

UFO

NEWSCLIPPING SERVICE

March 2011 – Number 500

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P.O. Box 1001, Edwardsville, IL 62025

In circulation since 1969

\$5.00

OUR 500TH ISSUE

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THE LONGMONT TIMES-CALL

Mar. 25, 2011 Longmont, CO

UFO claims in Lafayette baffle some

Three red lights create plenty of buzz -- and skeptics -- online

*By Sarah Kuta
Boulder Daily Camera*

Aliens are coming to a city near you.

Or, at least they're surveying Boulder County as a future landing zone, according to several Lafayette residents.

Three red lights in a triangle were spotted hovering in the sky by several Lafayette residents Monday around 8:30 p.m. The sky was clear, but witnesses could not see anything connecting the lights.

Leroy Vandervegt, 50, has lived in Lafayette for the past 16 years. His 17-year-old son, Nick, spotted the lights on his way home from work and called his father. Leroy Vandervegt grabbed his camera, ran outside and looked up. He began filming. Sure enough, he too saw three red lights. Aliens? Maybe.

"I don't know what they are," Leroy Vandervegt said. "All I know is that I had no idea what it is. It wasn't a satellite; it wasn't an airplane; and it wasn't a helicopter." The lights made no noise, Leroy Vandervegt said, and seemed to hover in the sky while moving slowly from southwest to southeast. They didn't blink. The lights remained in a triangular shape, but the type of triangle changed from equilateral to isosceles to scalene.

Then, the triangle began moving toward the northeast sky when one light extinguished, or zoomed away. The remaining two lights "just turned off and were gone," Leroy Vandervegt said.

Denver International Airport officials declined to comment on the sighting. But Allen Kenitzer, Federal Aviation Administration's spokesman for Rocky Mountain region, said that his staff didn't see anything out of the ordinary on Monday night. "To the best of our knowledge, radar returns showed no abnormal unidentified activity within our airspace in references to the three triangular formation red lights as being reported," Kenitzer said in an email.

Leroy Vandervegt posted his video on YouTube, and his since gotten more than 6,000 views and nearly 50 comments. His brother, Alex Lankhorst, was visiting Lafayette from Salina, Kan. The video he posted of the lights has received more than 8,000 views. Lankhorst said the description of "unidentified flying object" made sense in this situation — no one could identify the object in the sky.

Doug Wilson is the Colorado state director for the Greeley-based Mutual UFO Network (MUFON), an organization that strives to learn the origin of UFO phenomenon through the collection and analysis of UFO data. Wilson received four reports of the UFO sighting and is sending investigators to the scene. "It's unusual for us to have a single event with multiple reports," Wilson said. "It's not just somebody pulling our leg." Wilson said three red lights in a triangle is a common pattern for UFOs.

Joe Valadez, 47, also posted a video to YouTube of the lights in the sky. Some of the commenters on Valadez's video were skeptical. One user, Lonnie Sexton, 33, wrote: "I want proof as bad as the next guy, but these are just hot air candle balloons folks."

Sexton, of Broomfield, said he would like to believe that there are other life forms in the universe, but that nothing he has seen online has convinced him. "It's always kind of iffy," he said during an interview. "With graphics these days, you can't believe everything you see on the Internet." Sexton slowed down the video and enhanced it to get a better look. A more plausible explanation, he said, are Japanese lanterns "like in the Karate Kid" — floating flags or plastic bags with small candles underneath.

"There's always a better explanation," Sexton said. "If alien species were to descend somewhere, why would they just hover? They would let us know they were here."

Valadez said he too wanted a logical explanation for the sighting, but couldn't come up with one. For now, he and other witnesses will have to settle on the unknown.

"It's just weird," he said. "I'm skeptical, but it's unexplainable. I believe in certain stuff, but I'm not a UFO nerd or whatever. I'm not really for sure it was aliens, I just wonder what it was."



Springfield, IL March 8, 2011

Dave Bakke: Where have all the UFOs gone?

By **DAVE BAKKE** (dave.bakke@sj-r.com)

THE STATE JOURNAL-REGISTER

A little old lady who used to live in Springfield called the paper to say she saw a flying saucer on Rutledge Street about 60 years ago. There was a story in our paper, she said, so maybe we could find it for her and help convince her kids she isn't crazy.

I called her. She said the thing she saw was flat but as big as the Goodyear blimp. She was in Memorial Medical Center to have a baby at the time and watched the UFO from a window of the hospital.

"I'd say it looked like it was 35 to 45 feet in circumference," she told me. "I thought somebody would take pictures of it, but nobody did. Many police officers, according to the newspaper story, saw it." She said it never made a sound when it zoomed away into the sky.

But she couldn't remember whether this happened in 1951 or 1952, or maybe earlier. She couldn't remember what time of year it was, either. I would have to comb through hundreds of microfilmed newspaper pages on the chance that I would stumble across this story — if it was in the newspaper in the first place. Scrolling through that many microfilmed pages would take hours and leave me cross-eyed and nauseous. Pass.

There was one other possibility. I could see if we have catalogued stories of UFO sightings in our morgue. Guess what? We do. There are actually two separate folders — flying objects and flying saucers. Stories about local sightings used to be in the paper frequently. Which raises the question: Why don't people see them around here anymore?

The closest we've come to a UFO in Springfield lately came a couple of weeks ago on WQNA radio, when Ben Pulliam played "Flyin' Saucer Rock and Roll" by Billy Lee Riley and His Little Green Men on his show, "Ben's Wacky Radio."

But if our former Springfieldian in Detroit is remembering 1952, then she is recalling one of the best years in history for Springfield UFO sightings. They were all over central Illinois in 1952.

Capt. John Smith, retired Air Force, saw a mysterious glowing object over Springfield. As a former pilot, he said, he could swear that this was no airplane. "Meteor," said officials at the weather office at the airport. Six days later, six to eight UFOs were seen over Springfield at 11 p.m. Several witnesses said they appeared to twirl as they traveled noiselessly over town.

There were four more flying objects seen in July 1952. They were orange-colored and circled around the town.

In August 1952, our headline read: "Hundreds here see strange object in sky." The phones at the newspaper, police department and sheriff's office

were swamped. The objects were moving very fast, witnesses said, and appeared to be green with an orange-colored tail. One of the callers to the newspaper, who wouldn't give his name for obvious reasons, is quoted as saying, "You watch the thing a few minutes and you start to wonder what you've been drinking."

One of those 1952 sightings might have been the one seen by our little old lady from Detroit.

Another banner year for UFO sightings here was 1966. In separate incidents that year, they were seen near Rochester, 10 miles east of Springfield, at the Illinois State Fairgrounds during the state fair and in Jacksonville.

Sheriff's deputies seemed to be frequent spotters of these things. That makes sense, since they patrol the boonies all night. Four Sangamon County deputies in 1966 followed a couple of strange flying objects along the southern edge of town. "While they watched," the newspaper reported, "two more objects appeared as in a dance and the four lined up in a line across the sky."

It boosted credibility whenever the paper quoted law enforcement officials. Petersburg sheriff Hank Whitehurst said he got six or seven calls about UFOs one night in 1967. Waverly Police Chief Robert Shoemaker and two other men watched them fly in 1973.

One of the UFO witnesses quoted in the paper was compelled to point out that he and his friends "were not under the influence of any alcoholic beverage or drug and said a crowd of about 30 people watched the objects with them."

Last year, I stumbled across a Web page with a long and detailed account of a UFO sighting on old Highway 36 near the Loami blacktop. Several men watched as the unidentified flying objects danced in the sky north of Loami. I can't find it again, but it was a long, detailed account. But that was long ago.

They were seen around here in 1971, 1973 (Headline: "Trusted employee of CIPS sees UFO over station"), 1975 and 1978. But we never hear anything anymore about flying saucer sightings around central Illinois.

I searched the newspaper's computer archives and couldn't find a good UFO sighting story in our paper in the past 20 years. So where did they go?

Maybe people just don't bother to report sightings anymore. When they do, one of two things usually happens — they are regarded as nut cases and/or some official quickly says what they really saw was a weather balloon. Or a meteor. Or a planet. Or space junk. So why bother?

Or maybe UFOs are being seen here, but just don't make the news anymore. The National UFO Reporting Center website lists 32 sightings in Illinois already this year. The closest one to us was seen in Decatur on Feb. 19.

My theory, though, is that extraterrestrials have observed how things are going in Illinois and have concluded there is no intelligent life here, so they have moved on.

UFO over Oswego? You've gotta see it to believe it ...

Brandon Tudor swears he's not seeing things. And he's got his iPhone and 10-year-old daughter to prove it.

The young Oswego salesman and father of three was dropping Elizabeth off at her mom's house in Lakewood Creek subdivision on Route 30 in Montgomery early last Sunday evening when he spotted it in the western sky.

It appeared to be a ball of fire falling toward earth at a 45-degree angle. Suddenly, he says, the flame extinguished and the trail of smoke changed direction, rising to a 30-degree angle.

Tudor had time to snap four pictures before the mysterious apparition disappeared. Then, out of nowhere, father and daughter saw two jets fly into view and circle the area.

Because he was now driving in the opposite direction, Tudor doesn't know how long the planes were in the sky, but the brief episode was enough to get the juices going.

"See, Mommy, I told you aliens existed," he recalled his daughter saying when she reached home and pointed toward the sky.

Tudor, who admits he's a bit of a conspiracy theorist, went online immediately and spent the rest of the week trying to figure out what the heck he'd just witnessed.

Was it a meteor? He'd heard there was a green meteor shower taking place from 6 to 9 p.m. that evening — but no way was it supposed to show up in the earth's atmosphere.

Was it a test flight? Maybe a hobby rocket? Tudor called around to several local clubs, but those groups told him they only perform flights in summer. Besides, the description just didn't fit a rocket's behavior.

Was it junk falling from a satellite? He checked out the Web sites that list all the paraphernalia hanging above the Earth — but no match there.

Intrigued even more, Tudor went to another Web site, abovetopsecret.com, and offered up this post:

I look up to see what appeared to be an asteroid on fire heading to earth at about a 30 degree angle and south ... Maybe 1 or 2 towns over, it was hard to tell the distance. It was on fire, went out, and then was on fire again and then went out again. The second time it went out it appeared to "pull up" and change course. Moments later two fast moving jets flew by, spun around and flew by again.

Needless to say, "The UFO of Sorts, Oswego, Illinois," has generated lots of suggestions from cyberspace — but Tudor still has no answers.

"I know what it isn't," he says of the fireball. "I just want to find out what it is."

He and his daughter saw the fireball around 5:30 Sunday evening — not exactly rush hour. Still, Tudor insists there were enough cars on the road that someone else had to have seen the same thing. Or, if you were outside at that time in the subdivision, he insists, "you couldn't miss it."

Here's my humble take on the whole thing: Don't call Brandon Tudor a nut. Just call him if you, too, saw the strange apparition in the sky.

UFOs over the Fox Valley? Why not?

In our beloved Land of Lincoln, truth is always stranger than fiction.

March 7, 2011 Massachusetts

By Roger Marsh

Massachusetts witness reports triangle object

A Massachusetts witness reports watching a lighted triangle-shaped object hovering near his home on March 2, 2011, according to March 7, 2011, testimony from the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) witness-reporting database.

"As we pulled in the driveway, it was basically hovering directly over our road," the witness stated. "Our house sits in the middle of a large hill and it seemed to be at the top of the hill. This object seemed low, the lights were big. My oldest son (15) and I stood out at the end of my driveway, got a good look at it - triangular/wide boomerang, possibly flat-iron shaped, with three big/bright lights along the middle (one was red, the other two white) with a small, blinking light toward one side (from our view, the left side). It seemed to sit there not moving, and we both mentioned the noise; NO noise, just a weird electronic-kind of hum (like Dolby noise from cassette tapes? or when you turn on an old-style TV, that couple minutes of hum?)."

On March 5, the same witness noticed a solid, black helicopter moving in the same direction as the object.

MA, March 2, 2011 - Lighted Triangle hovering low over large hill road. 3 Black helicopters in same area days after.

MUFON Case # 28143.

This took place last Wed, night (March 2, 2011) I was coming home with my kids. We turned onto the street leading to my house and I saw the light, looked like from a tower, wasn't moving but very bright. As we got onto my road, I could see it was three lights; it seemed to be coming from the north-west. As we pulled in the driveway, it was basically hovering directly over our rd; our house sits in the middle of a large hill and it seemed to be at the top of the hill. This object seemed low, the lights were big. My oldest son(15) and I stood out at the end of my driveway, got a good look at it...triangular/wide boomerang, possibly flat-iron shaped, with three big/bright lights along the middle (one was red, the other two white) with a small blinking light toward one side (from our view, the left side) It seemed to sit there not moving, and we both mentioned the noise; NO noise, just a weird electronic-kind of hum (like Dolby noise from cassette tapes? or when you'd turn on an old-style tv, that couple minutes of hum?)

Anyway a couple seconds later, a small plane came along the flight path (from east to west, like I usually see planes do around here) and the object started moving faster, but not at all *fast* and headed to the south, still as low/bright til it disappeared behind the tree line.

Saturday morning (before noon, March 5), I brought out the trash and watched a solid black helicopter, barely above the tree line, heading in the same direction we saw the *thing* head....I ran in to tell my son, and out the picture window on the other side of the house, we saw two more of the same heading in the same direction.

On a local internet forum back in January, three or four different people reported seeing something over the school area. AND that following week, there was a black helicopter circling each one of the schools (which I saw while picking my kids up, and all the kids were talking about it) At the time I didn't think anything about it but now it all seems odd.

TULSA WORLD (ok)
Wednesday, March 23, 2011

Tulsa's UFO still unidentified
The 1965 image was one of the first color photographs.

By MICHAEL SMITH World Scene Writer



Tulsa World file photo

In this photo taken in 1985, Alan Smith displays a copy of the photograph he took of a UFO over Tulsa on the night of Aug. 2, 1965.

The alien-invasion movie "Battle: Los Angeles" opens in Tulsa theaters on Friday, inspired by real events that took place during World War II. On Feb. 25, 1942, a series of unidentified flying objects were seen in the sky above the Los Angeles-area coastline, according to news accounts. Air raid sirens sounded, a blackout was ordered and military forces fired 1,400 anti-aircraft shells at the objects, thought to be Japanese planes.

No further evidence of the UFOs was found, and the mystery remains to this day.

The following is a look at what is arguably the most famous UFO sighting in Tulsa's history. It happened in 1965.

The image that Alan Smith captured when he aimed his Boy Scout camera up toward the sky still meets all of the standard qualifications: What he saw that night remains unidentified; it was flying; and whatever it was, it was an object.

Writers of UFO journals and books in the past, as well as UFOlogists on multiple websites today, believe "the Tulsa photograph" to be among the first photographs of a UFO that was taken in color and at night, if not the first.

After Smith's photo ran in multiple publications - including Life magazine in 1966 - a congressional committee urged the Air Force to investigate.

"Based upon the information furnished, we can neither confirm nor deny the identification of an unidentified flying object," the Air Force reported after analyzing the photo and negative, according to a Tulsa World story.

"It made a sort of pulsating, whining sound. The lights seemed to get brighter, then turn dimmer," Smith said of his UFO sighting at the time that the then-14-year-old Tulsa paperboy took his

photo, in August 1965, from the back yard of his west Tulsa home in the Carbondale area.

"The strange object," as he described it, was "solid red, then it turned white, and went out of sight." Looking at the round image, with three distinctly different colors lit up with black bands between them, the UFO looks something like the 1980s electronic game Simon, but with three buttons rather than four.

"I didn't see a 'flying saucer,' or 'little green men.' I saw a UFO," Smith said in a 1985 interview with the Tulsa World, 20 years after his famous photo was taken.

On the night of Aug. 1, 1965, he saw a giant light flying through the sky, making what he described as a humming sound.

The next night he went outside with his family and his camera.

He clicked the shutter three times while his family watched, only to have the film developed and find no prints, Smith told the World. But he examined the negatives and found one with a speck in the corner that was enlarged and printed. It was his UFO.

"The image was clear and vivid, about the size of a dime on a 5-by-7 print," Smith said at the time.

After showing the picture to friends, an Oklahoma City newspaper learned of the photo and offered to publish Smith's UFO.

Reprint fees eventually earned him enough to pay three semesters of tuition at Northeastern State University in Tahlequah and at the University of Tulsa, Smith said in 1985.

He also said, 20 years removed from taking the photo, that his only serious consideration was that he took a picture of some type of experimental aircraft.

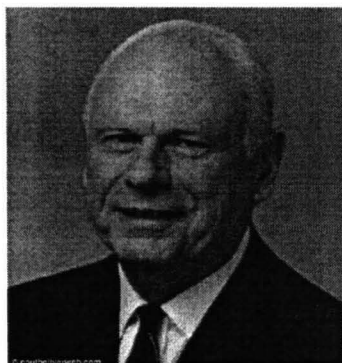
"The fact it's from this planet has more certainty for me than anything else," Smith said.

Attempts to contact Alan Smith today, more than 45 years after his photo was taken, were unsuccessful - not that alien-abduction theorists should read anything into that fact.



'I believe in UFOs... and I've seen them': Former Canadian defence minister accuses American government of cover-up

By Daily Mail Reporter
February 26, 2011 Canada



Paul Hellyer: The ex-Canadian Minister of National Defense says he is convinced that UFOs are real and alleges the U.S. has covered up information on them

He is on an advisory body to the Queen, works as an environmental campaigner and is credited with integrating Canada's armed forces.

But aside from all this, the ex-Canadian defence minister says UFOs are real, aliens have visited Earth and the U.S. government is covering up information about them.

Paul Hellyer says he would probably get fired for his views if he was still Canada's Minister of National Defense today, but is adamant he has seen UFOs himself.

The 87-year-old, who is the longest-serving member of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada, said he never discussed his views with top officials when he was in office.

'This is the kind of thing that sometimes they don't tell politicians about,' he said.
'I have no doubt that there were probably people in my employ who would have been more knowledgeable than I was at the time.'

'I got periodic reports on sightings and I looked at them very casually. It was decided that about 80 per cent of them were natural phenomena of one sort or another and the other 20 per cent roughly were unexplained and therefore unidentified.'

Mr Hellyer is presenting his views on UFOs this week at the International UFO Congress in Scottsdale, Arizona, and says he is 'convinced' of their existence.

'We lived too long in a sense of isolation, thinking that Earth was the centre of the cosmos, that we were the only species and, therefore, probably the most advanced.'

'And when we come to the realisation that we're not any of those things, then I think we should be aware of it (and) learn to live with it,' he told AOL News.

Proportions: Mr Hellyer believes about 80 per cent of sighting reports were natural phenomena and the other 20 per cent roughly were of UFOs.

Mr Hellyer claims to have seen a UFO with his wife when spending last Thanksgiving near Toronto, and they stared at the sky for 20 minutes watching it moving.

He told AOL: 'By process of elimination, we determined it wasn't a star or satellite and it wasn't the space station, so there was really no explanation for it other than it was, in fact, a UFO. It looked like a star, but it manoeuvred in a way that stars don't.'

He believes the U.S. has developed new forms of energy at secret 'black operation' units using alien technology and that a 'shadow government' is behind this activity.

Apollo 14 astronaut Edgar Mitchell, founder of the Institute of Noetic Sciences research group, has described Mr Hellyer's theory as an 'important contribution' to literature.

'His experience in government, his interest in exopolitics and the issues of sustainability of civilization are significant areas of current discourse,' he said.

Retired Army Colonel John Alexander, also speaking at this week's conference, believes UFOs are real but says there has never been a cover-up.

Mr Hellyer added: 'People keep talking about transparency and still not telling the truth, and this applies in various other areas as well as UFOs.'

'It's just about time that we started getting open with each other and trying to get along and live together.' He said he would 'probably be open-mouthed about it' and 'might get fired for it' if he talked about his opinions in office today.

He said in 2005 that the U.S. military was preparing weapons to use against aliens, and they 'could get us into an intergalactic war without us ever having any warning'.

He said two years later that governments should be using alternatives to fossil fuels from alien technology obtained during alleged UFO crashes to fight climate change.

Mr Hellyer was responsible in 1963 for creating the Canadian Armed Forces from the integration of the Royal Canadian army, navy and air force into one organisation.

He has also campaigned over issues such as monetary reform, the Middle East and the environment.

Mr Hellyer's website says that he is the 'first person of cabinet rank in the G8 group of countries to state unequivocally "UFO's are as real as the airplanes flying overhead".'

Other public figures who have stated UFOs are of extra-terrestrial origin include former USSR leader Mikhail Gorbachev, Professor Stephen Hawking and Ronald Reagan.

UFOs over Williamsburg? Man captures lights, action on camera

BY DAN MACLEOD

MARCH 14, 2011 BROOKLYN, NY

Here's one for the X-Files.

Philip DiPaolo, a family man and respected community activist, says he saw a silently pulsing, moving light floating over his beloved Williamsburg neighborhood last Monday — one year after witnesses saw a similar phenomenon in the same area.

DiPaolo, 50, saw the light while walking his dogs around 11 pm. "I got out my camera to use the zoom to see if it was a satellite," the mild-mannered leader of the New York Community Council told us via e-mail. "I could not figure out what this was. About 10 seconds in, some pulsing image goes across the screen. Very weird!"

Weirder still, witnesses reported seeing a similar bright light spinning over Williamsburg several times last winter.

DiPaolo's unidentified flying object appeared high in the clear, south sky. It appeared to change color and move, he said. He shot some video of the object, then went inside. When he came back a few minutes later, the airborne anomaly was gone.

DiPaolo, who lives on North Seventh Street and Driggs Avenue and was once named the "mayor of North Brooklyn," insists he wasn't drinking and that he's not prone to bouts of delusion. He still can't really say what he captured in the video that night, but it didn't appear to be an airplane, helicopter or star, he said.

He also doubted that it was an alien spaceship. "I'm not a UFO nut or anything. I was more looking for a rational explanation. I've been living here 30 something years. I've never seen anything like that thing," he said, adding that he put the video on YouTube in hopes that someone would have an explanation for the phenomenon.

The video was met with the sort of skepticism usually reserved for crackpots.

"Was he drinking?" exclaimed FOX-NY anchor Rosanna Scotto after seeing DiPaolo's clip. Co-anchor Greg Kelly said it looked like someone pulled a prank on DiPaolo. "You need another hobby," said one YouTube commenter. "Hoax," said another.

DiPaolo said he received a voicemail last Thursday from a man identifying himself as a Federal Aviation Administration official. The caller said that DiPaolo likely saw the space shuttle Discovery, which was visible in orbit around that time for a few minutes. "It seems to be a viable explanation," DiPaolo said.

But it was unclear whether NASA spacecraft would have been visible over Brooklyn that night. The space station and Discovery shuttle were visible over New York on Wednesday, but information for Monday was unavailable by press time, said NASA spokesman Kelly Humphries.

"I don't know if it honestly was the FAA," DiPaolo said of the mysterious call. "They didn't leave a name; they didn't leave a callback number.

Jim Peters, New York spokesman for the FAA, couldn't be certain what DiPaolo saw and referred questions about the space shuttle's trajectory to NASA. "We do get calls on things that people believe would be classified as UFOs," he said. His office didn't get any calls about a UFO on Monday, but it's possible that DiPaolo saw an airplane landing, he said.

Whatever the light was, DiPaolo says he probably won't cry "UFO!" again anytime soon.

"I could understand now why a lot of people might see something and not go public with it, because you get the slings and arrows from it," he said.

February 22, 2011
Seattle, WA

Residents see flying saucer over Vancouver, Washington

By Laura McVicker

Several residents in far east Vancouver, Wash., reported seeing a saucer-shaped UFO Sunday evening, hovering low in the sky.

VANCOUVER, Wash. — No joke: Several residents in far east Vancouver reported seeing a saucer-shaped object Sunday evening, hovering low in the sky.

The object had such bright green and red lights that it drew several residents out of their homes off Southeast 192nd Avenue in the Clear Meadows neighborhood at about 6:45 p.m.. "It was the weirdest thing I've ever seen," said Vancouver resident Gary Moore.

Moore and another resident, Kathy Plamondon, contacted The Columbian newspaper to report the alleged unidentified flying object. They said it didn't resemble the planes they typically see flying out of Pearson Field.

Dispatchers with 911 on Monday confirmed at least one report of an object sighting in east Vancouver but referred the call on to the National UFO Reporting Center in Seattle.

Officials at the National UFO Reporting Center said they did not receive any UFO reports; neither did the National Weather Service in Portland, which sometimes receives calls of that type. A spokesman for the Federal Aviation Administration office in Seattle, citing the Monday holiday, said he didn't have any information available.

The sighting apparently has everyone stumped. "At first I thought it was a high firework through the tree branches," Plamondon said by e-mail. "As I stepped out of my front door — facing east — to help load grandbabies in parents' car, I saw that it was not going out or falling from the air, as fireworks would."

Moore also said the object appeared stationary, except for occasional side-to-side movements. A number of his neighbors were milling in the street, watching the object, which prompted him to step outside of his house on 186th Avenue to catch a look.

Monday, he quickly dismissed the possibility it was an airplane, though he said he didn't have a clue what else it would be. "It was almost like someone was controlling it from the ground," Moore said. "Airplanes come over all the time," he added. "This isn't that."

News clippings are always appreciated!

We encourage you to submit any UFO-related newspaper clippings to us.

Please be sure to include the name and date of the newspaper along with the article itself.

We always credit those who submit articles that are used. Please understand that we may not be able to use all articles we receive due to space limitations.

February 11th, 2011 Sarasota, FL

It's amazing MUFON's still around

by Billy Cox

Big-time food fight going down with the nation's oldest functional UFO investigations outfit, and volunteers like Kristen Winslett are calling for the whole thing to be dismantled. A financial analyst in her real job, the Hackettstown, N.J., resident takes her work with the Mutual UFO Network seriously. At least, she did until she resigned last August.

Wars come and wars go, but after 42 years, MUFON is still up and running.

Winslett, a number-crunching field investigator for the New Jersey chapter since 2008, got torqued when someone went in behind her last year and started monkeying with the database. Without consulting her, the culprit allegedly ignored her detailed eyewitness sighting reports and arbitrarily reclassified a number of New Jersey cases she'd closed out from explained to unknown. When Winslett drew it to the attention of another official, she was scolded for denying administrator access to the alleged perp without getting permission from higher authority.

"Now the whole file is contaminated as far as I'm concerned," says Winslett. "We have a serious credibility issue here."

That's just one example, but the caca hit the fan in a big way a few weeks ago when details of MUFON's 2009 contract with major benefactor Robert Bigelow were leaked on the Internet. The jillionaire founder of Bigelow Aerospace Advanced Space Studies (BAASS) agreed to invest \$672,000 in MUFON for third-party access to whatever its rapid-response teams recovered. Eight months into the experiment, Bigelow yanked the balance of his funds because of MUFON's apparent failure to comply with the exacting paperwork.

A lot of members howled over what they felt were draconian contract terms. Several, like former Utah MUFON director Elaine Douglass, accuse the nonprofit group of perpetuating a good ol' boy hierarchy and want to institute "due process with democratically elected board members." They've organized The Committee to Reform MUFON.

"Did Bigelow go into the database and siphon off the best cases?" she wonders from her home in Utah. "There's a question of basic judgement here."

De Void really doesn't have the patience for this. Angelia Joiner and Frank Warren had a decent online discussion with the central characters Thursday night. What cultural anthropologists might find more remarkable is how a volunteer organization of this nature, which now counts 2,800 members, hasn't watermelon-splattered after 42 years of egos, fiefdoms and turf wars.

"It's maddening. I was so glad when I retired from that job," says former International Director John Schuessler, a MUFON founder in 1969. "You're working with volunteers with varying levels of education and sophistication, they pay the International Director a pittance, just a token salary, really, and he's expected to work seven days a week, 24 hours a day, with the kind of responsibilities that would be worth \$150,000 a year in any other field."

Although he didn't work the BAASS contract, Schuessler reviewed it and says Bigelow "absolutely, unequivocally" did not have administrator database access. As a MUFON board member, he doesn't blame Bigelow for revoking the contract because "it wasn't audited right." But he doesn't blame the group for going after the money, either. If only MUFON had a benefactor like, oh, say, Paul Allen, who's poured more than \$20 million into SETI radiotelescopes.

"A lot of people think it's silly for him to have given so much money to SETI, but I don't think it's silly. I think it's

worthwhile," Schuessler says from his home in Littleton, Colo. "And he hasn't controlled SETI."

"But if we had \$20 million, we'd probably be scared to touch it," he adds. "A lot of people would say Paul Allen was trying to buy MUFON. Frankly, I wouldn't care. I'm not a conspiracy buff; I just want answers to this thing."

Meanwhile, UFO reports keep rolling in. And mankind remains the same as it ever was — a pain in the ass.

WPIX TV

March 9, 2011

By MONICA MORALES and JEREMY TANNER
WILLIAMSBURG, N.Y. (PIX11)

A Williamsburg man was walking his dog around 11 p.m. Monday night when he says he had a close encounter.

The sky was clear that night, and when Phil DePaolo looked up toward the stars he saw what he believes was a UFO, hovering above Brooklyn.

"I looked up in the sky and saw something pulsating, changing colors, and moving erratically, it was definitely not a plane or satellite," said DePaolo a community activist by day. "I'm not surprised they came to Brooklyn, everyone is moving to Brooklyn," DePaolo chuckled.

He immediately pulled out his phone and began to record what he saw. His video is just one of many Brooklyn UFO sightings on YouTube.

"I wasn't scared," DePaolo said, "I was just fascinated."

After several minutes of watching the colorful unidentified flying object, it simply vanished into the darkness, DePaolo said.

The last major reported sighting came in October of 2010 when several round, yellowish objects were seen eerily hovering over the Chelsea. The sighting ran wild on Twitter and prompted a flood of calls to the NYPD and the Federal Aviation Administration.

Although officials could not confirm what the celestial objects were, skeptics believed the balloons were part of a tourism promotion event held on Broadway in Times Square for the centennial of the Madrid's Gran Via, which included the release of several bunches of yellow balloons into the sky.





FROM THE ARCHIVES

Bright Mystery Object Reported Seen at Site of First A-Bomb Test

L.A. Times
Los Angeles, CA
Nov. 5, 1957

WASHINGTON, Nov. 4 (AP)—Reports of a huge, strangely lighted mystery object spotted over West Texas were being investigated by the Air Force tonight. A bright, oval object was also reported over Southern New Mexico near bunkers used in the first atomic-bomb explosion.

Several witnesses, including a Sheriff and one of his deputies, reported seeing the object over Texas.

Sightings of the object over the White Sands proving ground in New Mexico were made 17 hours apart by two different military-police patrols.

One of the two-man patrols said the bright object spotted

last night was about 200 or 300 feet long and disappeared into the sky after blinking on and off. Another patrol said a bright object spotted early yesterday morning descended until it was about 50 yards above

the A-bomb bunkers, then faded.

Officials of the proving ground said the phenomena had nothing to do with any activity at the base. A Pentagon spokesman said no official report was received on the reported New Mexico sightings and no investigation was being made on those.

Witnesses who reported seeing the object over Texas said their car engines stopped and their lights went out when they drove near it. The military police who reported the object over the proving grounds said they had no trouble with their jeeps.

THE WEATHER

No eye-irritating smog today.

U.S. Weather Bureau forecast: Mostly sunny today and tomorrow but partly cloudy at times today. Slightly warmer days. High today about 68. Rain probability 30% today; 20% tonight and tomorrow.

L.A. Mirror News
Los Angeles, CA
Nov. 4, 1957

Huge Mystery 'Rocket' Causes Panic in Texas

LEVELLAND, Tex., Nov. 4 (AP)—Reports of a huge mystery object which one witness said flew around with a "great sound and rush of wind" had officials and the public puzzled today.

Newsman and authorities had reports of sightings over a wide West Texas area Saturday and yesterday.

Peace officers checking areas where landings were

reported were unable to find any trace. Reese Air Force Base officials here declined to say whether an investigation was being made.

Pedro Saucedo, 30, a farm hand and part-time barber here, told officers and news-

"I was driving out to a farm near the Pettit community west of here Saturday night with a friend, Joe Salaz, when we first saw the thing. We first saw a flash of light in a field to our right, and we didn't think much about it at first.

"When it got near, the lights of my truck went out and the motor died. I jumped out of the truck and hit the dirt because I was afraid. I called to Joe but he didn't get out.

"The thing passed directly over my truck with a great sound and a rush of wind. It sounded like thunder and my truck rocked from the blast. I felt a lot of heat. Then I got up and watched it go out of sight toward Levelland."

Saucedo, a Korean War veteran, said it was "torpedo shaped" or like "a rocket," but much larger.

Ronald Martin, 18, a Levelland truck driver, said his truck engine died and the lights went out "when a big ball of fire dropped on the

Turn to Page 5, Column 6

Texas Panic Caused by Big 'Rocket'

Continued from First Page
highway" east of here early Sunday.

Martin said the object changed to a bluish-green color when it settled on the highway, then changed to a fireball again when it rose straight up and disappeared.

Newell Wright, a Texas Tech student from here, reported a similar occurrence also east of Levelland.

Police Officer A. J. Fowler said Saucedo and about 14 others who called in reports of the object sounded upset and in some cases terrified.

"They seemed to agree that this something was 200 feet long, shaped like an egg and was lit up like it was on fire—but looked more like neon light," he said.

"They said it was about 200 feet in the air, and when it got close car motors and lights would go off. Everybody that called was very excited," he said.

Sheriff Weir Clem said he saw a brilliant light in the distance but didn't get close enough for a good look.

Highway Patrolmen Lee Hargrove and Floyd Cavin reported similar flashes in the sky in about the same area and at the same time as Clem. All were riding in separate cars.

There also were reports of an unexplained light in the sky far across the State between Sherman and McKinney. Other sightings were reported around Amarillo, far to the north.

Calvin Harris and Sandy McKean, CAA control tower workers at the Amarillo Airport, said they saw a "blue gaseous object, which moved swiftly and left an amber trail southeast of the city," Saturday night.

Air Force Discounts Strange Sky Objects

WASHINGTON, Nov. 16 (AP)—The Air Force has pooched recent reports of strange lights and unusual objects in the sky.

Investigators labeled one of the cases a "hoax," and said the others were exaggerations or misunderstandings of natural phenomena.

The hoax tag was pinned on a story told by a Kearney (Neb.) man, who said he toured a spaceship manned by a German-speaking crew.

Three Other Cases

The other cases involved:

- 1—A big glowing object said to have been seen touching ground near Levelland, Tex., and to have caused automobiles to stall.
 - 2—Similar reports from near Alamogordo, N.M.
 - 3—Bright lights reported seen by a Coast Guard cutter in the Gulf of Mexico, and by military police in the White Sands (N.M.) area.
- The Air Force said the au-

tomobile stallings likely were caused by thunderstorms soaking ignition systems.

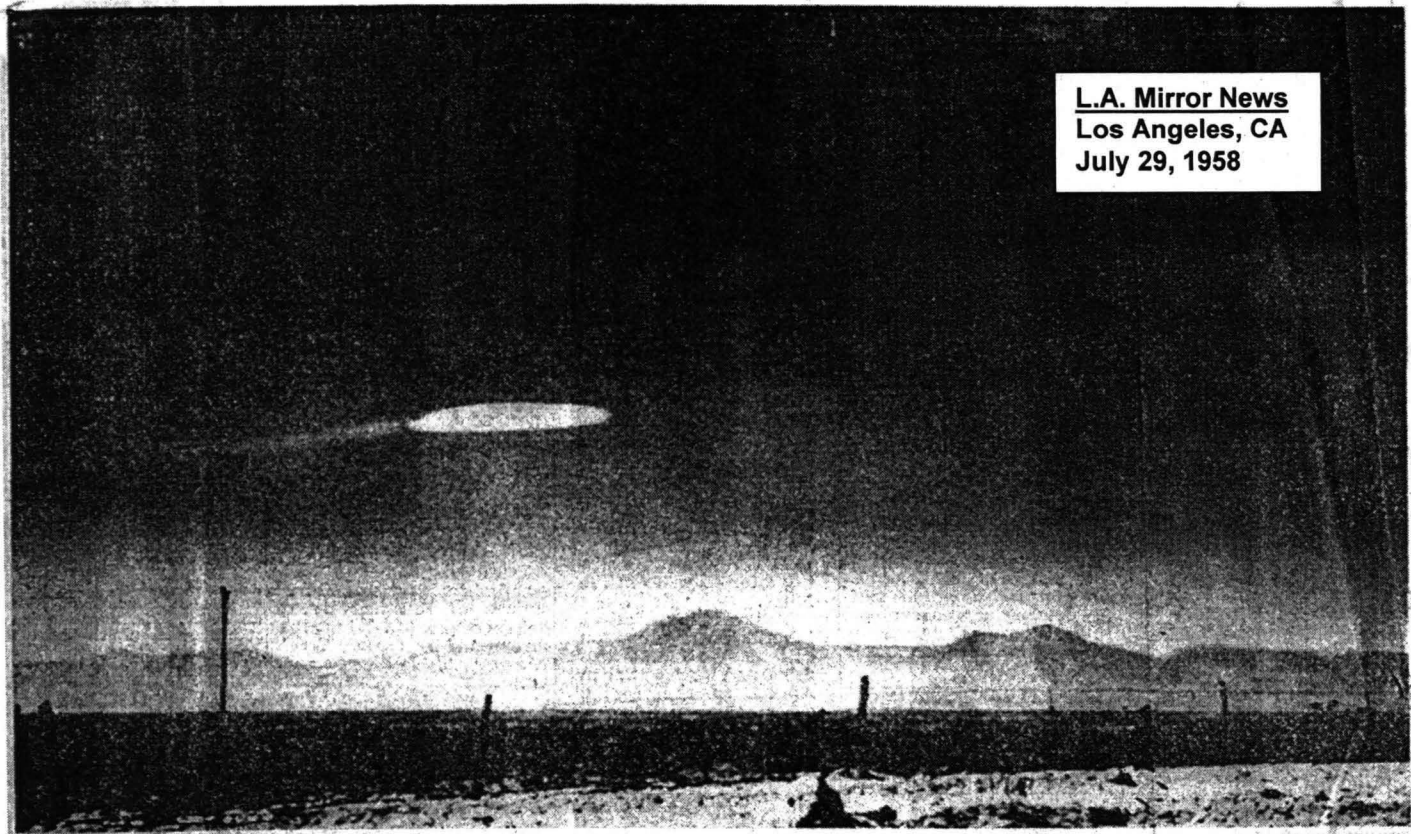
The glowing object was believed to be "ball lightning" or "St. Elmo's Fire."

Aircraft or Echoes

The report said the storm which caused these electrical conditions might account for the automobiles stalling.

Investigation of the Coast Guard sightings indicated that three objects had been recorded by radar and one sighted visually. Investigators decided that aircraft and possibly radar echoes accounted for the sightings.

The White Sands sightings, the report went on, apparently are explainable by the planet Venus in an unusually favorable position for observation, and cloud formations around the moon.



L.A. Mirror News
Los Angeles, CA
July 29, 1958

—UPI TELEPHOTO

HERE IS THE 4000-FOOT 'OBJECT' PHOTOGRAPHED OVER NEW MEXICO!

Hovering over Holloman Air Development Center at Alamogordo, N.M., for a full 15 minutes, this "unidentified flying object" was photographed by a government em-

ployee on Oct. 16, 1957. The photo was released today by the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization, which noted that "experts have examined the negative . . .

and are convinced of its authenticity." Photographer calculated the weird object was 4000 feet across its longest axis, adding, "I've never seen anything like it."

L.A. Mirror News
Los Angeles, CA
July 29, 1958

L.A. Times
Los Angeles, CA
July 31, 1958

'SAUCERS' CALLED REAL



—AP WIREPHOTO
DR. CARL JUNG

ALAMOGORDO, N.M., July 29 (AP) — Dr. Carl Jung, renowned Swiss psychologist, said in a report that Unidentified Flying Objects are real and "show signs of intelligent guidance by quasi-human pilots."

"I can only say for certain these things are not mere rumor; something has been seen," Jung said. "A purely psychological explanation is ruled out."

Jung released his report through the UFO filter center of the aerial phenomena research organization here.

Superior Culture

"I have gathered a mass of observations of Unidentified Flying Objects since 1944,"

Jung said. "The disks do not behave in accordance with physical laws but as though without weight . . .

"If the extraterrestrial origin of the phenomena should be confirmed this would prove the existence of an intelligent interplanetary relationship. What such a fact might mean for humanity cannot be predicted."

"But it would put us without doubt in the extremely precarious position of primitive communities in conflict with the superior culture of the whites," the report said.

"That the construction of these machines proves a scientific technique immensely superior to ours cannot be argued."

FLYING SAUCER?

4000-Ft. Air Object Photographed in N.M.

ALAMOGORDO, N.M., July 30 (UPI) — A photograph of an "unconventional aerial object" — saucer shaped and an estimated 4000 feet across — was released today by a group of civilians at this missile test center.

The Aerial Phenomena Research Organization, which has government employees in its membership but has no official status, said a government photographer took the picture on Oct. 16, 1957. The weird, huge object hovered for 15 minutes over the north missile test range near Holloman Air Force Base, the APRO claimed.

L. G. Lorenzen of Alamogordo, spokesman for the APRO, said the name of the photographer could not be revealed. He said the

Hatch Act forbids government employees from becoming involved in public controversies such as the decade-long debate about whether flying saucers exist.

"Experts have examined the negative and all prints and are convinced of its authenticity," Lorenzen said. He quoted the photographer: "I've never seen anything like it before or since. It definitely was not a cloud."

Lorenzen said APRO members calculated that the "unconventional aerial object" was 4000 feet across its longest axis by computing angles drawn between it and fixed objects — telephone poles, mountains and such — which appear in the photograph. He admitted it was only an educated guess, since the altitude of the saucer was not known.

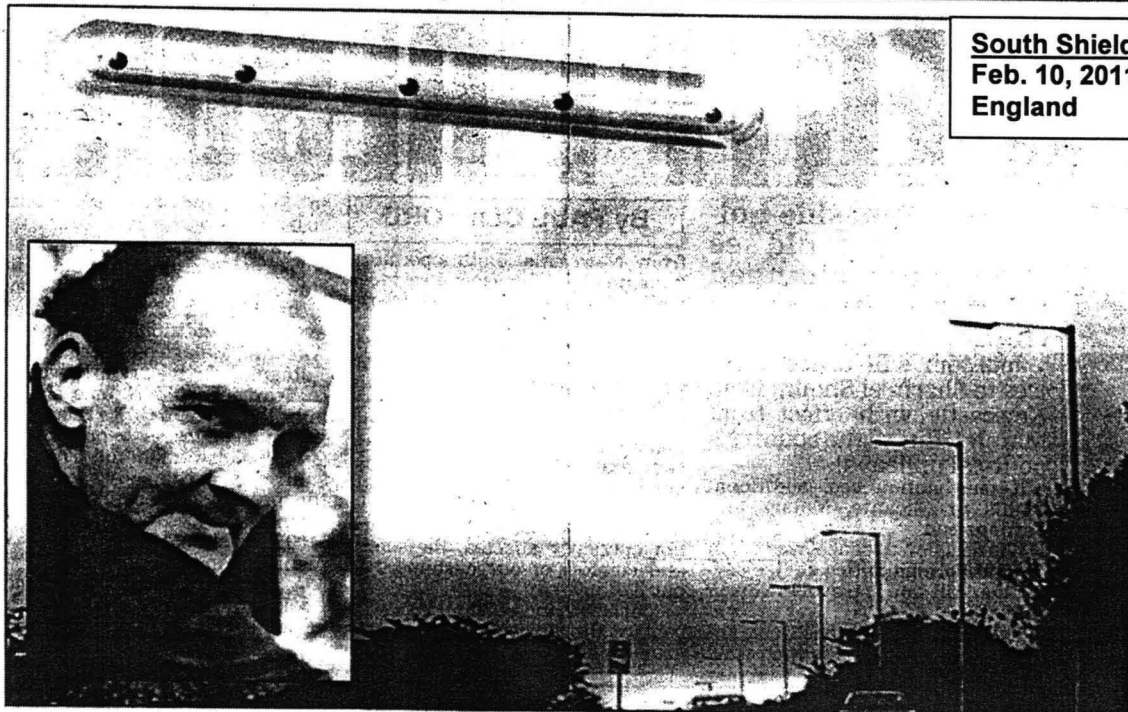


British News Clippings are courtesy of TIMOTHY GOOD

WRAITHSCAPE

the UK's spookiest newspaper column

South Shields Gazette
Feb. 10, 2011
England



WATCH THE SKIES ... Inset, Ronnie Tuke, and main image, an artist's impression of one of the objects.

UFO sightings are on the rise

The UFO phenomenon is undergoing something of a renaissance at the moment, with an increase in sightings worldwide.

South Tyneside has had its fair share of Close Encounters over the years, many of which, sadly, have been almost covered by the sands of time and are recalled by but a few.

Not at all happy about this, I've decided to resurrect one or two in this column.

In July 1977, the Dinsdale family of Mowbray Road, South Shields, were enjoying the weather.

At 6pm, Mr Dinsdale was outside washing his car, while Mrs Dinsdale was inside washing the dishes.

Not the most exciting way to begin a Saturday evening, granted, but things suddenly got better.

Mr Dinsdale, wash-leather in hand, happened to see something extremely odd in the sky.

Mrs Dinsdale dashed out to join him when he shouted out for her.

She found her husband staring into the sky, silently. She looked up too, and immediately saw what was riveting his attention. There, in the yonder,

By MIKE HALLOWELL

was a large cigar-shaped object with a silvery, metallic hue.

The couple watched in awe as the object drifted at a very slow speed in a northerly direction towards the mouth of the River Tyne.

Presumably, Mr Dinsdale returned to his car and Mrs Dinsdale to her crockery. The mystery was never solved.

Sightings of circular-shaped UFOs - or flying saucers, to give them their common name - are far more common than cigar-shaped objects, however.

Back in April 1969, Kevin Crowther saw not one, but two, flying saucers from the window of his aunt's home in Croft Terrace, Jarrow.

Kevin said that there were flashing lights moving around the circumference of the craft, some of which were red, and others blue.

According to the youngster they "danced around a bit" in the sky before both shooting off in the direction of Clervaux Terrace Police Station.

Another disc-shaped UFO was seen by Ronnie Tuke, of Westmorland Court, Hebburn, on June 22, 2003.

As Terry Kelly reported in the Gazette, the UFO was, according to Ronnie, "soft, golden" in colour and had flat sides that appeared to be like panelling.

He watched the object early in the

morning as it sped at an angle towards South Tyneside College before disappearing.

Ronnie was baffled that no one else reported seeing the craft, and Sergeant Bede McCabe confirmed that the police had not received any additional calls regarding the incident.

Two months after Ronnie Tuke's encounter, another golden-coloured disc was seen flying over Boldon Colliery by Mary Nolan.

I receive correspondence about new UFO sightings in the borough on a weekly basis.

Sometimes, unidentified objects will change direction several times as they fly through the sky, thus making it hard to conclude that they aren't under some sort of intelligent control.

Once again, rumours are circulating that the US and UK governments are about to release a statement admitting publicly for the first time that our planet has indeed been visited by extraterrestrial civilisations.

Well, I've heard this before, but I'm not holding my breath. I reckon it could be a good while yet before we see a UFO land on the White House lawn.

Mind you, I'd just love it if one was to land in the North Marine Park or the Viking shopping centre ...

■ Got an odd tale? Send it to wraithscape@mikehallowell.com

FOR MORE SPOOKY STORIES, VISIT WWW.SHIELDSGAZETTE.COM

UFOs...the truth is up there

By Cyril Dixon

FLOATING mysteriously between the clouds, this orange-coloured disc sparked fears of extra-terrestrial activity.

The bizarre, fluorescent "doughnut" was spotted, photographed and reported to the Ministry of Defence by a retired RAF officer.

Although the UFO investigators declined to launch an inquiry – because the sighting was in Sri Lanka – they filed it away with other British "X-files".

Details were published online yesterday in the latest batch from the files held by the National Archives in Kew, south-west London.

The unnamed ex-airman from Yorkshire saw the shape hanging in the sky near the city of Habarana, Sri Lanka, while on holiday seven years ago. After capturing it on camera, he sent it to former colleagues at RAF Fylingdales, North Yorkshire.

He wrote in his covering letter: "I noticed a partial aura in the sky, a minute or so later there was a clap of thunder.

"Then a short while later a

ring like a doughnut appeared - the ring was orange in colour with a white/cream finger pushed through.

"The head of the column glowed an orange colour, behind the doughnut was a second cloud of colour, and a further ring of orange."

He added: "The only way I can describe the sighting is that of an atomic or another

type of nuclear explosion, the cloud from which did not rise in the sky, but headed from the high atmosphere down toward the earth."

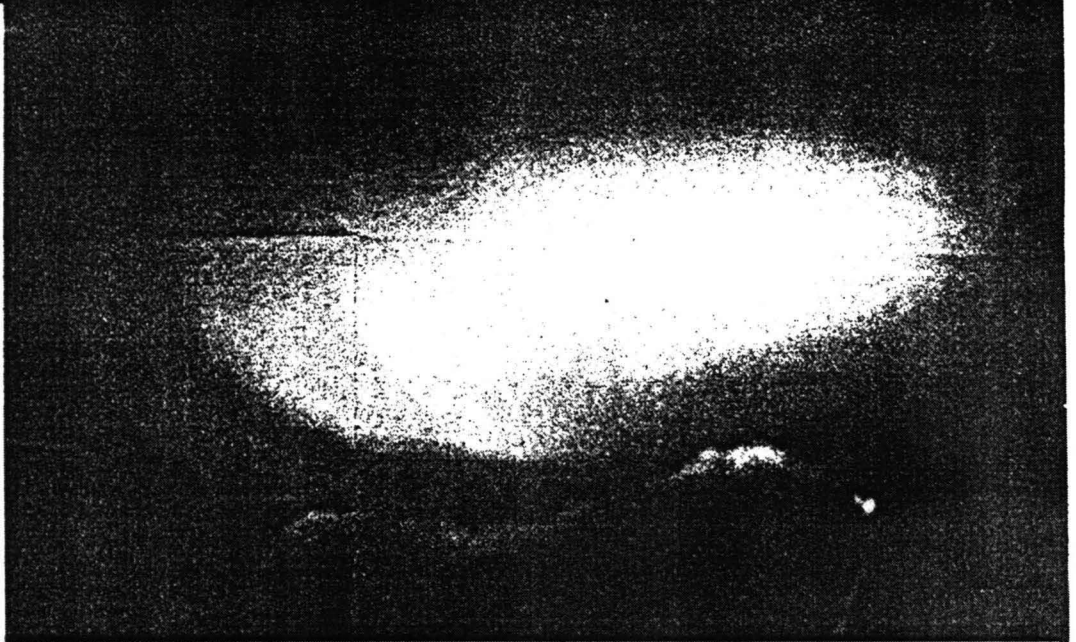
The pensioner urged his colleagues: "You must admit they are unusual."

His letter and snaps were passed on to the X-files unit, but they wrote back saying they only had

responsibility for sightings in Britain.

They told him: "Defence of Sri Lankan airspace is clearly a matter for the Sri Lankan Government and you may wish to pursue your enquiries with them."

Yesterday's batch of 35 files contain 8,500 pages of sightings, reports and photographs from the five years to 2005.



Wrexham Leader
Feb. 11, 2011
England

Believers in UFO crash are limited in their research

YOUR piece about the alleged Berwyn Mountain UFO crash (*Leader*, February 8) was interesting in that it demonstrated the research limitations of those who believe in the physical reality of a UFO crash.

Scott Felton rails against me for my theory that one of the lights seen that night was that of a poacher's lamp.

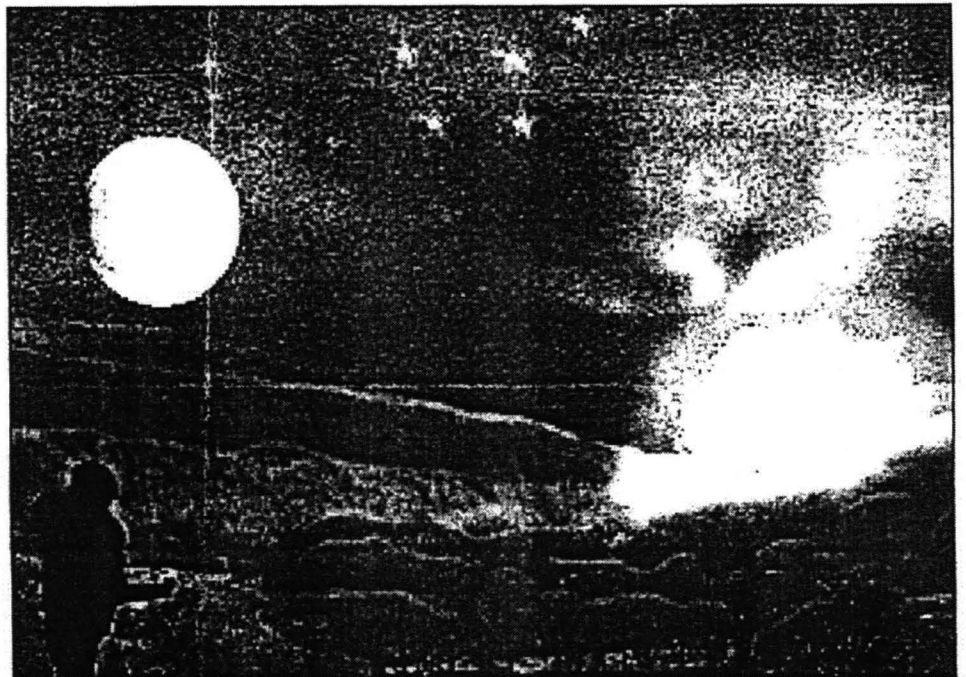
I did hold this theory for many years, based on documented evidence about the times and location of the poachers on the hillside, the type of lamp they were using and what Nurse Pat Evans saw.

But good research never stagnates and when, two years ago, I came across further information about the poachers and their whereabouts at the relevant time, I altered my theory to fit the facts.

In my book about the Berwyn events, *UFO Down* (CPZ, 2010) which Scott clearly chose not to read for fear of being exposed to documentary evidence, I detail all the relevant theories and twists and turns of this most unusual event.

There is no evidence – but much wishful thinking – to suggest an 'alien' spaceship crashed on the Berwyn Mountains on January 23, 1974.

But the huge light Pat Evans and her daughters observed for 15 minutes remains unexplained and as such the mystery of the Berwyns continues.



Andy Roberts,
Caerwys.

■ An artist's impression of the UFO crash.

WRAITHSCAPE

the UK's spookiest newspaper column

Golden balls over London

1 978 WAS a vintage year for UFO sightings in London.

The month of November, particularly, seemed to attract extraterrestrial attention to an extraordinary degree.

However, it was on April 22 that one of the strangest encounters took place.

Vera Bates was employed as a ward receptionist at a local children's hospital.

When she wasn't tending to the needs of incoming patients, she'd usually be found in her comfortable maisonette in Derbyshire Street, Bethnal Green.

In fact, that's where she was on the very night in question, sound asleep in bed.

But then, suddenly, she woke up with a start.

Her bedroom was filled with an intense light that made it difficult to see until her eyes slowly adjusted to the glare.

The light seemed to be pouring through the window from outside.

She also noticed a strange droning noise, which seemed to have no obvious source.

Both baffled and alarmed at the same time, she slowly made her way towards the window. What she saw left her stupefied.

Hanging motionless outside of her window was a colossal, golden sphere.

"I know certainly that it wasn't the

By MIKE HALLOWELL

moon", said Vera at the time, anticipating what the sceptics would inevitably trot out as an explanation.

Almost entranced by the intense richness of the colour – "I'd never seen anything like it, to be honest," she said – she simply stood and stared.

Then, her senses returning, she backed away from the window and walked into the lounge.

But then things got weirder. The living room suddenly became saturated with an intense throbbing noise which pulsed rhythmically.

Vera looked at the clock, and saw that the time was 1.30 am.

Perhaps in a daze, she recalled wandering around her flat for about 20 minutes.

Then she plucked up the courage to walk out onto the balcony. The huge orb was still there, glowing, but perfectly motionless.

After a while, Vera decided that there was nothing much she could do except return to bed and attempt to go to sleep.

However, the intense light made things so uncomfortable for her that she was forced to lie on her stomach with her face buried in the pillow.

At some point she drifted into unconsciousness. By dawn the object had disappeared, along with the bright light and the bizarre sounds that accompanied it.

Bethnal Green police eventually heard about the incident when the

local press got a hold of the story, but stated that they'd had no other reports of anything strange in the sky that night.

Unfortunately, Vera didn't own a camera at that time, and so was unable to take a photograph of the sphere.

This was something which she deeply regretted, she recalled later.

Cynics will no doubt suggest that Vera simply dreamt the entire event – she was in bed at the time, you'll recall.

However, I find this notion hard to swallow. Confusing reality with dream experiences is something that doesn't happen anywhere near as often as people think it does.

When we wake up and recall things that transpired in a dream, we know that it was simply that; a dream.

Vera was under no illusions that what she saw was anything like a dream; it was very, very real.

The following November, another young woman in London – not too far away from Vera's maisonette, actually – had an almost identical experience which also remains unsolved.

The similarities between the two cases are so startling that it is hard to imagine they both dreamed the same fictional event.

This second encounter, along with several others which occurred in London at that time, will soon be discussed in my Backlight column in a future edition of UFO Matrix if you want to know more.

■ Got a spooky tale? Send it to wraithscape@mikehallowell.com

FOR MORE SPOOKY STORIES, VISIT WWW.SHIELDSGAZETTE.COM

NORTH KENT: Reports of sightings are made public

Three UFOs seen

ALIENS will not be beaming up north Kent residents any time soon despite a trio of reported UFO sightings, an expert has said.

John Jenkins, chairman of Truth Research Investigations, has responded to government documents released last week detailing UFO sightings across the country.

The files – which show reports to the Ministry of Defence (MoD) from 2000 to 2005 – detail three sightings in Dartford and Gravesend, including a fleet of eight UFOs in one night.

Mr Jenkins, who investigates paranormal activity in north Kent, said:

by SOPHIE MADEN

smaden@london.newsquest.co.uk

"I'm not sure there are aliens coming.

"I'd like to think they are, but I doubt it."

In 1998 the MoD received a report of a cartwheeling object in the sky above Gravesend.

The round object, emitting a bright beam of light, appeared at 12.30am on October 12.

Eight round objects, all emitting a bright golden light, were spotted above Gravesend on May 29, 2000.

The UFOs, which were visible for 10 minutes, glided through the sky, appearing

after what was described as a "small whirlwind".

On November 1, 2000, an object appeared above Dartford Bridge at 9.31am where it stayed for 10 seconds.

The report said the object showed "erratic movements, darting from side to side".

But Mr Jenkins says the information, released after requests under the Freedom of Information Act, does not give the full picture.

He said: "The really interesting ones are reported by military personnel, but they have got to keep things a secret sometimes."

Downloaded the records for free for a month at nationalarchives.gov.uk/ufos

Dartford & Gravesend
News Shopper (Kent)
Mar. 9, 2011
England

'Fiction not science'

RAF encounters with unidentified flying objects, an alien abduction in London and a strange craft that shadowed a Lancaster bomber are just some of the close encounters documented in reports released by the Ministry of Defence this morning.

But UFO-ologists will be disappointed to learn that the sightings don't add up to definitive proof that flying saucers are real. Indeed, they may just about debunk the idea that extra-terrestrials have ever visited the UK.

However, Britain's real-life X Files do show just how seriously governments all over the globe take the issue of visitors from another world.

The extra-terrestrial files reveal how the phenomenon was discussed at the highest level of government and security services, including at the United Nations (UN), the US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and was even the subject of a debate in the House of Lords.

Although the term "flying saucer" was first coined in 1947 by US aviator Kenneth Arnold, interest in unexplained aerial phenomena grew to such an extent that, by the Seventies, it was the subject of serious scientific study.

The files reveal that in December 1977 the United Nations was so concerned about the possibility of extra-terrestrials that it was seriously considering setting up an international agency to research the sightings and designating 1978 as the "Year of the UFO".

Today's release is the largest disclosure of documents so far by The National Archives. The files contain more than 8,500 pages of UFO sightings and reports, colour photographs and drawings, RAF investigations, unusual radar detections, parliamentary briefings and – for the first time – documents on the government's policy on UFOs.

They also reveal that RAF Fylingdales, the radar tracking station high on the North York Moors, is in the frontline of Britain's efforts to identify flying saucers.

Many of the sightings were by highly credible witnesses and, in one, the RAF attempted to engage a massive craft that was tracking a Tornado bomber over Europe.

The Tornado crew reported a UFO as big as a C130 Hercules transport plane as they returned to UK airspace after a low level training mission in Germany. The spooked pilot said the craft had a smaller wingspan than a Hercules and the engine exhaust had "a light blue afterburner-type flame which was steady but changing in intensity".

Fighter command scrambled two RAF fighter jets from Laarbruch to intercept. They near-



Britain's real-life X Files were finally declassified last night – but do they reveal evidence that flying saucers exist, or is the truth still out there? **Nigel Burton** reports

ly collided with the mystery machine head-on. Seconds later the strange craft left the planes standing as it accelerated away.

"We were doing 0.8 Mach and it readily overtook us," said the pilot. "This was definitely not a Russian satellite – I am 100 per cent certain of that. This was a large aircraft. I could see the detail of the lights and the engine area. I have never seen anything like it."

Some UFOs only came to light after the event. The pilot of a Lancaster bomber had no idea he was being watched by a black saucer as he put his aircraft through its paces at a Battle of Britain memorial fly-past in Withersea, East Yorkshire, in 2002.

A resident took a picture but only spotted the strange saucer when the photo was downloaded to his computer.

Could it have been the light hitting the camera's image capture microchip in such a way as to create a strange-looking reflection? Or was a flying saucer watching the vintage bomber from afar? A Ministry of Defence desk officer who responded thought the object may have been a commercial helicopter from an off-shore oil rig or gas installation.

ONE of the most intriguing sightings took place across southern England in April 1978.

The RAF received reports from 17 witnesses of a cigar shaped object with lights covering its base. Some of the sightings claimed the UFO was white with a clearly visible exhaust; others that it was orange with a white cockpit. One even suggested the object may have exploded.

Investigators from RAF Fylingdales concluded that the UFO may have been space debris re-entering the earth's atmosphere and burning up.

However, even the experts at Fylingdales were baffled by a doughnut-shaped object snapped by a former colleague.

The photographer wrote: "I noticed a partial aura in the sky, a minute or so later there was a clap of thunder, then a short while later a ring like a doughnut appeared – the ring was orange in colour with a white/cream finger pushed through the head of the column glowed an orange colour, behind the doughnut was a second cloud of colour, and a further ring

of orange." He added: "The only way I can describe the sighting is that of an atomic or another type of nuclear explosion, the cloud from which did not rise in the sky, but headed from the high atmosphere down toward the earth."

The man took the pictures while he was on holiday in Habarana, Sri Lanka, in March 2004. He believed it was probably an "air burst".

Other UFOs had a more earthly explanation. One report describing a "War of the Worlds" incident in 1967 that, for a few hours at least, was treated as a potentially real "alien invasion" of the UK.

The RAF was flooded with calls from the public reporting six small "flying saucers" discovered in locations in a perfect line across southern England from the Isle of Sheppey to the Bristol Channel.

Four police forces, bomb disposal units, the Army and the MoD's intelligence branch were all mobilised before it emerged the saucers were a rag-day hoax by engineering students from Farnborough Technical College.

In another incident, in 1998, a man from Barnes, in south-west London, claimed he had seen a UFO from his back garden and, when he woke the following morning, had gained "a whole hour".

Sharp-eyed MoD investigators wrote back pointing out that the clocks had gone back the night before.

Dr David Clarke, author of the book *The UFO files* and a senior lecturer at Sheffield Hallam University, said: "Before the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act, we had to wait 30 years or more before we could see files on UFOs."

"Following its introduction, questions on UFOs ranked in the top-three most popular FOI requests received by the Ministry of Defence."

"I was one of the MoD's most persistent correspondents and eventually persuaded the MoD and other government departments to release their information on this perplexing and controversial subject."

"You can see from the files that I wasn't the only one interested in the subject, with the phenomenon discussed at the highest level of government right across the globe."

■ The files are available to download for free for a month from nationalarchives.gov.uk/ufos

Boston
Standard
Feb. 2, 2011
England

County is a 'UFO' hotspot

The News Stand

THIS week reporter Gemma Gadd takes a look at the stories making the news in Boston and beyond.

WALKING home from a night out in Boston recently I spotted a Chinese flying lantern flickering across the sky – and just as I was about to point it out to a

friend she yelled 'Oh my God – a UFO!'

For the few seconds before my 'sober' assurance brought her back down to earth – it could have been E.T. himself.

To my excited friend, for that brief moment in time, this orange light was a UFO – not just unidentified as the acronym goes – but definitely alien.

Boston's had its fair share of UFO sightings over the years – having experienced repeated UFO activity in the '90s according to files released by the Ministry of Defence.

As a reporter I've encountered several such stories from around the county. From black triangles and orange lights to

doughnut-shaped blobs and 'tentacle' UFOs breaking wind turbines. Some were truly bizarre and others spookily thought-provoking.

None were more memorable than those recounted to me by Eric Goring from Brinkhill.

Situated 20 miles north of Boston, the tiny village is regularly visited by 'alien spacecrafts' according to Mr Goring, who was so convinced of their unearthly origins he had taken to hiding in bushes at 3am and pointing a night vision scope at the sky.

Eager to investigate, the chairman of the British UFO Research Association (BUFORA) drove all the way up from

London to witness Mr Goring's 'spaceships' only to see nothing more than car headlights glimmering on the horizon. He promptly drove back again.

But perhaps we shouldn't so easily dismiss the claims of Mr Goring and others. After all, Lincolnshire is home to several RAF stations and USAF bases – and you need only look at the mystery surrounding the B-2 Stealth Bomber before its existence was officially recognised to see a similarity with 'black triangle' UFOs witnessed across Lincolnshire and beyond. And if they're not secret military craft, could they be alien? The truth, as they say, is out there...

Police X-files are revealed

Calls to 999 on lights in the sky

By Charlotte Cross

Dozens of paranormal activity reports from people claiming to have seen ghosts and UFOs across the West Midlands have been logged with police it was revealed today.

A total of 33 ghostly experiences and 21 UFO sightings have been reported to the region's force over the past three years, according to data released under the Freedom of Information Act.

The figures come just weeks after a Dudley security officer claimed to have spotted the infamous triangular-shaped UFO known as the Dudley Dorito, flying over his Quarry Bank home.

Police were unable to provide details of where the incidents were.

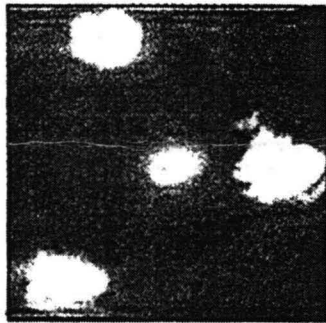
Paranormal investigator Sara Kettley, who runs Dudley-based investigation group Lightseekers, said she believes people call the police after spotting an unexplained object "purely out of fear".

"In this day and age, you might see what you think is a ghost or UFO but people will worry in case it turns out it's a burglar, maybe even terrorists in the case of UFOs," said Miss Kettley, aged 26, of Stourbridge Road, Holly Hall, Dudley.

Chief Inspector Matt Markham at West Midlands Police said: "Each report is assessed individually and dealt with in the appropriate manner."

"This often involves passing on the report to the relevant organisation to deal with."

West Mercia Police have also revealed details of 28 unidentified sightings reported over the last two years. They include a UFO flying low over Clent in December 2009 and reports of two UFOs in Kidderminster in September 2009 heading "east at a very fast speed".



The famous Dudley Dorito

Express & Star City Final
(Wolverhampton
West Midlands)
Feb. 12, 2011
England

Scarborough Evening News
Feb. 23, 2011
England

'Car was followed by strange lights'

A MOTORIST has reported strange lights which followed and then overtook his car while travelling through the Scarborough area.

Filey-based UFO investigator Russ Kellett said that he was contacted by the witness earlier this week.

The sighting was at 2.50am on Tuesday last week as the witness was travelling along Spital Road on the A64, just outside Merry Lees Caravan Park.

Mr Kellett said: "He saw an extremely bright light from behind his car. It came from behind, over the top and went directly ahead of him."

He added that the witness estimated it to be travelling at supersonic speed. "The object vanished over the wolds, at the top of Staxton Hill, approximately a couple of miles east of RAF Staxton Wold," he said.

"He said he knew the

object made no sound, because he had his window open, and the event was also witnessed by his brother.

"He said that aircraft were regularly spotted in the area but no conventional aircraft would be capable of such high speeds - especially at such a low altitude."

Mr Kellett said that it was similar to a sighting made by a woman who was driving home along the Scarborough to Whitby Road.

He said: "This thing was on one side of the road, it crossed over behind her, tailed her and then shot off."

Last year Yorkshire was named as the latest hotspot for UFO sightings.

The news attracted international headlines and a camera crew from ABC News travelled to the area to interview a number of people including Mr Kellett about his investigations.

The Daily Mail
Feb. 10, 2011
England

Keep your pledge on Gary, hacker's mother tells Clegg

By Michael Seamark
and James Slack

His mother said: 'He has effectively served a longer sentence than most murderers and rapists. Nick Clegg said my son had been hung out to dry by the previous government to appease the Americans.'

'I just want him to remember - and honour - those words and not fall into the same trap.'

Expert opinions obtained by Mr McKinnon's legal team have

'He is still in limbo'

stated that because of his mental condition, suicide was an 'almost certain inevitability' should he be sent to the U.S.

Home Secretary Theresa May agreed to halt the extradition last year, saying she wanted to ensure he was treated 'fairly'.

GARY McKinnon's mother is demanding a meeting with Nick Clegg to urge him to 'do the right thing' and stop her son's extradition.

Before he became Deputy Prime Minister the Liberal Democrat leader was implacable in his opposition to sending the computer hacker to the U.S.

Gary's mother Janis Sharp now wants Mr Clegg to keep his pre-election promises and end her son's ordeal.

'He stood by my side 14 months ago demonstrating outside the Home Office and demanded that Gary could - and should - be kept in the UK,' she said.

'When the Coalition came into power the relief we felt was indescribable. I believed our new government would announce that Gary would not be extradited but be tried in the UK. Nine months later he is still in limbo.'

Next month it will be nine years since Gary was arrested and ten since his alleged crime.

Mrs Sharp is now at loggerheads with the Home Office over the choice of an independent expert to reassess the Asperger's patient, who is 45 today.

She said: 'Gary has been assessed by four of the UK and Europe's leading psychiatrists and now the Home Office wants him re-assessed by yet another and unbelievably, I am having to fight to ensure it is an expert in Asperger's and autism.'

Mr McKinnon was searching for evidence of 'little green men' when he hacked into NASA and Pentagon computers.

Since the Daily Mail launched its An Affront to British Justice campaign to highlight the case, Ministers have announced a review of the lop-sided Extradition treaty which allows the U.S. and EU countries to have British citizens sent for trial abroad, without presenting the level of evidence which would be needed for prosecution in the UK.

Pink Floyd star pays treatment fees of hacker in US trial fight

ROCK legend David Gilmour is paying the psychiatric care bills of computer hacker Gary McKinnon who is fighting extradition to the US.

Treatment paid for by a north London primary care trust stopped last month because of NHS cutbacks.

But the Pink Floyd guitarist, who supports mental health campaigns, has stepped in to pay for the sessions with Asperger's syndrome expert Professor Jeremy Turk.

Mr McKinnon, 45, is about to enter his ninth year of fighting US attempts to jail him for up to 60 years.

He admits hacking into Pentagon and Nasa computers in 2001 and 2002 for information on UFOs.

But the US government says he posed a serious risk to national defence and want him to stand trial.

His mother, Janis, said: "When I heard about the funding for Gary's psychiatrist suddenly being refused I was incredibly worried."

"What will happen to other people with psychiatric problems if their funding is cut off?"

"David and his wife Polly and Polly's brother Joe are really good people."

By James Murray

They never publicise the good things they do behind the scenes. They just do it and we're so grateful for that."

While the legal battle continues, Janis has disclosed confidential medical information which suggests Gary showed signs of mental disorder as a teenager.

A history of mental illness in the family will be used to argue that he should not go on trial in America.

Mr McKinnon's great-grandmother, Christina Macleod, was committed to a mental hospital in Scotland, where she

remained for more than 50 years up until her death aged 95. His grandmother, Margaret Totten, who died in 1999, suffered from depression and was treated for schizophrenia. Patients with Asperger's or autism have been wrongly diagnosed as having schizophrenia.

Mrs McKinnon said: "This proves that mental illness in Gary's family goes back generations and that Gary had existing mental health difficulties."

Professor Turk and another expert, Professor Declan Murphy, have both said that suicide would be an inevitability were Gary to be extradited.



JAIL THREAT: Gary McKinnon

Sunday Express
Feb. 13, 2011
England

Western Daily Press (Series)
Mar. 3, 2011
England

MoD staff say something is out there

As the Ministry of Defence releases a host of new files detailing UFO sightings across the country, **Tristan Cork** and discovers a few surprising revelations



Ministry of Defence workers and MoD police were among those who reported sighting UFOs in the skies above the West, new papers released today reveal.

And the experience of seeing a mysterious light speeding down over Bath prompted one worker at an MoD base in the city to report it immediately – and then chase up the investigation years later to find out what it was.

The latest release of once top-secret papers by the Ministry of Defence into UFO reports and Government investigations reveal the usual mix of sightings, tales of being abducted and grand hoaxes.

But while many of the sightings that made their way to the MoD's UFO desk throughout the late 1990s and early 2000s were made by ordinary people – including a Somerset taxi driver who had an extraordinary experience on the hills of the Mendips – it is the sightings by MoD officers themselves that are perhaps the most surprising.

Back on the morning of August 2, 1994, two unnamed workers were arriving at the MoD's base at Foxhill in Bath.

"My passenger drew my attention to an unusual object in the sky," one man told the MoD's UFO desk. "During the matter of seconds it was in sight. We could determine it was coloured silver, appeared wingless and was travelling at unusually high speed north westerly towards Bath."

"Its apparent steep angle of descent was particularly noticeable. Although it was raining a little, visibility was good," he added.

The sighting obviously stuck with the witness because he chased up the MoD and demanded to know what had happened seven years later, with a Freedom of Information request.

Another sighting concerned an MoD police officer based at Colerne in Wiltshire in April 2001. He was at home in Chippenham one night when he

2000

The year a taxi driver saw a ball of light hovering above the ground

saw three strange bright red lights ascending quickly in formation, being "pursued" by a small jet aircraft.

"I was struck by the fact that I could clearly hear the engine of this aircraft, but not of multiple aircraft," he added.

But perhaps the most eerie sighting concerned a taxi driver in Somerset in 2000.

After dropping off a fare he stopped near Somerton and watched as a white ball of light hovered about seven feet above a field near the road.

"After about a minute, it changed into a large, silver metal shining ball," the report

said. "A dark mist surrounded it and a blinding light surrounded the dark mist. It lit up the fences either side of the road. When he saw this object there was no birds around like there had been before he saw it. He felt quite frightened and drove quickly home."

The release of a new set of papers reveals that although the numbers of UFO sightings has gone down in recent years, from a peak in the 1960s and 1970s, the kind of people filing reports has become, according to the MoD, more credible.

■ The files reveal a student stunt sparked near panic one day in 1967 after mysterious flying discs appeared in fields in a dead straight line across the West one morning.

For almost the whole day, it appeared the country was experiencing some kind of alien invasion, with discs discovered in a line between Kent and Bristol – until bomb disposal officers took one apart and discovered the prank.

One of the saucers was found in a field at Elm Tree Farm, near Chippenham in Wiltshire by the farmer, Roger Jennings, while a second disc was found near Clevedon. A top aircraft expert from Bristol was summoned to examine that disc, while the Wiltshire one

The MoD's answer to MP Matthew Taylor's Parliamentary question was 'incomplete'



was scoured by military chiefs from nearby RAF Colerne.

■ A flurry of UFO reports in the early hours of April 16, 1978, sent the RAF into a tailspin.

The RAF launched an investigation into what witnesses saw after being bombarded with claims extra terrestrials were zipping across southern England from south west to north east.

The 17 reports all covered the same time.

Witnesses variously described the mystery object as cigar shaped; with lights covering its base; white with an exhaust; and orange with a white cockpit.

■ Ministry of Defence chiefs withheld information about secret underground bases in the Wiltshire countryside dubbed 'Britain's Area 51' from a West MP.

Cornish MP Matthew Taylor submitted a parliamentary question asking for a list of units and facilities at RAF Rudloe Manor, near Corsham, but received only a list of "above ground" activities.

An MoD background note, released today, said: "The only difficulty with questions of this nature is that we do not refer to the existence of an underground facility."

"This is a defence installation for use in peace and war, and includes both civil and military communications."

"In not referring to it, the answer is arguably incomplete; nonetheless reference to it is not recommended."

Last year, a similar release of papers revealed Rudloe Manor's work in co-ordinating UFO reports for the MoD.



Clockwise from left, the former MoD owned site at Rudloe Manor, rumoured to be the UK's 'Area 51';

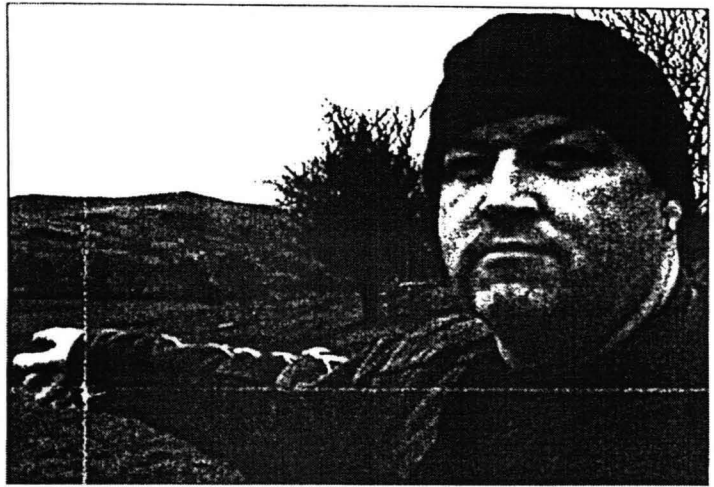
Aliens have landed . . . perhaps

ALIEN spaceships under the sea might sound like the stuff of fiction, but a UFO researcher claims that an incident off the shores of Anglesey could be the best evidence yet of an infamous North Wales close encounter.

However, UFO expert Russ

By GERAINT JONES
gerald.jones@nwn.co.uk

Kellett said that a coastguard document backed his theory that one of three alien craft found off the coast of Anglesey crashed into Lake Bala and caused the Berwyn Mountain incident January 23 1974.



UFO enthusiast Russ Kellett near the site of the Berwyn Incident, which he believes was caused by a UFO which was found off Anglesey

He said: "This information that I have unleashed is a sort of Holy Grail. The Ministry of Defence released documents a year ago and there was nothing about military activity."

The researcher, who has investigated the UFOs for 23 years, said that the Marine Coastguard document revealed that a military exercise called Operation Photoflash was underway from Liverpool Bay to the North Wales coast on the night of the Berwyn Incident.

Russ, of Filey, Yorkshire, believes that the operation used depth charges to locate one alien craft at Puffin Island, another off the Anglesey coast and a further ship near Bangor.

The spaceships then shot out of the sea and into the air.

Russ said that a group of men discovered one of the silver flying saucers while the aliens emerged from one of the crashed ships on a roadside near Llandrillo.

He said: "They were slim

humanoid creatures, about five ft six inches tall, with grey skin and wore jumpsuits with belt kits on them."

Russ added that the men watched the soliders load the aliens into a vehicle and drive away.

The researched believed that the MoD had not released the information to prevent public panic

He said: "You've got something that travels about under the sea without detection and can fly. What a piece of engineering that is."

"People are going to get really worried, because this is what I call super technology."

Russ also claims to have several fragments of one of the craft.

Documents released by the MoD last year support the theory that a meteor shower caused the bright lights and earthquake experienced by residents near the Berwyn Incident's epicentre at Bala Lake.



2nd April 2000

Further to your enquiry regarding possible UFO sightings or other information I have now checked through the information that we have available at this station. There are not a great many log books here for that period and I have only been able to find one entry of any vague interest. During the late afternoon and early evening of 23rd January 1974 there was an exercise from Jerby Range on the Isle of Man. The exercise was called 'photoflash' and coastguards were advised to expect at least ten aircraft taking part and at least 80 flashes anywhere around the Liverpool Bay area and the North Wales coastline. I realise this is probably not what you hoping for but it's all I came up with. Sorry I couldn't be more help but I would be interested to hear if you solve your mystery as I often look seaward in the hope of seeing something myself.

Yours sincerely

An MCA letter documenting Operation Photoflash.

Stretford & Urmston Messenger
Feb. 10, 2011
England

North Wales Chronicle
Mar. 4, 2011
England

A UFO hotspot

FOR the past ten years, the north of England was crowned the world's top hotspot for UFO sightings.

It follows a string of strange objects in the northern sky being reported to the Ministry of Defence.

In February, 2008 a UFO had been spotted on several occasions over the skies of Trafford, when out of the blue a young woman noticed a cylinder-shaped object hovering over the Kingsway Park Primary School, Davyhulme, eventually zooming off in the direction of Irlam.

Stephen Mera of Paranormal Investigators, who is also a UFO specialist, firmly believes that when we have reliable witnesses, including airline pilots, and police, who report seeing these alien spacecraft, then we know we are not alone in an amazing universe.

Harry Wild

Crew's claims they saw a UFO are blown away

SAILORS on a Portsmouth-based warship claimed to have seen a UFO but all evidence of the alien encounter was lost when the ship's log was 'blown overboard'.

Previously secret documents released by the Ministry of Defence reveal sailors on HMS Manchester and other Royal Navy ships reported seeing the unidentified aircraft off the coast of Norway in the late 1990s.

But MoD investigators asked to locate a record of the sighting discovered the ship's log had been blown overboard while the ship was docked in Norway.

Lord Hill-Norton, who was head of the Armed Forces from 1973 to 1976, wrote to the MoD in September 2002 and asked if the department could confirm

Manchester's UFO sighting.

He wrote: 'Apparently the ship encountered an unidentified craft during a naval exercise, with several hundred people in Manchester and other HM ships witnessing the event. At the same time, personnel on a Norwegian naval ship tracked the object on radar and were openly discussing the incident on the Operations Rooms communications network.'

Lord Bach, who was asked to investigate the claims, replied to Lord Hill-Norton: 'The log was positioned, as is the custom, at the head of the gangway when the vessel was alongside in port, and an unusually strong gust of wind carried it overboard.'

No explanation was given for what the sailors saw.

UFOs close encounters and 'alien abduction' files released

DOCUMENTS SHOW PHENOMENON DISCUSSED AT HIGHEST LEVEL OF GOVERNMENT

BY JOHN FAHEY



UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT: A drawing of the UFO seen from Craigluscar Reservoir, near Dunfermline

'Abductee' honoured at UFO convention

By Bob Smyth

A SCOT who claims he was abducted by aliens is to be guest of honour at a conference for UFO buffs.

Garry Wood and Colin Wright claimed they were driving in West Lothian in 1992 when a spaceship hovered in front of them.

They said they were beamed on board, stripped and examined by strange creatures before being sent back to Earth.

The amazing story — the A70 Incident — sparked a sensation.

Garry said he saw a small being with a childlike body and a large pear-shaped head with black eyes.

He recalled lying naked with two small creatures at the foot of the table, one holding a bright diamond-shaped object, which pulsed with an orange light.

The creature then began moving the diamond over his body.

Both men came back from their close encounter with scars.

A film about the bizarre event is being made.

Now, Garry is to take part in a conference run by UFO Matrix magazine.

It celebrates 50 years of close encounters.

Garry will appear alongside Scots UFO investigator Malcolm Robinson at the event in Pontefract, West Yorkshire, in October.

Military sightings of UFOs, an "alien abduction" and an unidentified aircraft shadowing a Lancaster bomber feature among thousands of close-encounter documents released by the National Archives today.

The extra-terrestrial files reveal how the phenomenon was discussed at the highest level of government and security services worldwide, including at the UN, the CIA and was even the subject of a debate in the House of Lords in January 1979.

The previously classified files reveal that in 1977 the government used its influence to talk down a call by Grenada president Sir Eric Gairy for a UN agency to conduct research into UFO sightings.

Sir Eric's withdrew his proposal but continued his campaign for a full UN debate on UFOs — calling on the UN General Assembly to make 1978 "the year of the UFO".

One of the 35 files shows 15 unidentified aircraft were detected on radar approaching the UK between January and July 2001 in the months leading up to 9/11.

● A man who believed he may have been abducted by aliens after seeing an unusual aircraft one evening and experiencing a period of missing time.

The tranche of files also detail the freedom of information requests and letters from "persistent enquirers" that led to the MoD opening the UFO files for the first time.

Dr David Clarke, author of the book *The UFO Files* and senior lecturer in journalism at Sheffield Hallam University, said: "I was one of the MoD's most persistent correspondents and eventually persuaded MoD and other government departments to release their information on this perplexing and controversial subject."

Today's release is the largest disclosure of documents so far by The National Archives. The files contain over 8,500 pages of UFO

The Ministry of Defence received just one UFO report on September 11 itself.

Other highlights include:

● Claims the Home Office had emergency procedures for dealing with landed and crashed satellites and UFOs.

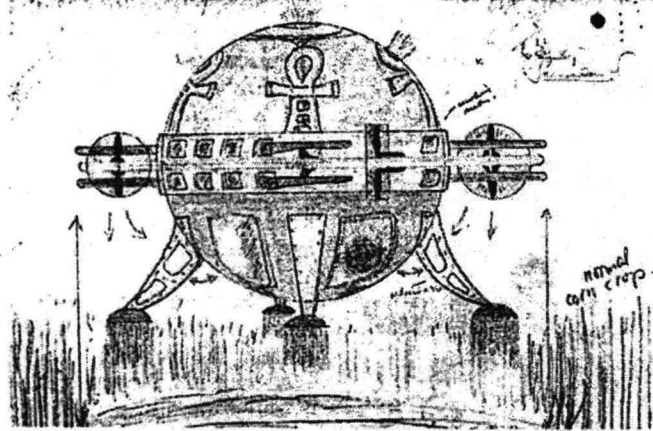
● US policy files on UFOs, including CIA papers discussing the use of UFO reports for "psychological warfare".

● An alleged UFO sighting by the crew of HMS Manchester off the coast of Norway and how the logbook recording the incident could not be recovered.

sightings and reports, colour photographs and drawings, RAF investigations, unusual radar detections, parliamentary briefings and documents on government policy on UFOs.

The files show how the workload of the UFO desk at the MoD increased by 50% during 1996/97, due to media interest around the 50th anniversary of the Roswell incident. The files are available to download for free for a month from www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ufos

COMMENT, PAGE 15



SIGHTINGS: A drawing of a 'spaceship' creating crop circles

Aberdeen Press & Journal (Series)
Mar. 3, 2011
Scotland

Scottish Sunday Post
(Series)
Feb. 6, 2011
Scotland

MoD 'X-Files' reveal nation's odd sightings

WEIRD AND WONDERFUL OBJECTS SEEN SOARING IN THE SKIES ABOVE SCOTLAND

BY STACEY HORNE

SAUCER-shaped objects, bright lights, "flying jellyfish" and balls of fire are among dozens of mysterious sightings in Scotland detailed in the UK Government's newly released X-files.

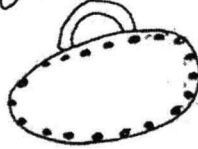
The Ministry of Defence documents include reports of weird and wonderful sightings, drawings, freedom of information requests and "an alien abduction".

The thousands of pages of declassified material include a report of "three bright lights forming a triangle, hovering, not moving" at Stonehaven in 2003.

In Dundee in 2002 someone reported seeing strange red and white lights through their curtains and then "there was a solid red beam outside the window for about five to 10 seconds".

Another report, dated 1990, said there was a large diamond-shaped UFO hovering for about 10 minutes be-

I will try and draw what I saw



The dots underneath are lights. like
eyeballs, they are really beautiful

A 'spaceship' sketch held in The National Archives

fore ascending vertically upwards at high speed. It happened at Calvine in Perth and Kinross.

Among the drawings sent to the MoD is one of a flying saucer-shaped object seen from Craigluscar Reservoir, just outside Dunfermline, in February in 1994. The artist who submitted the report said he heard a humming noise and saw a metallic craft with several points of diffused light on its underside inside a dark-coloured rim.

Other sightings include a "huge white ball that was glowing - looked like a flying jellyfish" in East Kilbride and a "ball of fire with a tail five to seven times the diameter of the ball" in Edinburgh.

An RAF Tornado pilot saw a UFO when flying through Dutch airspace over the North Sea. The crew were returning from the UK to RAF Laarbruch in Germany when the object "as big as a C130 Hercules plane" appeared in front of

them on November 5, 1990.

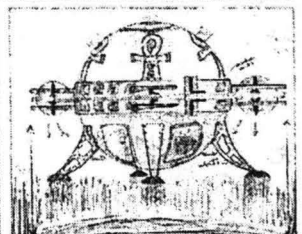
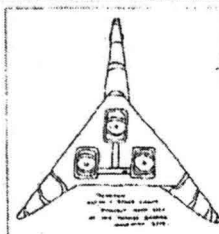
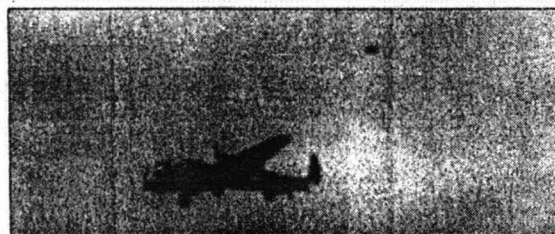
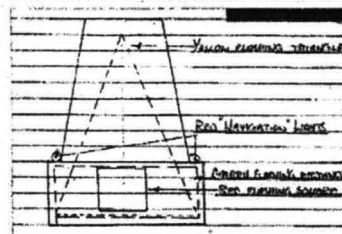
An Aberdeen UFO expert, who has studied the subject for more than 50 years, said there has been many more sightings in the north-east than the reports show.

Ian Taylor, of Aberdeen's west end, said: "There has been many more sightings in Aberdeen. Over the last two decades there has been so many sightings in Scotland. I don't think any country in the world is free of this."

"Think about the number of people in a city the size of Aberdeen at night walking around staring at their mobile phone rather than the sky above them. It is important that people are really aware of what they are looking at. There is a lot of stuff going on up there but it is a case of being in the right place at the right time and reporting accurately what they see."

Mr Taylor said he believes his first sighting was when he was just five years.

The Daily Telegraph
Mar. 3, 2011
England



The files include photographs of lights in the sky in 2004 and an object flying with a Lancaster bomber, and various sketches of 'UFOs' following claimed sightings

Alien 'invasion' Secret UFO files show how police were fooled by student stunt

The police, Army and intelligence services were called out after a student hoax convinced members of the public that Britain was being invaded by aliens, newly released secret files disclose.

Four police forces, a bomb disposal unit and military intelligence were alerted after six "flying saucers" were found in a line across southern England.

It was not until hours later that

examination of the objects showed they were a practical joke by engineering students.

The stunt, which took place in 1967, is documented in secret UFO files released today by The National Archives. They show that early in the morning of Sept 4, the police and RAF received reports of six small "flying saucers" in a line from the Bristol Channel to the Isle of Sheppey in Kent. The joke, by

students from Farnborough Technical College, was uncovered when explosives experts opened one of the objects.

The files, Britain's largest release of documents on the paranormal, also report military sightings of unidentified flying objects, a claimed alien abduction in London and a Lancaster bomber being shadowed by a mysterious aircraft.

The UFO phenomenon was

discussed at the highest level of government and in security services worldwide, including at the UN and CIA, and was the subject of a debate in the House of Lords.

In January 1979, during the Winter of Discontent, the Lords broke off from discussing industrial relations to talk about flying saucers. The files also show that in December 1977, the government had to talk down a proposal by Sir

Eric Gairy, the prime minister of Grenada, for the UN to conduct research into UFOs. He also called on the UN General Assembly to make 1978 "the year of the UFO".

The records also include a report from a man who believed he may have been abducted by aliens after seeing an unusual aircraft one evening then experiencing a period of "missing time".

Richard Alleyne



MailOnline

A hump-backed hoax:

Was the 'monster' spotted gliding through Lake Windermere no more than an old tyre?

By Abul Taher
March 6, 2011 Scotland

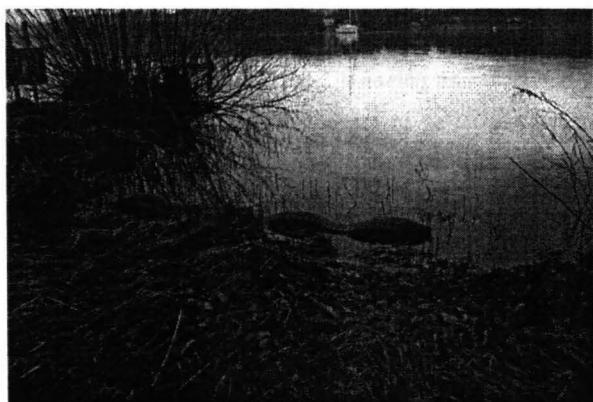
The mysterious form moving through the water appeared the most tantalising proof yet of the creature dubbed the English Loch Ness Monster.

Displaying four humps, it was described as being the 'size of three cars' by two witnesses kayaking on Lake Windermere in Cumbria.

They said it moved at about 15mph before disappearing beneath the water after about 20 seconds.



Truth surfaces: The split tyre (below) may explain the mystery of the 'Bowness Monster' of Windermere (above)



The photo, taken by Tom Pickles, 24, on a mobile three weeks ago, appeared in newspapers and became an internet sensation. It seemed to confirm eight other sightings of the 'Bowness Monster', named after a town on Windermere's banks.

But last week a family found something by the lake which casts suspicions on the existence of the beast – a large tyre cut open which when floating on water looks rather like the four-humped creature.

'We were walking in the area where the picture was taken and suddenly saw this tyre cut open lying on the footpath. I thought, "This looks like the creature,"' said John Phillips, 46, who was at Windermere for the half-term break with wife Liz and their three daughters.

Mr Phillips, of Solihull, West Midlands, threw the tyre into the water and said he was stunned by the resemblance to the photo.

'If you looked at this tyre floating from a distance, it did look a Nessie-like creature,' he said.

'But in the original picture there was a wave of water behind the creature, which suggested it was moving at speed. I think it was being pulled with a rope by a person or a boat. I don't want to ruin anyone's fun, but maybe this tyre is the Bowness Monster.'

IT worker Mr Pickles, from Shrewsbury, was kayaking with colleague Sarah Harrington, 23, on a company team-building exercise near the lake's Belle Isle when they saw the monster 200ft from them.

He said at the time: 'At first I thought it was a dog, then I saw it was much bigger and moving really fast. Its skin was dark black or brown and like a seal's, but its shape was not like any animal I've ever seen.'

The tyre Mr Phillips found is black and he said its tread gives it a 'leathery' look from a distance, resembling the skin of a seal or a snake.

But Mr Phillips's photo of the tyre has failed to convince everyone.

Thomas Noblett, 48, who runs a hotel in Windermere, said he got up close to Bownessie in 2009. He said he was swimming with a friend in the lake at 6.30am when he felt a sudden force brush past his legs.

'I felt something really big and powerful go past me and at first I thought it was a boat engine,' he said. 'Then as it went past, all my friend and I saw were very big waves, and then it disappeared.'

He has since scoured Windermere with a sonar boat in search of Bownessie, and knows three people who claim to have sighted her.

'I am not convinced by the tyre explanation and I still believe there is a creature out there,' he added.

Nigel Wilkinson, of Windermere Lake Cruises, claimed Bownessie in Mr Pickles' photo is a group of otters.

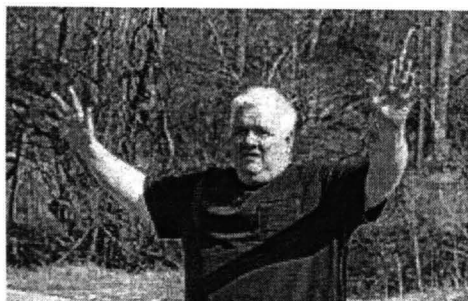
He added: 'The problem with the tyre theory is that if it is a hoax, you don't normally leave the evidence behind, lying around.'

Mr Pickles told The Mail on Sunday yesterday: 'I don't want to say anything more about this.'

Along Route 74 Thomas Byers shows how a creature growled at him.

Golden Valley Church Road, Bostic NC
Friday, Mar 25 2011

By Jeff Melton



Thomas Byers of Shelby points to the area where he saw something cross the road.



Shelby resident Thomas Byers believes this figure spotted on a rural road outside Bostic could be a sasquatch.

Photos submitted by Thomas Byers

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BOSTIC — Tufts of bushy brown fur. Thick, powerful legs supporting a stocky frame. If it wasn't Knobby, Thomas Byers thinks the Cleveland County bigfoot has a close cousin.

The Shelby native says he saw an apelike creature dart across the road during a trip through the hills below South Mountains State Park Tuesday evening. Byers and friend Carolyn Wright had planned to watch for paranormal phenomena at an old church graveyard when the shrouded, shuffling figure crossed their path. "She was hollering, 'What is it, what is it?' and I couldn't even speak," Byers said. "It was the most amazing thing I've ever seen. It looked like it was about 300 pounds and it was somewhere close to 7 feet tall. It came out of the field and came through the briars and bushes onto the road."

Byers snapped photographs and recorded a brief video of the sighting with a pocket digital camera. As is often the case with footage of the camera-shy sasquatch, Byers' film is blurry and indistinct. He said the darkening sky made clearer pictures impossible, but he's convinced the creature was genuine. "I saw its private parts," he said. I don't think it was anybody in a suit or anything like that. It was definitely male."

Could it be Knobby?

Byers made his discovery on Golden Valley Church Road outside Bostic in northeastern Rutherford County, not far from the Cleveland County line. Cleveland has a history of bigfoot sightings dating back four decades.

In the late 1970s, residents reported more than a dozen sasquatch sightings near Carpenter's Knob north of Casar. A reporter dubbed the creature Knobby, and the legend lay dormant until June 2010, when Casar resident Timothy Peeler called 911 to report seeing an apelike creature.

There are several key discrepancies between the two recent sightings, however. Peeler said the sasquatch he saw was at least 10 feet tall with a white-gray beard. Byers' bigfoot stood 3 feet shorter and had darker hair.

"I've heard all the legends about Knobby," Byers said. "I've heard people talking about it. I don't know about a blond one, but I know there's a brown one. He was alive and well and in bad need of a bath."

Walks like a man

Byers believes the creature he saw scampering across the road was a new primate species. But an animal ecologist who analyzed his video said the blurry figure is likely more man than beast. Dr. James English, professor of zoology at Gardner-Webb University, said the "bigfoot" has the gait of a human.

"There's nothing about this that makes me believe that it's anything but a person," English said. "This isn't evidence that is in any way convincing. It's just a picture of something walking upright."

English said the figure in Byers' video has a limp that makes it appear as if its right leg is injured. Though the video is grainy and texture is difficult to determine, the professor said he didn't necessarily see hair.

"There's a shade of blue on his lower torso that looks like blue jeans," English said. "I'm not going to say it's obviously anything because it's such a poor picture."

Bigfoot sightings have persisted for generations, but most scientists say believers haven't met the burden of proof. Photos, videos and footprints can be faked, but a sasquatch corpse — or even bones — would provide credible evidence of existence. "Just because you don't find one doesn't mean it doesn't exist," English said. "It would be pretty extraordinary. I couldn't say it's impossible; I would just say that it's extremely unlikely."

Up close and personal

While Byers' video may invite skepticism, the retired Navy petty officer first class said his face-to-face encounter with the creature left little room for doubt.

Smoke streamed from the mountaintops in the distance as a prescribed burn consumed dead brush. Byers said the fire was flushing wildlife out of the woods, and he and Wright had stopped along the roadside to see deer and rabbits running across the road when they saw the strange creature.

"It turned around, threw up its arms and snarled at me," Byers said. "It was real pissed off. I could see its teeth. I could see every detail of it."

Byers said he was 15 to 20 feet away from the bigfoot. Even from that distance, he noticed a pungent odor. "There was a horrid smell like decay," he said. "It was a cross between roadkill and a skunk."

What the creature lacked in hygiene, however, it made up for in agility. Byers said the sasquatch scaled a hill on the other side of the road in mere seconds. "It was a lot faster than any man," he said. "It was just as fast or faster than a deer."

He knows not everyone will believe his bigfoot encounter was genuine. But if the sighting was staged, Byers said he's not in on the joke.

"I have nothing to profit from for it to be a hoax," he said. "I'm open to the possibilities, but I think it was real."