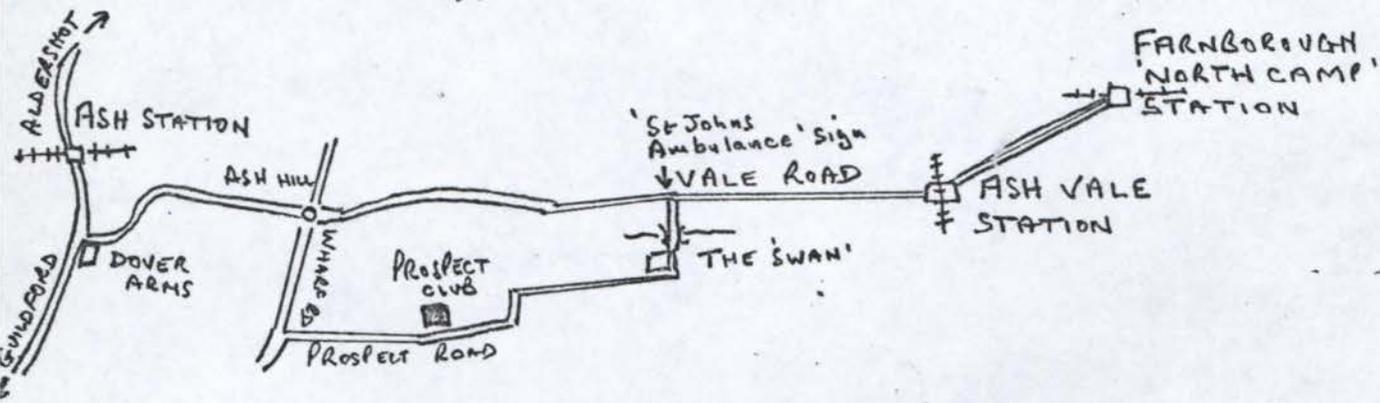
1978 UFO LIST

During 1978 we received and investigated 87 UFO reports. A full abbreviated list will be published in the next issue.

NEXT MEETING OF SIGAP

The next meeting will be held at the "Prospect Club", Prospect Road, Ash Vale at 8pm on February 15th.

There will be a review of the year 1978 and we will play a recording of the strange "UFO Noise" recorded by Stephen Osbiston at Aldershot on the night of October 20th 1978.



UFO REPORTS 1979

Number	Date	Details of incident	Remarks	On tape
901 See Page 10.	2/1/79	Oval object hovering over RIPLEY, Surrey	seen through binoculars. CE 1	No
902	9/1/79	Object with lights seen hovering over EPSOM. (Race course).	Known UFO activity in area. CE 1	No
903	9/1/97	Whizzing noises across roof in early hours at BOOKHAM Village.	Later identified as OWLS.	No
904	11/1/79	Sphere shaped object seen over Guildford in early morning.	Under Inv.	No

905	13/1/79	Large square shaped object flew over car and down M3. Lights /coloured.CAMBERLEY.	Under Inv. Witness ex RAF.Works LAP.	No
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ITALIAN INCIDENTS

September 1978
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Extracts from:LA Nazione
15.9.78

Province of Versilia.

An illuminated object was seen over Versia on 14/9/78. The object stopped twice in the air and when it stopped, the light vanished.

It is the second time this summer that objects have been seen in Versilia.

The object was first seen at 6am when miners from the marble quarries were changing shifts. There were four witnesses who described the UFO as having a bright blinding light and flying at "Aeroplane height". The object was seen flying towards Pisa & Bologna.

It was illuminated only when moving. When it stood still for about a minute it was not lit up , but then started to light up again and flew off.

The object was also reported from many other provinces : Grosseto, Lucca, Arezzo, Carrara, La Spezia and Valdivara.

It was described as being light in colour, cigar shaped and leaving a bluish red trail. It also emitted bright rays, moved up and down and then flew off.

In the province of Valdivara three fishermen were frightened when they saw the UFO send out a gree/bluish light towards the ground.

ROME: Object described as looking like a rugby ball, moving silently with a blinding light. A luminous ring came off the object and it moved away faster and out of sight.

Editors Note (La Nazione) Usually we do not take such notice of these reports, but so many people have seen them , they cannot be ignored. They have been seen by many people who can be trusted.

2nd January 1979

A report from Mr J.Hodge of RIPLEY, Surrey.

I was awakened by a low flying aircraft about 7.15am. I saw a flashing light outside my bedroom window and got up to see what it was.

There in the distance I saw an aircraft flying away, with its lights flashing. I thought he is flying really low.

My attention was then attracted by a dull grey light higher in the sky. I thought that it could not have been a star, because the light became brighter and a round disc shape began to appear.

I grabbed my binoculars to get a better look and ran outside onto my drive, the thing was still there, but the light had faded as a cloud drifted across.

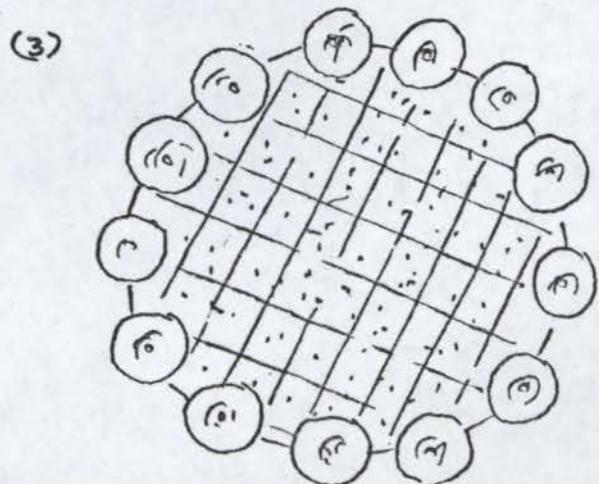
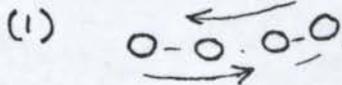
I waited for the cloud to pass so that I could get a better look, it was near freezing, but it was worth it because the cloud passed and I could see that the UFO now became brighter and it seemed to be coming towards me. Then it seemed to go away from me again and moved from side to side in a rocking motion. (1)

More cloud passed and then I could see it really clear, a silvery light, very bright, a little bluish. (2)

Then it appeared to turn on its side and was no longer oval, but now a complete circle, but around the edge of the circle I could see discs. (3) They seemed to be pulsating with a silver bluish light coming from them. Then I could see across the complete underside of the thing, bands, like broad bands of webbing, but it was pitted with studs or dots which were shiny.

I knew then it was a UFO and I ran off to a phone box to dial 999.

It was then that the object resumed its original position and flew off.



By M.Prewett.

On the night of October 20th 1978, between 2305 and 2320 a strange rhythmic noise was heard over ALDERSHOT, Hants.

Previously this same noise had been heard in the area of North Lane & Tongham. In one instance a witness heard the noise above the running of the car engine and by lowering his window and driving around the area, was able to locate it in the area of North Lane.

In this instance the droning was loud enough to be heard above the noise of traffic and was so loud that it attracted Mr Osbiston an 18 year old student living in Cargate Avenue, Aldershot.

Stephen Osbiston was able to record the noise from his bedroom window and the recording was used in a local radio programme "Radio 210" in its feature programme "60 minutes".

This incident was the climax to weeks of reports of strange droning noises and mystery lights in the sky, flooding in from the Aldershot and Farnborough area.

Subsequently the tape recording was passed to the R.A.E. Farnborough for analysis. The findings are given below:-

The tape recording waveforms, which are sinusoidal, have been studied on an oscilloscope and appears to be (the oscillating part only) a variation of frequency between 915Hz and 1kHz with a regular sweep rate of 0.23 sec.

The oscillation was also simulated using a Frequency Sweep Generator which produced almost an exact copy.

On detail listening there seems to be two possibilities:

(a) The noise is almost exactly the same as the sound made by a British Rail "Mainliner" track ballast and rail aligner, with the slow reciprocating sound of a diesel engine with the sound of gravel/ballast being sifted and scraping of the metal to metal contact of flanged wheels travelling slowly along a railway line.

There are also sounds of what appears to be a normal diesel locomotive on the early part of the tape.

(b) There is the possibility that the oscillating part could also be some type of experimental siren, but that does not fit precisely.

The tape will be played for everyone to hear, at the next SIGAP meeting, detailed earlier in this issue.

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