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PROJECT HESSDALEN 1984

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FROM THE EDITOR

The majority of this issue is devoted to a series of reports compiled by Phillip Mantle, MUFON's representative for England, whose picture can be found on page 6. Their origin is Project Hessdalen, a combined, instrumented UFO field study conducted by ufologists from both Norway and Sweden, beginning in the winter of 1983-84. Many of the photographs and much of the text are hereby presented in English for the first time. The project itself is a model of what can be accomplished with cooperation among varied personnel and parties, and a shoestring budget whose main coin is determination. And of course a "willing" UFO phenomenon. That the project was simultaneously able to record nearly 200 observations and not jump to conclusions as to their source commends both their dedication and objectivity. Ufologists have discharged their responsibilities in this case by revealing the presence of an unidentified phenomenon. Othodox "science" now stands derelict in its own duties if it does not accept their challenge.

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Hessdalen: An Introduction

By Dennis Stacy

Dennis Stacy is editor of the Journal.

Hessdalen is a 12-kilometer long valley southeast of Trondheim, Norway, approximately 11 degrees east of the Greenwich Meridian and about four degrees of latitude below the Arctic Circle. Typical Santa Claus country in a word, and sparsely populated, as might be expected. Think of the territory between Anchorage and Fairbanks, Alaska, as an easy comparison.

In November of 1981, Hessdalenders began reporting sightings of anomalous lights in the valley. The lights would sweep between the mountains, stop and hover for as long as an hour or more, then rapidly ascend or accelerate horizontally. Literally hundreds of such sightings were made, mostly in the morning, about 7:30 am, and again at "night," between 10:30 and 11 pm.

ANOMALIES

On March 26, 1982, UFO-Norge, Norway's foremost civilian UFO research organization, arrived in the area, and held a town meeting in Alen, attended by 130 local residents. Some 30 sightings had been reported just since the previous December. Of those attending, 17 reported a yellow spherical light, 12 a possible cigar-shaped object, and six an oblong shape with one red and two yellow lights. No one reported either physical or psychological effects in association with the lights, though one witness noted animal reactions, and three mentioned radio or TV interference.

Norwegian electronic and print media began turning their attention toward Hessdalen. Near the end of March, 1982, two officers from the Vaernes Air Force base even arrived

on the scene. "We didn't see any UFOs," said the two, a Capt. Nyland and Lt. Reymert. "On the other hand, we saw 30 shooting stars and satellites and 6 or 7 planes. And not least, we saw a lot of UFO hunters in the area."

The officers added that "the people of Hessdalen have been seeing luminous objects since 1944, but many years passed before they dared to talk about the sightings. But the accounts are credible, and we in the Defense (Department) must take them seriously. There are more things between Heaven and Earth than can be explained at first sight."

PROJECT

On June 3, 1983, several groups, including UFO-Norge and UFO-Sverige, joined together to form Project Hessdalen under the direction of Leif Havik, Odd-Gunnar Roed, Jan Fjellander, and others. The loan of much sophisticated measuring equipment was arranged through several local universities and institutions, including a seismograph, fluxgate magnetometer, a spectrum analyser, geiger counters, and so on. A target date of January 21 to February 26, 1984, was set as the optimum period for observations, based on previously recorded sightings. These might have been optimum times for the Hessdalen phenomenon itself, but being the dead of winter conditions were less than ideal for human observers. Still, the Project Hessdalen team carried out a remarkable series of measurements and individual observations, and racked up an impressive number of both color and black and white photographs. They are to be congratulated for their perseverance.

The following sections, then, consists of several separate reports that came out of Project Hessdalen activi-

ties. We are indebted to Phillip Mantle, MUFON's representative for England, who compiled and summarized the accompanying material. As with any translation from a foreign language, there is a possibility that some mis-statements of fact or assumption may have made their way into the English articles. Ground Saucer Watch of Phoenix, Arizona, provided computer enhancement and analysis of the Hessdalen photographs.

The Project also carried out observations during the winter of 1984-85, but these were largely hampered by deteriorating weather conditions. On January 26, 1985, Project Hessdalen was visited in the field by the late Dr. J. Allen Hynek. "It seems we have something important here," said Hynek. "Nowhere else in the world has the UFO phenomenon been known to stay put for so long a time."

Altogether, the Project Hessdalen team reported 188 instances of observations of luminous phenomena.



Project Hessdalen

By Leif Havik

Hessdalen is a valley in the middle part of Norway, and lies south-east of Trondheim, about 30 km northwest of the town of Roros. The whole valley stretches 12 km in length, and only around 150 people inhabit the area.

In December 1981, unknown lights suddenly started to appear in the skies above Hessdalen. These lights could sometimes stand still for more than an hour. They were also seen to move around slowly before stopping, and sometimes they were observed traveling at a fast rate of speed. At one time the lights were tracked by radar and were estimated to be traveling at approximately 8500 meters per second.

These lights were observed just about everywhere and more often than not they were below the horizon, down in the valley and not high up in the sky. It has to be said that the vast majority of the lights were reported to be below the tops of the nearby mountains. No one in Hessdalen could offer an explanation for these strange lights.

The lights appeared to have several different specific shapes. This was something that became quite apparent when the lights were photographed. The main shapes of the lights were: a bullet shape, with the sharp end down, a round football shape, an upside down Christmas tree. Of course, there were other shapes, but these were the main ones. The colors of the lights were mostly white, or a yellow/white. Sometimes a small red light could be seen among the white. On a few occasions the lights were made up of every color in the rainbow.

They could be observed several times a day, but they were seen more during the night. At most they could be observed around four times a day. There were more reports of the lights

in the winter rather than the summer. One reason for this might be the fact that in summer Hessdalen has almost perpetual daylight. The lights could be split into three groups:

- Small, strong white or blue flashes which could show up everywhere in the sky.

- Yellow or yellow/white lights. These lights were, more often than not, observed down in the valley and below the horizon. Sometimes they were just above the rooftops and even down on the ground. They could appear stationary for more than an hour before slowly moving off around the valley, and sometimes they could show extremely fast accelerations and very fast speeds. They were also observed high up in the sky.

- Several lights together with a fixed distance from each other. Mostly these were a yellow or white light with a red light in front. These lights could move slowly around the tops of the mountains.

REPORTS INCREASE

The reports of the lights carried on throughout 1982, but suddenly in the spring of 1983, the lights were reported much more seldom. In the summer of 1983, we had no reports at all. However, in the autumn and winter of 1983, reports again started coming in, but much fewer than previous years. However, in the autumn of 1984, the reports again increased.

As no official institute with governmental support seemed to be bothered with these unknown lights, five individuals started their own research project. This became known simply as PROJECT HESSDALEN. The aim of the project was to find out what this strange phenomenon in Hessdalen and nearby areas was. Even if we didn't succeed in that, we hoped

to find out at least a little more about these lights than we previously knew.

The project consisted of a "working committee", which had the responsibility of running the project, and an "advisory committee", which should help the working committee in the theoretical part of the project.

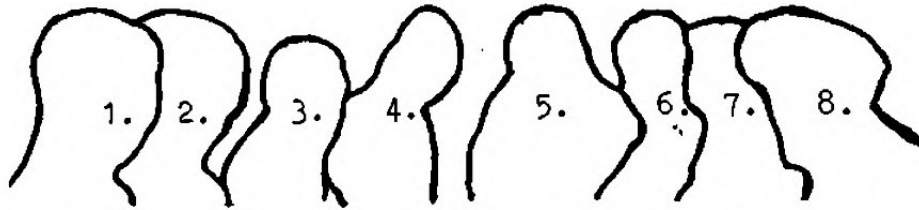
It should also act as an expert group and answer questions from the working committee. The fact is that the advisory committee got very little work from the working committee, because we managed to build up a local expert group which consisted of people from the Norwegian Defense Research Establishment (NDRE), The University of Oslo, and the University of Bergen, and on occasion, the University of Trondheim also.

The project first went "public" on June 3, 1983. On August 27, 1983, it was presented to the third BUFORA International UFO Congress in England. During the autumn of 1983, a research program was established. On November 19, 1983, the project was presented to the inhabitants of Hessdalen and surrounding areas. During the first part of January 1984, an information bulletin, explaining the project, together with a simple report form, which people should return to us, was sent out to 3,300 households in the district. The work in the field, with all the instrumentation, started on January 21, 1984, and ended on February 26, 1984.

The primary instrumentation of the Project took place between February 11th to the 26th, although prior to that we had a "test weekend," during which 22 observers were present. They were divided among three main locations, including Aspaskjolen, where the headquarters caravan, or trailer, was parked, Finnsahoga and Fjellbekkhoga. During the primary observation period itself Aspaskjolen remained the base of operations, while the field stations were moved to Hersjoen and Litfjellet.



Project Hessdalen members from both UFO-NORWAY and UFO-SWEDEN pictured with the late Dr. J. Allen Hynek at the 3rd BUFORA International UFO Congress, London, 1983. 1. Erling Strand; 2. Odd-Gunnar Roed; 3. Dr. J. A. Hynek; 4. Christer Nordin; 5. Hakan Ekstrand; 6. Ulf Elkstedt; 7. Kristin; 8. Jan Fjellander.



During both trial sessions and the main part of the project, numerous observations of the lights were made. Photographs were taken of the lights, and various other instruments were used to record the phenomenon. What follows is a brief summary of some of the observations made just after the trial sessions.

RADAR RETURNS

Two days after the trial tests (Jan. 25, 1984) an observation was made during which phenomena were observed both visually and on radar at the same time. This happened at 5:32 pm, January 27, 1984. An oblong-shaped light was observed to the southwest of Finnsahogda. The light moved in a northerly direction and could be observed until it disappeared over the horizon. The light had a white and red color which blinked at uneven intervals. Radar returns were made as the light passed directly to the west of the observation point, but this phenomenon was not photographed.

At 3:49 pm, on January 28, 1984, "something" was detected by the radar. An oval-shaped strong echo moved in a southwesterly direction to the west of us. The echo signal

appeared in size to be about one-third larger than a single-engine aircraft. The "object" on the screen moved quickly and divided into two parts on the north side of Rognefjellet. One part moved towards the mountain, while the other moved towards Hessdalen (the valley). As this happened during daylight hours, and in good visibility, it is reasonable to assume that something could be seen with the naked eye, but nothing was. Nevertheless, 14 single frames of film were shot in the direction of the echo, but nothing showed up on the film when it was developed later.

The following day, January 29, 1984, at 4:19 pm, radar contact was obtained with "something" moving north, this time on the east side of the base station. The distance was about 500 meters and the shape of the echo might indicate that something was descending. On January 31, 1984, at 7:01 pm, an echo was detected from Rognefjellet, passing on the west side of Aspaskjolen. Nothing was observed with the naked eye. It should be noted that long hours of continued observation of the radar screen, with nothing unusual registered, resulted in the observers becoming tired and starting to turn their attention to something else less

boring. But then when an occasional glance was made of the radar screen, "something" was there. This repeated itself on numerous occasions. However, we cannot explain why the source of the echo could not be seen with the naked eye.

On February 1, 1984, at 3:49 pm, we had a radar contact with "something" traveling north, from Varhushjolen, along Finnsahoga towards Hammerkneppen. Nothing was observed with the naked eye again. The next day, February 2nd, I was reflecting on the relevant observation times of so-called daylight observations. Realizing that several observations had occurred at 2:05 pm, the thought came to mind to check the radar screen, and sure enough, right on time at 2:05 pm, 3 strong echoes were registered east of Aspaskjolen, moving north. Exactly 30 minutes later more echoes were observed on the screen, this time on the west side of Aspaskjolen, but moving north also. These last 3 echoes were detected at every other sweep of the radar. Could this be caused by a wave movement which had been observed earlier?

More echoes were to come — at 3:46 pm, 2 echoes south of Kjolen; at 3:49 pm, 1 echo west of Kjolen; at

3:51 pm, 1 echo south of Kjolen. Then at 3:53 pm, the electric power supply suddenly went off for about 15 seconds, then gradually returned to normal after about a minute or so. In this connection I contacted a person on the nearby farm from which we obtained our power supply. He admitted to having pulled a switch which might have cut off the electricity, but insisted that this was closer to 4:00 pm, as he had observed the time when he arrived at the farm, and it was then 3:50 pm. The man had performed several tasks before going out into the barn and could not have achieved this in 3 minutes. Besides the power should have come back on immediately when the switch was turned back on. None of the neighbors had noted any power failure. A small transformer was, by the way, located about 150 meters from the base station.

At 4:03 pm, 2 echoes were registered traveling north. Later that evening we had an observation of something which we like to say was "first class". This Thursday night was the only one out of the whole month of intense radar surveillance, that no one was watching the radar. I was sitting at Jon Aspas's with a good cup of coffee, when the telephone rang. The neighbor informed us that "now it's coming". Hardly had the receiver been put down when the phone rang again. This time it was Lars Lillevoid who had seen "it." From this moment on everything happened very fast. I literally jumped into my shoes and dived outside, managing to seize a camera with a 400 mm telephoto lens as my only "weapon". A well-lighted, oblong light, yellowish in color and red in front, passed on a northerly course; the time was 8:11 pm. It moved with a wavelike motion. This light source was observed by at least 9 persons and from 3 different locations. The photographs taken were probably not too successful.

On Friday, February 3, 1984, at least 31 radar echoes were registered between 3:12 pm, and 5:04 pm, at distances ranging from 450 to 2000 meters. Although observers were stationed at 2 locations in the moun-



Philip Mantle, MUFON representative for England.

tains, nothing unusual was observed. The next day, February 4, 1984, 4 echoes were observed between 1:40 pm and 2:29 pm. As time passed, we noticed that many hours of intense surveillance seldom produced results and the phenomena often was discovered through an accidental glance out through the caravan window.

COINCIDENCES

Since the autumn of 1982, I have been through a number of odd "coincidences," the nature of which it must be permissible to wonder about. On 4 separate occasions it happened that we came to the top of Varuskjolen, stopped the car, went outside and there "it" came immediately and passed by us. The same thing happened once on Aspaskjolen.

All these instances happened at different times of the day and most of the time it was an impulse which made us take an evening trip to Hessdalen by car. It also happened that we cancelled some trips. Personally, I have certain reservations about believing that a possible plasma phenomenon can appear "on order". On some occasions other observers had been looking for hours without suc-

cess. It might be argued that this is not so unusual, but when the coincidences are repeated a countless number of times there is reason to wonder.

"Coincidences" also happened to the video equipment which recorded the radar screen. One evening the pen of the magnetograph failed to work. At the same time the video tape had come to an end, and the phenomenon appeared less than one minute later. The next evening we made certain that the pen had sufficient ink and turned on the video recorder 10 minutes later than the night before. We thought that now everything was ready for the usual 10:47 pm "message". The video tape ran out at 10:57 pm and we thought that tonight "it" had failed us. But at 10:58 pm the usual phenomenon appeared. Such occurrences may happen due to coincidences, but at the end of the project period almost everything started to happen by coincidence. I would suggest these coincidences are an argument against the Hessdalen phenomena being of natural origin.

Another interesting example is the following one: One person living on Aspas, suddenly got the "idea" or

feeling that she should go outside. As soon as she did, she observed a lighted spheroid passing by. One must ask what causes persons to stop

what they are doing and go outside to observe something strange. This should strengthen theories pointing towards the Hessdalen phenomenon

being of far greater interest than plasma or meteorological interpretations.

Site Instrumentation

By Erling Strand

The main purpose of the Hessdalen project was to try and find out what the "Hessdalen Phenomenon" was, or at least to discover more about it than we already knew. To achieve this various instruments were utilized which together could measure most of what we considered of value.

Cameras with grating filters proved the most efficient means of gathering information about the Hessdalen phenomena and pointed to the most pertinent questions. Are the lights a continuous spectrum or not? Are they a thermal or plasma process, and if so, what gases are involved? Plasma phenomena like the aurora borealis, for example, should provide a line spectra for future analysis. Answering any of these questions would help to eliminate competing hypotheses as well as indicating the directions subsequent investigations should take. In all, we obtained six grating readings, three of which were specifically designed for spectral analysis. Numerous different single lens reflex cameras were used, along with a wide variety of telephoto lenses. Literally dozens of the lights were captured on film, several examples of which accompany this article.

The seismograph is an instrument that can measure any and all movements in the earth's crust. We installed a MEQ 800 seismograph in Hessdalen. This is the same type of seismograph that is used all over the world to measure any large earthquakes. This type of seismograph is also very capable of measuring any local tremors which might not be picked up by other stations. The seismograph was installed in Hessdalen on October 24, 1983, and we never recorded any local seismic

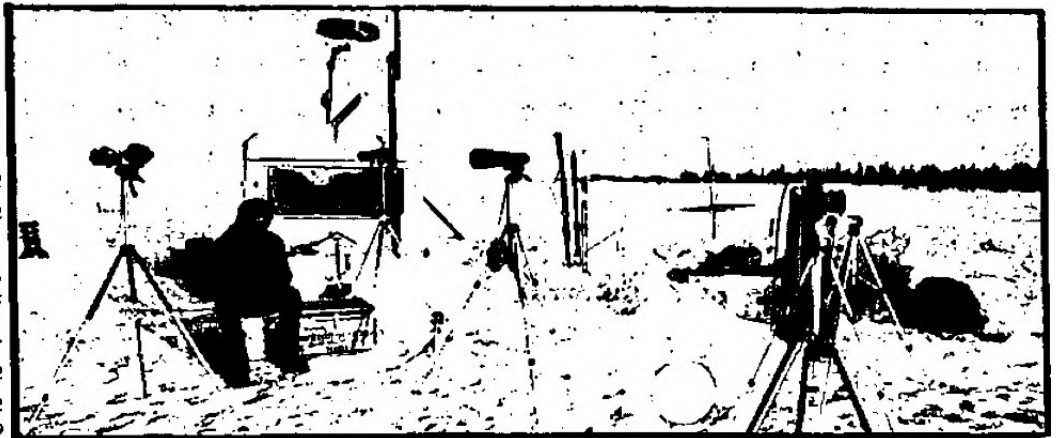
activity in the area. There has been very little seismic activity in Hessdalen over previous years. During the six years prior to 1983, there had been only four small tremors within a 70 km radius of Hessdalen. Over a radius of 50 km there had been 15 minor tremors over the last 100 years. At present, no connection between seismic activity and the Hessdalen phenomenon has been found.

In total, we had 36 radar recordings. Three of these were also observed with the naked eye. All of the others were not seen by the naked eye. On nine occasions out of the 36 recordings, the radar echo on the screen traveled on a nearly straight line. We took a number of photographs where the returns were coming from in the sky, but none of the photographs showed anything at all. On two occasions we managed to photograph the radar return on the screen. These two reflections were very strong and stood out just as clear and defined as the surrounding mountains. Such a

strong return can be caused by a solid object, by a temperature inversion, and by humidity or pressure. The radar photographs were analyzed by a radar expert from the Norwegian Defense Research Establishment (NDRE) and he stated that "if this isn't a reflection of a solid object, but only some kind of gas in the air, the gas has to be locally and strongly ionised. Otherwise, it would not give such a strong reflection." We did not obtain radar returns from all the lights. The reason being that mostly we had the radar adjusted to show up anything within a radius of 5.5 km. On the three occasions that we did have both radar and visual observations of the lights we had the radar adjusted for a much greater radius.

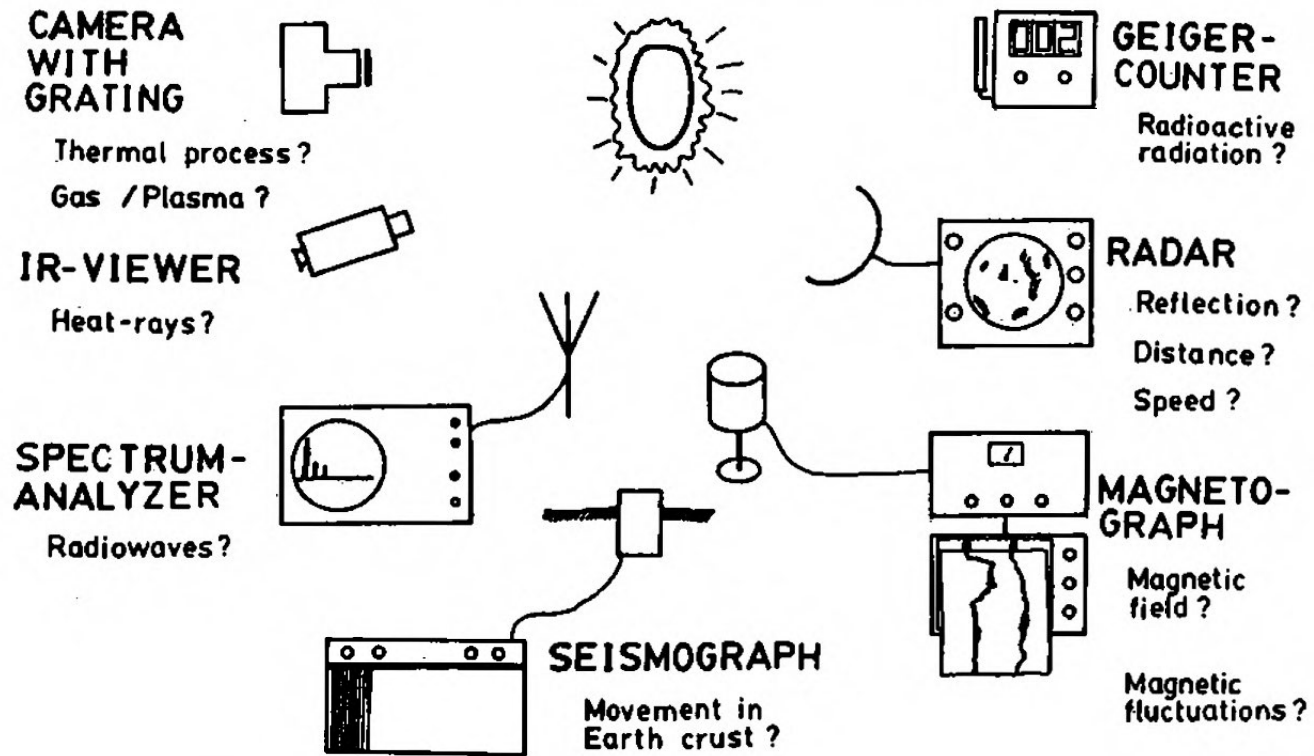
RADAR/VISUALS

The first time we obtained a radar/visual of the lights was on Saturday, January 21, 1984, at 17:50. It was a light that traveled towards the



Project researcher Leif Havik with photographic equipment outside Headquarters caravan.

HESSDALS-PHENOMENON



north over Finnsahoga. When it was in the north, it almost stopped moving before suddenly descending vertically and going out of sight. We obtained one radar return in the same direction (+ or - 5 degrees) when the light dropped vertically.

The second radar/visual was on Wednesday, January 24, 1984, at 17:32. A large light came from the south, moving towards the north over Finnsahoga. When the light was just over Finnsahoga, there was a return on the radar in the same direction as the light seen by our observers. On the next radar sweep no returns were seen. On the sweep after that, it was seen again. No more radar returns were seen as the light moved off towards the north.

The third radar/visual was on Friday, January 27, 1984, at 22:58. A light was observed traveling from south to north. The speed of the light was very fast. There were two returns on the screen. The time between these two returns was 2.4 seconds, and the distance between them was about 20 km. Just after it was

observed on the radar, the radar operator went outside and was informed by the observers outside that they had observed a light which seemed to correspond with the image picked up on the radar screen.

The radar proved an invaluable piece of equipment. Although some of the radar returns could have been better, with further study the radar could go a long way in helping us find out what we are dealing with in Hessdalen. The type of radar used was an Atlas 2000.

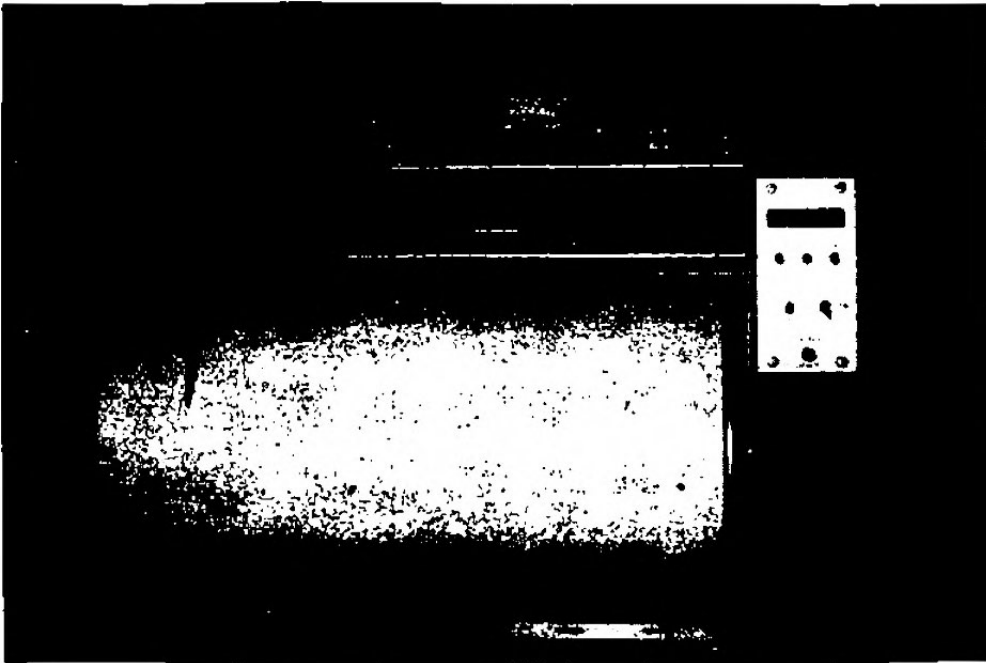
SPECTRUM ANALYZER

If a wideband antenna is connected to the spectrum analyzer, all radio signals will be visible on the screen. Long wave, medium wave and short wave is in the range from 160 KHz to 30 MHz. FM radio is in the range of 80 MHz to 100 MHz. The VHF television signal is about 170 MHz to 190 MHz. We had the spectrum analyzer adjusted so that we could see all radio waves (electromagnetic) from 100 KHz to 1250

MHz, which meant that we received all radio and TV signals simultaneously. At no time did we see anything on the spectrum analyzer while the lights were in view. But we did get some unknown readings at other times when no lights were visible.

MAGNETOMETER

A magnetometer measures the strength and direction of the earth's magnetic field. The instrument we utilized, model FM 100, can be used to measure magnetic activity high into the atmosphere. Magnetic storms, which are especially strong during aurora borealis, give high meter readings. This instrument was connected to a continuous graphic printer, in order that variations in the magnetic field could be read at any time. The results from these readings will be compared to those from other stations at Dombos and Andoya. We will then hopefully be able to learn if there are any special magnetic activities over Hessdalen or if the phenomena are activated at times of special



MEQ 800 Seismograph to register Earth movement.

magnetic activity in the atmosphere, or if the phenomena is surrounded by a strong magnetic field. After the project had ended, and the magnetometer readings had been studied carefully, we could find no correlation with the lights and the readings obtained.

LASER

We used the laser and pointed it at the lights a total of nine times. Eight out of the nine times when we did this, we managed to obtain a reaction from

the lights. On one occasion there was a regular flashing light slowly moving towards the north. The date was January 12, 1984 at 19:35 pm. The light flashed very regularly all of the time until we pointed the laser at it, that is. As soon as the laser was aimed at the light it changed its flashing sequence from a regular flashing light to a regular double flashing light, i.e., flash-flash ... flash-flash ... flash-flash. After about 10 seconds we stopped the laser and the light immediately changed back to its previous flashing sequence of flash ... flash ... flash. After about another 10

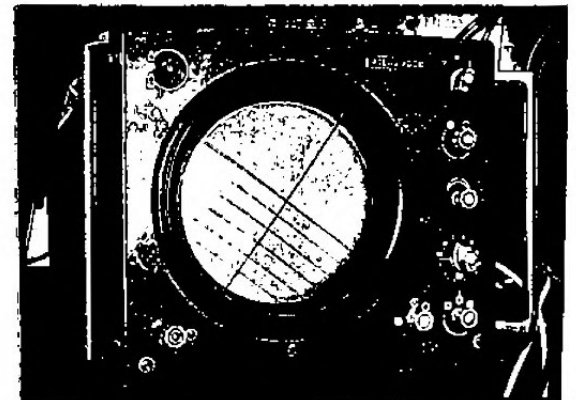
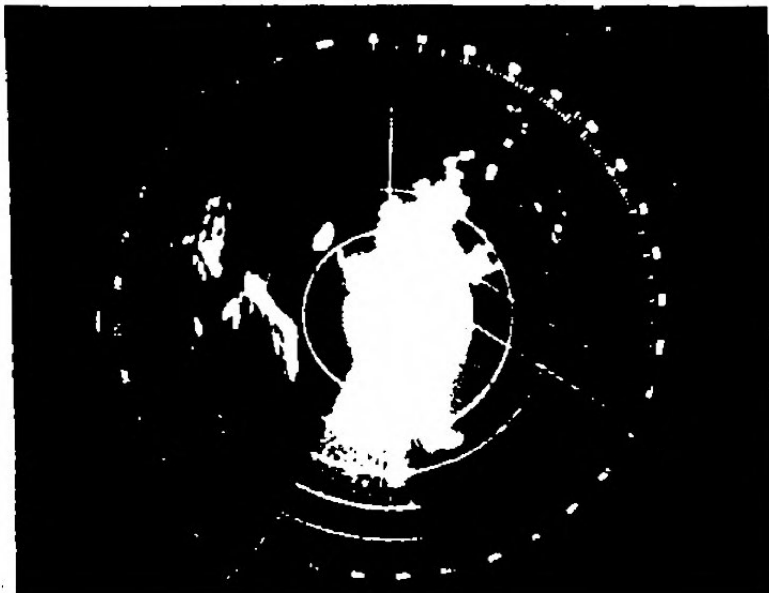
seconds we repeated the exercise and again the light responded by changing to a double-flash sequence. In all we repeated this exercise four times and every time we got the same reaction from the light.

GEIGERCOUNTER

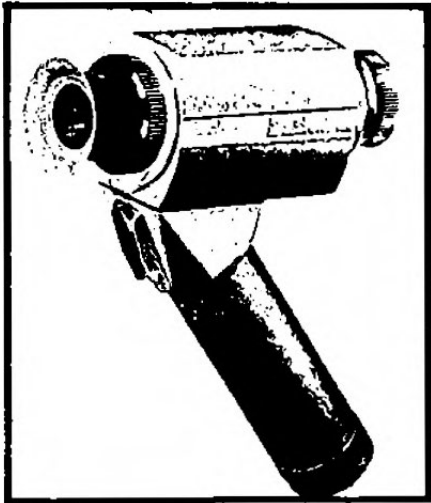
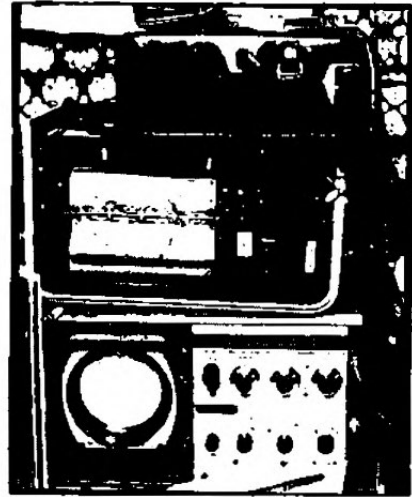
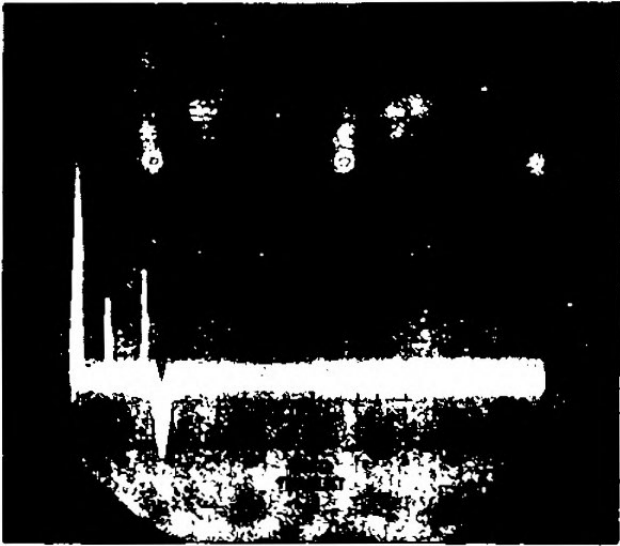
The geigercounters we used made a beeping sound every time they made a measurement. They were functioning continuously throughout the project but no reaction was measured by the geigercounters while the lights were visible. This may not be surprising since we never came within 1 km of the lights.

INFRARED VIEWER

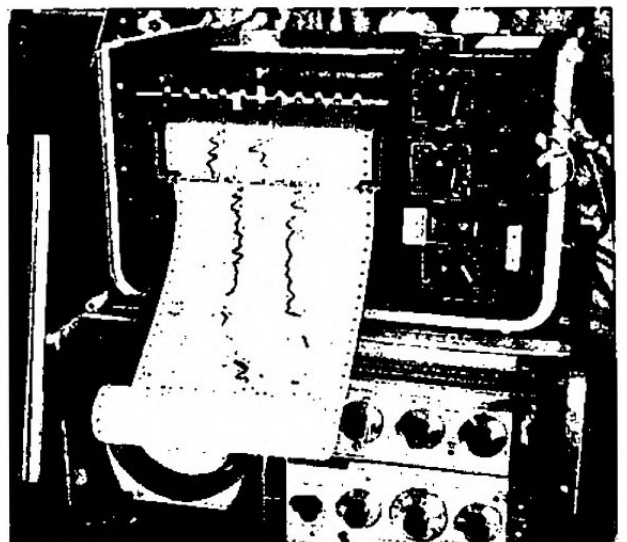
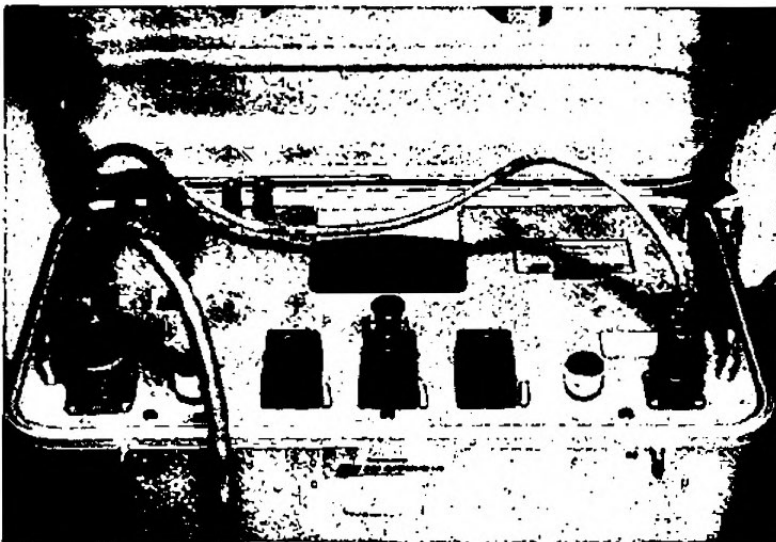
On the two occasions when the lights were observed through the IR viewer there was no IR radiation visible. The viewer was used only on lights a long way off. The power from the lights could have been too weak to be detected. It should be made clear that with hindsight more use should have been made of the viewer and at this moment in time we do not have sufficient data on the use of this instrument to comment further.



Atlas 2000 radar unit, above. Illuminated screen inside Headquarters caravan, left.



Clockwise from above left: Screen of spectrum analyzer; analyzer with other equipment ; radar screen showing surrounding mountains; magnetometer print-out; magnetometer model Fm 100; and Project infrared viewer.



Hessdalen Photographs

By Odd-Gunnar Roed

During the whole of the project, dozens of color photographs of the lights were taken. Some of these photographs were time exposures, i.e., the camera's shutter was left open for a number of seconds which resulted in the lights being elongated in appearance, when in fact the light was round or oval in shape. All of the cameras used were tripod-mounted to reduce blurring the photographic image. It is virtually impossible to reproduce some of the photographs in black and white and the sheer volume of photographs taken prevents us from using only a small handful. However, we believe that the photographs that follow are fairly representative of the Hessdalen phenomenon.

These first four photographs were taken by Mr. Roar Wister on Saturday, February 18, 1984, at 8:18 pm. The photographs were taken facing a northeasterly direction and the duration from the first photograph to the last photograph was two minutes.

The light is marked for easier observation, but it is easy to see that the light was at a low altitude and was traveling fairly slowly from left to right. It is also noticeable that the light also changes shape during the photographic sequence. The reason for this is unknown.

The first attempt to analyze some of the photographs was done using a spectral photograph. A spectral photograph will definitely reveal whether or not the source is a solid object or some sort of plasma, or even a combination of both. During the project we were unsuccessful in obtaining sufficient data from such photographs and we feel that further analysis of this sort is needed.

Once the project ended and we were busy studying the various results we had achieved, it was decided that further analysis of the photographs was needed. This was carried out by



GSW in America, the results of which are shown in full later in this report.

What is the phenomenon and what do we know about it? We have not yet answered the first question and perhaps this could be expected. But we do know that the phenomenon, whatever it is, can be measured.

Besides the light measurement, it can be "measured" by radar and laser. Perhaps the measurements we did on the magnetograph and spectrum analyzer were due to the phenomenon as well. We have to do more measurements before we can be sure of that.

We obtained no unusual measurements at all from the geigercounter, the seismograph or the infrared viewer. But I will prefer to use these instruments again in the next period. It might also be useful to record events that seem unimportant. We stand in front of something unknown and we must collect everything that might lead us to answers.

Some hypothesis of what the phenomenon is might be weakened or strengthened after analyzing the measurements in the project. However, the different hypotheses will not be discussed here. Further discussion is needed on the phenomena and further measurements have to be carried out. Then perhaps we can



Dr. J. Allen Hynek at Hessdalen Headquarters, 1985.

plan our strategy for the next project.

But in the meantime, despite all the measurements with the various instruments, despite all of the eye witness observations of the lights, despite all the photographs and the computer analysis of such photographs, we still do not know what this phenomenon is nor do we know its origin. Perhaps in our next project we will find out.

If anyone is interested in reading more about the Hessdalen Project, then they are advised to purchase a copy of the Project Hessdalen Report, Final Technical Report Part One, by Erling Strand, from: UFO-NORWAY, Postbox 14, 3133 Duken, Norway. I can assure you it does make fascinating reading.

GSW Photoanalysis

By Fred Adrian & William Spaulding

ANALYSIS

A collage of color and black and white photographs was forwarded to GSW for computer analysis by Paul Norman. The anomalistic phenomena pictures represent a series of inarticulate light sources taken during a flurry of reports of UO (unidentified objects) by a team in Norway, using scientific methods and applying a serious research effort to identify the source (origin) of the images.

All major modes of computer processing were used during the evaluation. At no time did GSW attempt to use any of the sighting descriptive data and apply it to the photograph. Each photograph was treated as a separate entity and appropriately evaluated. For ease of reporting our data, each photo was numbered 1 through 8.

The following information was obtained.

Photo 1

Two white lights with a red light.

The lights were very bright and measured nearly the same density. They appear to be elongated in shape, as opposed to being elongated due to "object" movement within the field of camera view.

The size of the light images, as measured with video micrometers, are nearly equal in length.

There is no evidence of any

"structure" behind or adjacent to the light sources. Distance calculations, based on distortion measurement techniques, appear to show that the lights were photographed at a far distance from the camera.

Photos 2, 3 and 4

Single, bright light source.

The subject single light source photos are nearly the same size and density and were evaluated as a system, although photographed on separate occasions (based on the data provided to GSW).

The subject lights (photos 2 and 3) reveal a light band (aura) effect permeating around the circumference of the light image.

The photographic data within the center of the light image reveals a non-symmetrical shaped source.

Photo 4 reveals "object" movement, accounting for the elongated shape.

Photos 5, 6 and 7

Single, bright light source.

The symmetry between photos 5 and 6 is equal.

The density, as compared to all three pictures, is nearly constant.

The aura effect on these photographs is similar to the banding (of light) noted in photos 2 through 4.

This series of pictures indicates that this unknown light source is close to the ground. The brilliance from the light is illuminating structures on the ground.

There is no evidence of a hoax technique applied to these photographs.

Photo 8

Light streak across photo field of view.

A 75mm lens has a field of view of approximately 32 degrees. Assuming that the photo used for analysis was not cropped, the unknown light has transversed approximately 82 percent or 26 degrees of sky, with an exposure time of 10 seconds. This object (light) was not traveling very fast and is well within the parameters of an aircraft.



Photo #1 showing elongated shapes.

However, the oscillation pattern is too tight and symmetrical for a common wing light. NOTE: All calculations could be off considerably, if there was wobble in the camera mount.

The density of the "streak" dims and brightens as the unknown light crosses the camera's field of view.

Distortion calculations indicate that the unknown light is at an appreciable

distance from the camera.

CONCLUSIONS

Although most nocturnal light photos can be simply replicated by photographing landing and wing lights of aircraft, xenon lights on helicopters or simple pen lights, (with and without mirrors), photos 5, 6 and 7 do

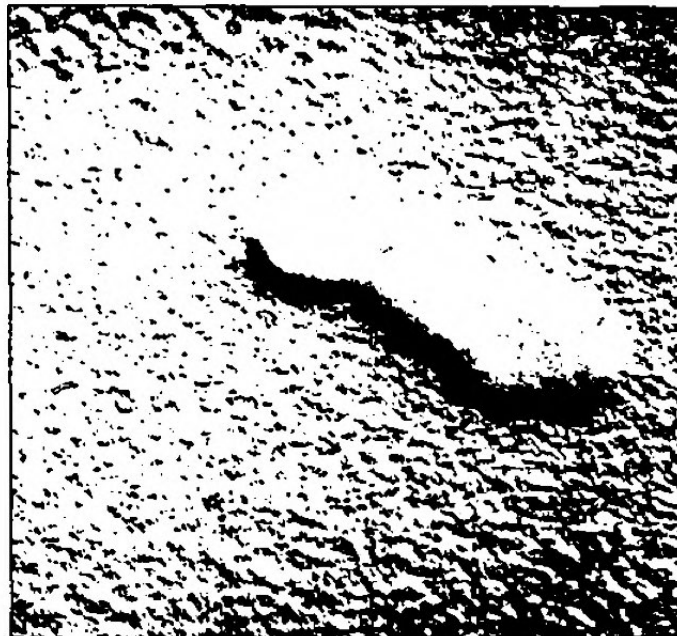
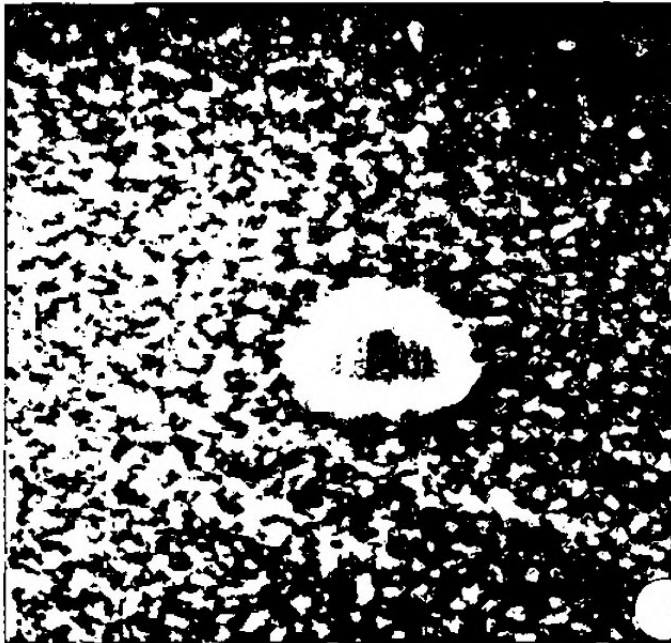


Photo #4. Elongated shape due to movement.



Computer photo of light source just above ground.

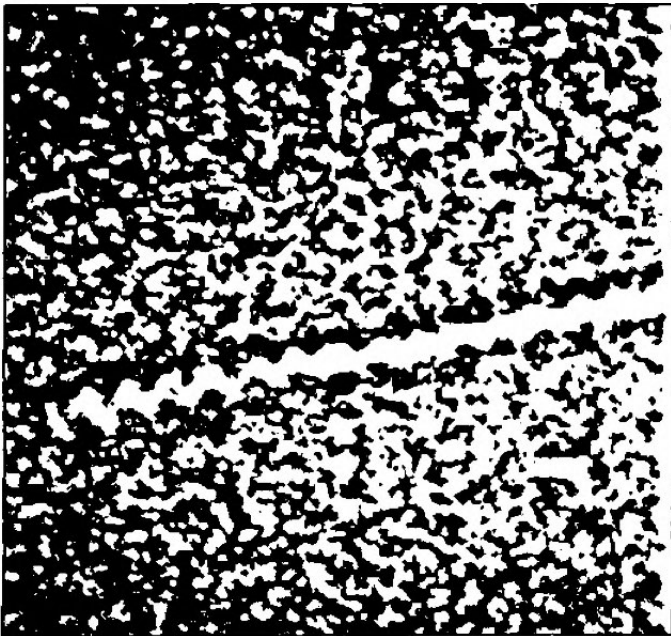
not lend themselves to this possibility.

While NATO and the Soviet Union have been testing RPVs (remotely piloted vehicles) and slow moving drones in the Scandinavian countries for years, photos 5 through 7 do not fully meet this criteria.

Although there was no photographic evidence uncovered (such as a structured surface) which would aid

in the identification, conventional sources cannot be overlooked as the stimulus for many of these cases. However, in the case of photo number 5, if sufficient observational data (such as no sound heard during the sighting) exists, then we would consider this incident an unknown to all conventional sources/origins.

A black and white photograph of



Light streak shown in photo #8, computer picture.

an unidentified object (UO) was also forwarded to GSW for computer image enhancement via Paul Norman. The subject photo was taken in a nocturnal sky and contains numerous artifacts. The exposure was taken using a grated camera and a "light-streak" was produced for spectrum analysis.

The photograph contains no foreground or background evaluation reference and appears as a bright, yet nebulous light source. Since the complete camera/film data was not supplied, a detailed report cannot be provided. The following represents the findings of the evaluation.

- The "double image" light source is extremely bright and compares on a microdensitometry level to that of point "A" (0) circled on the light spectrum streak. The level is well within the angstrom level of visible light range.

- The exact shape of the UO is extremely difficult to gauge due to its brilliance and the effect of light "spillover" from this source.

- The appendage in the upper right hand quadrant of the UO appears to be a beam of light that is highly directional. Void, however of the complete lens/exposure parameters, one could argue that the "light beam" could be attributable to object-image movement.

- Void of photographic references, it is impossible to gauge the UO's distance from the camera.

- There is no evidence to suggest that the subject photo was retouched or hoaxed in any manner (although the picture is of poor copy quality).

- GSW Photo 1 (computer output) reveals the brilliance of the image as well as the light spillover intensity.

CONCLUSION

Due to the moderate strangeness of the subject UO and its high intensity, there is good argument against the light being attributable to a ground source, e.g. a vehicle with a small spotlight. Better, however, is the possibility that an airborne heli-

copter or surveillance fixed-wing craft, using a larger (brighter) spotlight, could be the source of the UO. It is well within the realm of possibility that the Hessdalen Project did attract some "official" interest and a simple overflight in a helicopter or similar craft is probable.

The measured effects of the light, as well as its observational characteristics, support a helicopter spotlight hypothesis. However, the witness observational data should be used to enable the photographer to rule out the helicopter theory based on the elevation of the camera to the image, any associated rotor noise and specific camera data parameter, e.g. what was the exposure time?

Should these data not be answerable, then a case could be made relative to the UO being an unknown object of unknown origin.

RADAR RETURNS

The two photographs showing a "radar target" from Hessdalen Project sightings were also forwarded to GSW for evaluation. The two color pictures of the targets on the radar screen contain anomalous reflections due to poor photographic techniques.

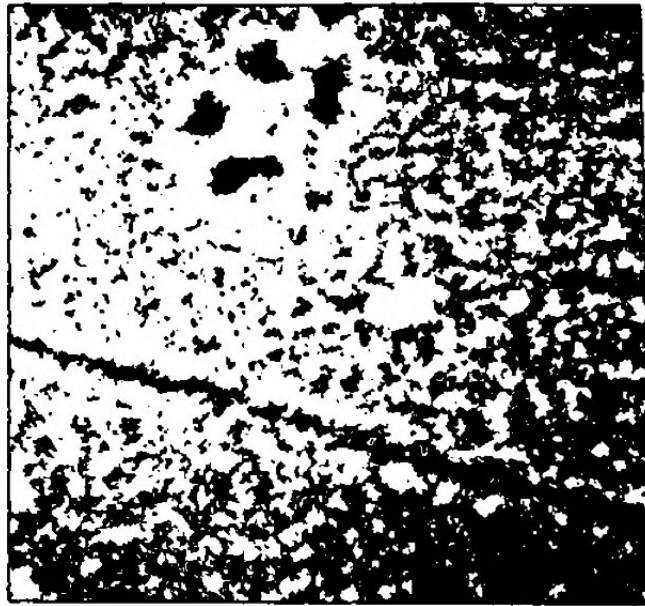
The photo enhancement and interpretation of the radar targets is extremely difficult. Initially, we are working, for all technical purposes, with a picture from a glass-based surface. Secondly, we are dealing with a sound reflection from an "object" that is reflecting radar waves on to a CRT.

Not all of our "UFO software" worked on these pictures and therefore we used a collage of modified programs to interpret (or should I say attempt to interpret) these pictures. The following was ascertained.

- The signal from the target appears to be a solid, therefore, a return from a good radar-reflecting source.

- The shape of the "return" is non-symmetrical and is more dense in the center (reference the color computer photos).

- The return appears to be more indicative of one from a water-laden cloud, which would explain the shape of the targets.



GSW computer picture of Hessdalen radar returns.

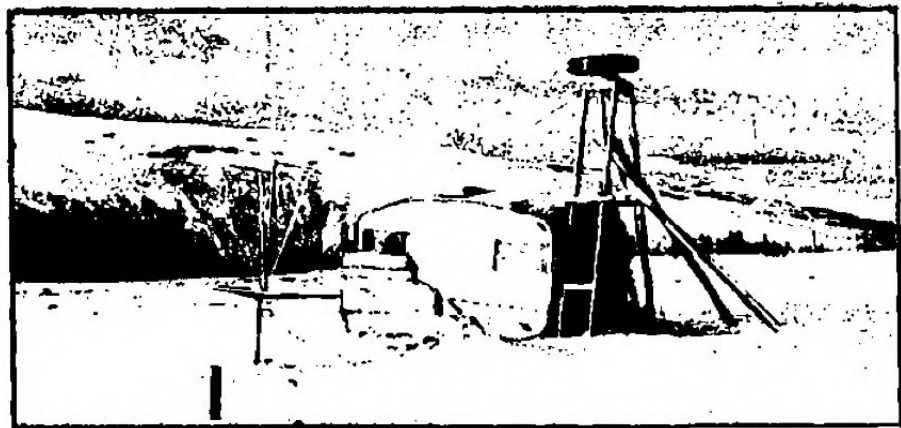
- The edges (periphery) of the returns are tenuous. This could be attributable, however, to the photographic technique employed by the photographer, rather than attributable to the radar target itself.

CONCLUSIONS

If the weather report can be substantiated that the target is not connected to the environmental conditions during the time the photograph

was taken and if all tests were conducted by the equipment operator to verify that the image is not a radar "ghost", then the returns could be connected to the sightings of strange aerial phenomena.

This is the best that we can do with this type of photograph. An expert radar operator from the FAA or similar organization, given sufficient data on this incident, should be able to provide additional insight to these events.



Hessdalen Headquarters caravan. The radar antenna is atop the tower at right.



Figure 1.

Time exposure photograph taken at a place called Arendal. The original color photograph shows a yellow-orange light moving across the sky.



Figure 2.

Also taken at Arendal. The original color photograph depicts a large orange light with a yellowish center.

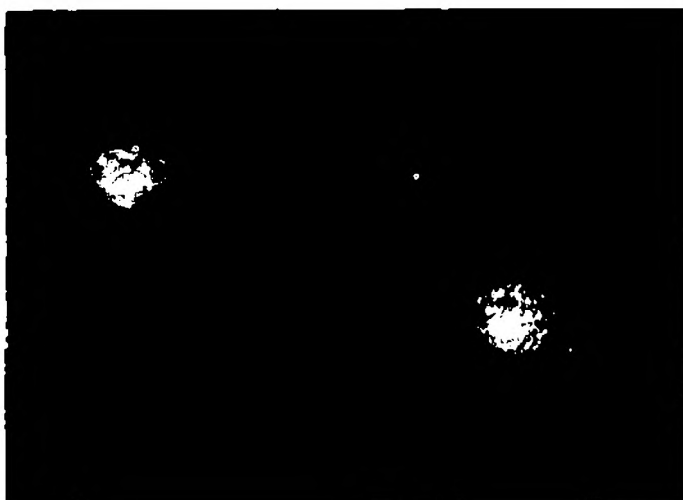


Figure 3.

This photograph was taken at Hessdalen on 12-2-1983, at 17:53 hours. Again the original photograph is in color. The two round lights are blue in the middle with a green band around the edges.

On The Nature of UFO Reports

By Dr. Willy Smith
UNICAT Project

Dr. Willy Smith directs the computerized UNICAT Project

As Dr. Hynek never tired of repeating, "We don't have UFOs, we have only UFO reports," and they are our only basis for studying the phenomenon.

The reports that reach the researcher are a mixed bag, spanning a wide range of quality and content. Yet, we find in the literature a lack of consistency and precision in the terminology used to describe and qualify them. I propose in this paper to closely look at the different types of UFO reports in an attempt to provide more appropriate definitions.

First of all, I will use the term "raw" reports" for the ensemble of all UFO reports before any screening attempt has been performed. Most, if not all, the listings and catalogs used by the ufological community are in fact collections of raw reports, as they contain all the types discussed below.

A few examples are:

- **USAF Blue Book** — The final count of the Air Force UFO catalog was 12,618 of which 701 remained "unidentified" at the end of the project in 1969.

- **UFOCAT** — Since the above was included in toto in UFOCAT, it follows that this listing also contains all possible types of UFO reports.

- **The Vallee Catalog** — This catalog is often identified as Magonia, in reference to the title of the book in which it was initially published (Ref. 1). It is without doubt the world's best-known catalog and has been used by generations of ufologists as an undisputed source of information, in spite of its obvious shortcomings(*). No criticism had ever been directed at Magonia until as recently as 1979, when Barthel and Brucker published their controversial book (Ref. 2).

Perusing through mountains of UFO reports, I have acquired a perspective that allows me to recognize and classify several types of reports contained in the catalogs of raw cases. I do not expect my list to be exhaustive, but it will be a starting point in what I have come to consider a fundamental step, if not the most important step, in UFO research, namely the purging of as many spurious cases as possible from the catalogs used for analysis. It really surprises me that this has not been pursued more energetically before, as it is self-evident that the quality of the results is limited by the quality of the data used. Yet, with a few exceptions (Ref. 3), not much work has been done in this direction.

FALSE REPORTS

I do not mean here an IFO masquerading as a UFO for lack of proper research, but reports known to be false that have nevertheless been included in the catalogs. Perhaps the main offender in this category is UFOCAT, as by transferring all the Blue Book cases it included the identified incidents as well as the unknown. In addition, UFOCAT listed many cases with incorrectly coded information, such as date and location; since there is no way to distinguish them, they are in fact false cases.

Some misguided efforts have been made to artificially create listings of false cases that could be used for statistical comparison with the real UFOs. One such listing is FALSE-

(* I will use examples from Magonia in what follows, for two reasons: the catalog has been translated into many languages, and thus is universally accessible; and also, it is rather simple to refer to, as for instance CV #234 will simply indicate case 234 in Magonia.

CAT, a catalog of imaginary cases developed by the UNICAT Project, now discontinued as a total failure.

In some instances, the false cases include incidents that have no relation whatsoever with the UFO phenomenon, but which have become entrenched in the literature perhaps because they were included in Magonia. The most unfortunate example is the Mattoon incident (CV #51).

NON-CASES

No incident should be really considered a UFO case unless a minimum of information is provided: date, time, place, witnesses and sources. Perhaps the most important of these items is the origin of the information, which allows future researchers to assess the validity of the case.

I have coined the term "non-cases" for those incidents lacking one or more of these elementary and essential pieces of information. It is surprising how well-known and respected authors have fallen into that trap. For instance (see Ref. 3), Poher's catalog lists the following case, for which all the available information reads:

"And on October 16 (1965), a four-foot disk touched briefly within a hundred feet of students at the Elementary School in Spring Grove, Pennsylvania," which I have copied from the source listed by Poher (Ref. 4). The original source remains unknown: a typical non-case.

A large portion of these non-cases can be tracked down to media sources, often enough obscure provincial newspapers impossible to verify. Magonia contains numerous examples of non-cases, many for the years before 1947 (for example, CV #43), but also from more recent times (CV #64, CV #65, CV #74, CV #171, CV

NON-EVIDENTIAL

In general, the narratives for this type of cases contain the basic information and some more, but any effort to find additional details using the listed references is doomed to fail.

The end of the trail is varied. In some cases, the whole story is based on letters written by a single witness, who often writes well and convincingly but does not provide any supporting evidence. Or worse, a careful analysis of the letters, if more than one, reveals fatal inconsistencies. A good example is provided by "the Botta affair" (Ref. 5), which I have studied in some depth, but many similar cases exist in the literature. A prime candidate is the Villa Santina episode (Ref. 6). I must emphasize that I am not saying this incident is a fraud: I am merely pointing out that it has no scientific value because it is based on the testimony of a single letter and has no supporting evidence.

In other instances, the attempt to recover the original sources terminates with the discovery that the story is based on second or third-hand narratives, and has no supporting evidence.

A beautiful example of how misleading some accounts may be is found in a recently published book authored by a serious researcher (Ref. 7). The incident occurred near Algeciras, Spain, in 1959, and apparently two firsthand investigations had been effected. However, the analysis not only shows that the two versions contain serious discrepancies, but it so happens that the better of the "firsthand" versions is no more than a 1985 interview with the son of the witness, who was 8 years old at the time of the events! (Ref. 8). Yet, the author rates this anecdote as one of the best cases in his book.

Another instance of cases with no scientific value is typified by careless authors who did not bother to check their sources properly. Almost invariably, the listed source is a publication originating in country A, des-

cribing cases allegedly occurring in country B. But the case is unknown in country B and does not figure in any of the listings from that country! In short, it is a nonexistent case.

For instance, many examples of such cases can be found in Ref. 9, among others the Argentinian cases taken from UFO Nachrichten (Germany) and Contact (Great Britain), as well as a few Spanish cases.

From what has been said, one can conclude that almost invariably the cases with no scientific value can be described as being single-witness incidents with no supporting evidence, usually based on dubious newspaper accounts, that somehow have become entrenched in the literature.

UNDECIDED

Presumably, all obvious IFOs have been eliminated from the UFO catalogs and have even been included in separate listings with the hope of using them for comparative statistical studies. Nothing can be farther from the truth.

According to some schools of thought, the distinction between IFOs and UFOS is marginal; in an extreme view all cases remaining as UFOs are so classified only because they have not yet been sufficiently studied. I do not subscribe to this viewpoint, as in my experience, if a case is a true IFO, a careful investigation — which perhaps in many cases has not been done — will identify it as such. Moreover, I believe that there are some heuristic rules, related to the amount of information and the number of witnesses, which help to flag the suspicious cases. On the other hand, when a case is a true UFO, its quality is only enhanced with deeper examination.

Be that as it may, the fact remains that in many instances the analyst is unable to reach a decision because the information provided is insufficient. When and if more details would become known, the incident could be listed as an IFO or UFO, but in the meantime the case remains in limbo; and of course, it would bias any

statistical study. In the UNICAT Project, such cases are included in a catalog appropriately named MAYBECAT. Very few cases have been upgraded from MAYBECAT to UNICAT, but many incidents have been identified and consequently labeled as IFOs.

Without exception, all the existing catalogs that I have examined with some care are typically a mixture of IFOs and UFOs. It would be difficult to correctly assess the proportions because of the high incidence of cases without scientific value, and the inordinate amount of time that would be necessary to screen those catalogs. But I would dare to say that MAGONIA, for instance, does not contain more than 30% of cases with scientific value, while the number does not exceed 10% for Ref. 9, and is of the order of 1% of the raw entries in UFOCAT.

TRUFOS

I cannot resist using the name coined by Dr. Maccabee to indicate those cases that, having resisted the scrutiny of generations of debunkers, still remain unexplained. Those are exceptional cases, supported from many different viewpoints, and studied in depth by numerous investigators.

Indeed, the number of TRUFOS is not extremely large, but there are many excellent reports of high-quality UFO cases; these are the ones we are primarily concerned with in UNICAT. These are also what are called the "residue" by some schools of thought that firmly believe all UFO cases — including photographs! — have either a psycho-sociological explanation or a trivial cause, which remains hidden for unclear reasons.

At present, the UNICAT data base contains about 600 such entries, a number large enough to support some statistical analysis, but we expect this number to increase in due time.

More importantly, we carry on a continuous revision of the cases already entered, as we are quite

(continued on page 22)

LOOKING BACK

By Bob Gribble

FORTY YEARS AGO — January 1948: Shortly after noon on the 7th, the Kentucky State Police reported to the Fort Knox military police that they had sighted an unusual aircraft or object speeding through the air. The object was circular in appearance, approximately 200 to 300 feet in diameter, and moving westward. The Provo Marshal at Fort Knox called the commanding officer at Godman Field, Fort Knox's airstrip. At about 11 AM the tower controller had spotted the object south of Godman Field. About 2:30 P.M. an F-51 flying in the area and piloted by a Captain Mantell, was ordered to check on the strange object. At 2:45 PM Mantell called the tower with this message: "Mantell to tower, I see it, above and ahead of me. I'm still climbing." A few moments later one of Mantell's wingmen was heard to say: "What the hell are we looking for." After a moment Captain Mantell made this reply: "Mantell to tower, the object is directly ahead of me and above me and moving half my speed ... It appears to be a metallic object of tremendous size."

The object is now in visual view of everyone in Godman tower. Then Mantell radioed his final message: "Mantell to tower, I'm trying to close in for a better look. I'll go to 20,000 feet." Shortly thereafter Mantell's wingman reported that Mantell had disappeared. It wasn't until 7 PM that it was discovered that Mantell had crashed.

The best observation of the object was made by Lt. Col. E. Garrison Wood, Deputy Base Commander and Operations Officer. Col. Wood said the UFO was seen in "exactly the same spot the whole time" until 7:30 PM. He tracked it by theodolite, a telescope-like instrument used to measure horizontal and vertical angles. Because it did not move for

the approximate eight hours of observation, Wood was convinced that it was not a planet, balloon or aircraft.

★★★

THIRTY FIVE YEARS AGO — January 1953: At 4:45 PM on the 10th two witnesses observed a small UFO at Sonoma, California, moving at a very fast rate of speed and performing violent maneuvers. The object's sound was similar to that of a jet aircraft. The UFO made three 360-degree right turns in nine seconds then performed abrupt 90-degree turns, first to the right, then to the left. The object then stopped, accelerated to its former speed, went into a fast-speed vertical climb and disappeared.

During the week of the 12th to 19th, a panel of six top-ranking American scientists met in Washington, D.C., at the request of the Air Force to review the then accumulated evidence on UFOs. Captain Edward J. Ruppelt, in charge of the Air Force investigation, discussed in detail with this group of scientists all of the significant information gathered under his direction. This panel of scientists devoted the entire week to thought and study of the evidence and drew up a set of recommendations as follows:

- 1.) The investigative force of the project (Blue Book) should be quadrupled in size.
- 2.) It should be staffed by specially trained experts in the field of electronics, meteorology, photography, physics, and other fields of science pertinent to UFO investigations.
- 3.) Every effort should be made to set up instruments in locations where UFO sightings are frequent, so that data could be measured and recorded during a sighting.
- 4.) In other locations around the country military and civilian scientists should be alerted and instructed to use every piece of

available equipment that could be used to track UFOs. 5.) The American public should be told every detail of every phase of the UFO investigation — the details of the sightings, the official conclusions, and why the conclusions were made. In spite of the recommendations of this panel of illustrious scientists who gave one week of their valuable time to seriously consider the UFO problem, the Air Force by subsequent policy rejected these recommendations and pursued an opposite course.

An Air Force pilot flying an F-86 on a "round-robin" navigation flight from Moody Air Force Base to Lawson AFB to Robins AFB, then back to Moody — all in Georgia — spotted a bright, white circular light over Albany, Georgia at 9:35 PM on the 28th. As he pursued the light he saw that he was getting closer because the light was getting bigger. Then it wasn't white any longer; it was changing color. In about a two-second cycle it changed from white to red, then back to white again.

It went through this cycle two or three times, and then before he could realize what was going on, the light changed in shape to a perfect triangle. Then it split into two triangles, one above the other. Then the two triangles suddenly vanished. When the pilot made radio contact with the Moody ground station he was advised that the UFO chase had been watched on radar. First the radar had the UFO target on the scope. Then the radar operators saw the F-86 approach, climb, and make a shallow dive toward the UFO. At first the F-86 had closed in on the UFO, but then the UFO speeded up just enough to maintain a comfortable lead. This went on for two or three minutes, then the object moved off the scope at a terrific speed. The radar site had tried to contact the pilot, but they

couldn't raise him so the message had to be relayed through the Moody tower.

★★★

THIRTY YEARS AGO — January 1958: Outright Air Force censorship of a nationally televised program on UFOs occurred on the 22nd when Major Donald Keyhoe (USMC, Ret), Director of the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena, ran into stiff opposition when he tried to discuss a secret Air Force letter and other hidden documents on CBS Television's special Armstrong Circle Theater program, "UFO: Enigma of the Skies." During the broadcast of the program, Keyhoe deviated from the censored script and was promptly cut off the air. He referred to "official secrecy on UFOs," and the sound went dead. An announcer's voice explained: "Due to operating difficulties there has been an interruption in the sound portion of the Armstrong Circle Theater. Until difficulties are cleared, we will continue the picture portion." Kenneth Arnold also appeared on the program and he said his script was also censored.

On the 30th, a lawyer, his wife, and their nephew felt an electric shock while driving between Arequipa and Lima, Peru at 11:45 PM. Several seconds later the headlights and engine of their car failed. An inverted mushroom-shaped craft was then observed, about 15 feet in diameter, descending from the sky. Giving off a red glow, the craft hovered over the area for about eight minutes at an altitude of about 150 feet. A truck and a bus were also affected by the presence of the UFO.

★★★

TWENTY FIVE YEARS AGO — January 1963: No significant reports on file for this period.

★★★

TWENTY YEARS AGO — January 1968: Shortly after 11 PM on the 20th, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Ballard were driving near Vermillion, South Dakota when they observed a "very, very large" object resembling "a big ball of red and orange fire." As they got closer to the UFO it appeared to be flickering in a field. "It was a solid

form and it spun at a very high rate of speed," Ballard said. He said it was "20 feet above the ground at times and very close to the ground at other times."

Then the object began following Ballard's car. Ballard increased speed to approximately 100 MPH, but the object kept following. The road was bathed in light. The car's speed hit 110 MPH. Then Mrs. Ballard saw the sphere coming straight at them. "I was very frightened," Ballard said. "I actually thought the craft was going to pick us up. It kept diving at my car, as though it was trying to grab us." Then the UFO ascended and disappeared toward the east. The Ballard's said the orange-red ball appeared about 30 feet in diameter and "at times had a white ring around it."

★★★

FIFTEEN YEARS AGO — January 1973: On the 17th the Santa Ana, California Register published the following startling article: "These columnists (David Branch and Robert Klinn) recently learned that all of the documents, photographs, personal papers, and notes of the late Captain Edward J. Ruppelt, were packed in cardboard boxes and locked in a garage in Long Beach, California ... We secured an invitation to the home of the owner of the documents. The several boxes were carried from the garage to the kitchen table, where we were allowed for several hours to peruse page after page of hundreds of government UFO reports — many never published and some stamped classified (but presumably by now declassified). All had been kept in remarkable, almost mint condition. There was never any question that the documents were authentic; their keeper was Captain Ruppelt's widow. We asked if we had seen everything. No, we had not. There was certain material we could see only if James Phelan, who had been one of Captain Ruppelt's closest friends, would approve. He was called and he approved. And another cardboard box was brought from the garage.

"This material is indeed invaluable to an understanding of government

politics involving the handling of the UFO problem. One section of one Ruppelt notebook is labeled in capital letters: 'ABSOLUTELY NOT FOR ANY TYPE OF PUBLICATION.' It names names and tells inside stories of the generals and other brass most intimately involved with government UFO investigations. Bared are their personal opinions concerning UFOs, their actions and nonactions, and the dynamics of their political influences — certainly never published anywhere.

"Dr. J. Allen Hynek, for 22 years the chief scientific consultant to Project Blue Book, upon learning what this section contains, told us this part was worth the whole 'price of admission.' Material is included here relating subterfuge used by a noted anti-UFO professor from a Big-Ten university in order to gain from Blue Book officially classified material. Ruppelt's documentation of the attitudes of top military officials indicates how the UFO problem was really handled — apart from glossed-over press releases for public consumption.

"One volume of typed pages contains a report of a secret, explosive conference held by the former head of Air Force Intelligence, the late General Charles P. Cabell. Cabell felt he had not been told the whole truth about UFO investigations within his command. He screamed to his subordinates: 'I've been lied to! I've been lied to!' Ruppelt's notes say that unknown to Cabell, a wire recorder under a chair documented every word. Cabell later became the Number Two man in the Central Intelligence Agency.

"Another volume of Ruppelt's papers contained an intriguing reference to a mysterious scientist who heads a super-secret U.S. intelligence organization actively interested in UFOs. (MJ12? - Ed.) Perhaps the most revealing set of papers among these discovered boxes of documents is the original unedited manuscript of Ruppelt's book, *The Report on Unidentified Flying Objects*. Large sections are X'd out, and a comparison

(continued next page)

BACK, Continued

with the published text shows that these sections have possibly been censored from the version still sold in bookstores. Important cases, many corroborated by radar, have been omitted.

"In Ruppelt's correspondence files, a letter from the Air Force strongly implicates that agency in censoring Ruppelt's work. One paragraph compliments Ruppelt on certain chapters and confirms that the final version was written in accordance with censorship procedures. The word 'censor' had been partially erased and the word 'review' had been substituted.

"The boxes of Ruppelt papers have been made available to us for their compilation into a book (*The Ruppelt Papers*). The public owes its thanks to Mrs. Edward J. Ruppelt and Mr. James Phelan." The above mentioned book was never published. (Editor's note: David Branch has retained the material that he and Robert Klinn purchased from Mrs. Ruppelt for the proposed book. It is gratifying to know that it has been placed in safekeeping.)

★★★

TEN YEARS AGO — January 1978: At 5:50 AM on the 21st, a woman is driving to work on a rural road in southern Kenton County, Kentucky. "That's the time I go to work every morning," she said, "but that day I kept picking up a funny noise in my car. It sort of went 'meep, meep,' if that makes any sense. I drove like that, hearing that funny noise, for maybe three or four miles. But I didn't see anything. Finally, I turned right. Then I didn't hear it any more."

Twenty-four hours later the incident is repeated, but this time with more dramatic results. "I got to about the same place on the road at just about the same time when I saw this thing right over the top of me in the sky," she said. "At first it was a big red something. And it steadily moved over towards me. That's when I started hearing the noise again. It was the same sound."

As she looks out her windshield, the object looms about 200 feet away. It

(continued next page)

IN OTHERS' WORDS

By Lucius Farish

UFO phenomena in Biblical times are the subject of an article in the September 22 issue of NATIONAL ENQUIRER. Research into such ancient sightings has been conducted by Donald Coverdell, author of THE MYSTERY CLOUDS.

Mystery "circles" found in grainfields across southern England are discussed in the "Anti-Matter/UFO Update" section of October OMNI. Author Jenny Randles is an advocate of the "whirlwind" theory to explain such markings, although such an idea seems totally absurd when the complex patterns of the "circles" are considered. The same column in OMNI's November issue carries Jerome Clark's summary of the "MJ-12" controversy, presenting both "pro" and "con" arguments concerning the documents in question. The column in December OMNI has an update on the "tectonic strain" theory espoused by Michael Persinger, which attempts to explain UFOs as earthquake-related natural phenomena. However, the highlight of December OMNI is an article by Pamela Weintraub on UFO abductions, largely devoted to the pioneering work of Budd Hopkins. Overall, it is a rather well-balanced article and the inclusion of a questionnaire for readers who think they may have had an abduction experience opens up the possibility of a large-scale response. OMNI claims a readership of 5 million, so if even a small percentage respond to the questions, this might provide a new look at the scope of the abduction phenomenon.

The December 1987/January 1988 issue of AIR & SPACE has JOURNAL editor Dennis Stacy's article on UFO sightings by pilots, citing the research efforts of Dr. Richard Haines in this particular aspect of the subject.

For those readers interested in the general field of unexplained phenomena, I can highly recommend

a new publication, STRANGE MAGAZINE. The Premiere Double Issue is now available at \$3.95 or you can subscribe for four issues at the rate of \$14.95. The magazine has an excellent layout, as well as a good presentation of material. Editor Mark Chorvinsky tells me that a sizeable portion of each issue will be devoted to UFO material. The first issue has a feature article on "The Alien Visitors of Charles Fort," plus a report on UFO abduction cases. Orders/subscriptions should be sent to: STRANGE MAGAZINE · P.O. Box 2246 · Rockville, MD 20852.

Wendelle Stevens and August Roberts have combined forces to bring out two new volumes dealing with UFO photographs. Volume 1 of UFO PHOTOGRAPHS AROUND THE WORLD is 256 pages in length, selling for \$14.95. Volume 2 is the same length and the price is \$16.95. Both books contain a wealth of information on various categories of objects depicted in UFO photos from all corners of the globe. Another new book from Wendelle Stevens is UFO CRASH AT AZTEC by William S. Steinman. This volume is primarily concerned with the crashed disc story from Aztec, New Mexico in 1948 which was the basis for Frank Scully's BEHIND THE FLYING SAUCERS. Steinman has conducted extensive research into the case and presents his findings, along with additional material on the general subject of UFO crash/retrievals. This is a very large book (625 pages), selling for \$18.95. Please add \$1.25 per book for postage and handling. Orders may be sent to: UFO Photo Archives · P.O. Box 691224 · Tulsa, OK 74169-1224.

MUFON

BACK, Continued

appeared to be egg-shaped. Finally she makes the right turn, as the morning before, and the UFO is gone as quickly as it had appeared. No noise. And the lights which had brightened up the country road all around her, abruptly turned to darkness. As she drives to work, her husband is standing in the driveway, watching her car — and watching the strange bright object following her. He first spots it about 300 or 400 feet away in the air. Then he realizes it's following his wife's car. After the first encounter the car started acting up. By the following night the brakes were almost gone. They said they had it checked and the mechanic found the brakes "practically welded together."

NATURE, Continued

aware that the data base may still contain cases amenable to improvement, or even requiring deletion and replacement. For this, we need the cooperation of all serious ufologists.

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THE NIGHT SKY

By Walter N. Webb
MUFON Astronomy Consultant

JANUARY

Bright Planets (Evening Sky):

Venus, at magnitude -4.0, stands 20° up in the SW during midtwilight on January 15 (from midnorthern latitudes), not setting until about 7:30 in mid-January. The brilliant planet and the crescent Moon form a beautiful close pair on the 21st.

Jupiter, at magnitude -2.4 in Pisces, is high in the south at dusk and sets in the west about midnight in midmonth. This second brightest planet lies near the quarter Moon on the 24th.

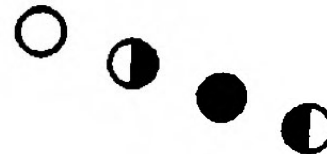
Bright Planets (Morning Sky):

Mars, moving from Libra into Scorpius and Ophiuchus this month, rises about 3:30 AM in mid-January and is 25° up in the SE during midtwilight. During January the red planet slides by another red object, the star Antares, presenting observers with a good opportunity to compare the colors and brightness of each. Antares means "rival of Mars." The crescent Moon makes a nice triangle with Mars and Antares on the 15th.

Saturn, in Sagittarius, emerges in the SE morning sky in early January, rising then about 6 AM and at 4:30 by month's end. The ringed world lies about 25° to the lower left of Mars in midmonth. The former passes the latter in February.

Moon Phases:

Full moon — January 3
Last quarter — January 12
New moon — January 19
First quarter — January 25



The Stars:

The great warrior Orion brightens the southern sky of winter. Look for a stick figure whose shoulders, head, belt, sword, and legs are clearly marked by stars. The trio of stars in a row forming the belt are particularly noticeable. And below the belt can be seen a wispy cloudlike object, the famed Orion Nebula. Ultra-violet radiation from superhot stars at the center of this mass of gas and dust excites the gases to glow. The nebula is a cosmic nursery where new stars form. This object is a spectacular sight in binoculars or a telescope.

To Orion's right lies the brightest nocturnal star, Sirius, in Canis Major the Big Dog. To the warrior's left, the fiery orange eye of Taurus the Bull, the star Aldebaran, glares at Orion. Note that the face of the bull is outlined by a V-shaped cluster called the Hyades. Another cluster, the Pleiades or "Seven" Sisters, represents a spear-wound in the bull's shoulder; it frequently is mistaken for the Little Dipper.

MESSAGE, Continued

position by the members in the central states, composed of the following states: ND, SD, NE, KS, OK, TX, MN, IA, MO, AR, LA, WI, IL, IN, MI, KY, TN, AL and OH. Any current member desiring to be a candidate should contact your State Director so that he/she may submit your name in nomination. State Directors are eligible and may nominate themselves. All candidate's names must be received by MUFON headquarters by January 30, 1988 (unless extended). Ballots will be enclosed in the MUFON UFO JOURNAL for voting purposes.

This is an opportunity for someone to assume a more active leadership role in the corporate organization. Only one candidate has been nominated as of December 14, 1987. **Bill Pitts**, former State Director for Arkansas and presently a State Section Director has been nominated by **Edward F. Mazur**. Please take inventory of your personal objectives in the future of Ufology if you want to be part of the resolution.

Dr. Bruce Maccabee, Chairman of the Fund for UFO Research, has announced two proposed research projects that will require substantial amounts of money to finance. In the MJ-12 document verification, there is one document, the carbon copy of which is in the National Archives (the Cutler-Twining memo of 1954), which could be analyzed to determine when it was typed (a crucial step in determining whether it is authentic). One estimate of the cost for such an analysis is about \$3,000. The Fund would welcome special contributions to advance the study of these documents. Contributors of \$50 or more will be provided with a copy of whatever report is generated by the authenticator — before it is released to the public.

Dr. Maccabee has recently been informed by **Dr. David Jacobs**, who has been very much involved in abduction investigations, that he has several samples of "biological matter" (secretions and stains) which are associated with abduction events. **Dr. Jacobs** has had some of them ana-

lyzed, but the only type of analysis he can afford is not very informative. The Fund will attempt to support this work as much as possible — but, again, contributions for this "abduction trace" (analogous to a "landing trace") investigation would be welcome. The same offer applies: any contributor of \$50 or more will receive a copy of the analysis report before it is released publicly. Your contribution to the Fund is tax deductible on your Federal Income Tax.

The Fund for UFO Research has a variety of important publications, books, video tapes (VHS or Beta), audio tapes of the MUFON 1987 International UFO Symposium speakers and research papers that are available for purchase. Please request "Reply Form 3Q87" for this extensive list by writing to: Fund for UFO Research, P.O. Box 277, Mt. Ranier, MD 20712.

The MUFON 1987 International UFO Symposium Proceedings (222 pages) is available from MUFON for \$15 plus \$1.50 for postage and handling. The theme is: "International Symposium on Unidentified Aerial Phenomena: 1947 - 1987."

Since MUFON is an International organization and the only monthly UFO magazine with announcements of current events, we use this media as a bulletin board for forthcoming UFO Conferences and Meetings. The Association d'Etudes Sur Les Soucoupes Volantes (A.E.S.V.) is sponsoring a French language UFO Congress titled "Recontres De Lyon" on the Easter holiday weekend April 2, 3 and 4, 1988 in Lyon, France. This is a European Congress and the official language will be French. Proceedings will be included with the 130 French Franc participation fee. A European Congress Center has been contracted to provide room, breakfast and all meals for the full three day stay (five meals, two nights and three breakfasts) for under 500 F.F. (Approximately \$87 U.S. or 50 pounds U.K.) Lectures and participation fees must be sent before February 5, 1988 to A.E.S.V., B.P. 324-F13611, Aux Cedex 1, France.

For the more adventurous and affluent people, **Bill Matthias**, has announced a "UFO Investigation Tour to Brazil and Peru," departing Friday, April 15, 1988 for \$2772 per person, double occupancy. A \$300 deposit per person is due on or before January 15, 1988 and final payment is due on February 15, 1988. Please write to **Bill Matthias**, 5236 "A" Clean Ave., North Hollywood, CA 91601 for reservations and details.

The Rocky Mountain Research Institute and Colorado State University, Association for Past Life Research and Therapy is co-sponsoring an "International Conference on Paranormal Research," July 1 - 10, 1988 in Fort Collins, Colorado. The objective is to provide an open forum on paranormal and metaphysical research, including presentation, analysis, critical review and response. The call for papers is invited on a wide variety of topics, including aliens, extraterrestrials, UFOs, etc. For further information or to be put on a mailing list, contact: **Dr. Dan S. Ward**, ICPR, 203 Weber Building, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado 80523 or telephone (303) 493-7556 / 491-5753.

The Mutual UFO Network, Inc. and the MUFON UFO JOURNAL have announced these events as a public service to our members. Such announcements do not imply an endorsement of the meeting, product, or subject matter.

A late item of news that MUFON does recommend highly is the preliminary announcement that MUFON-Nevada has bid on the "MUFON 1989 UFO Symposium" to be held in Las Vegas, Nevada about the middle of June at one of the major hotels on the Las Vegas Strip. **John O. Lear**, State Director, will be the host chairperson. During a recent visit to Las Vegas, your Director was very impressed with the fabulous facilities and reasonable rates for hotel rooms and meals. The entire meeting will be confined to one hotel that also provides shows and casino accommodations.

Plan your summer vacation in 1989 around the MUFON Symposium and the sights in and around Las Vegas for a fantastic experience.

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

By Walt Andrus

The year 1987, not only commemorated the 40th Anniversary of Kenneth Arnold's historic UFO sighting introducing the modern era of UFOlogy, but inaugurated a renewed interest in the UFO phenomenon. Events that sparked a revival in this intriguing enigma included new books on the abduction scenario, the MUFON International UFO Symposium, UFO Conferences from coast to coast, the London UFO Congress, the MJ-12 documents controversy, outstanding press and electronic media exposure to the public.

Many of us had hoped that the "40 Years Is Long Enough" slogan would have been an incentive to the U.S. Government to publicly admit to the reality of UFOS in 1987. The 8000 UFO documents obtained under the Freedom of Information Act by researchers is overwhelming evidence to the military and intelligence agencies' involvement in the UFO phenomenon. The longer the government delays this announcement, the more embarrassing it will be. When it is ultimately announced, the "Cosmic Watergate" will overshadow all previous covered-up covert operations, since the UFO enigma is worldwide in scope. 1987 has now gone into history without a U.S. Government public UFO disclosure. Will it be 1988 or 1989?

MUFON membership had slowly declined in 1986, however with the advent of 1987 and the above significant events, membership has shown a continuous and steady growth pattern. This growth is directly reflected in the number of qualified people who have volunteered for leadership roles in the Mutual UFO Network, Inc.



S. Christopher Early, a Research Specialist in Propulsion since 1981, is

the new State Director for Georgia replacing **Edwin Meyers**. Living in Atlanta, Mr. Early is President of Physimetrics, Inc. **Ruth E. Baynard** has been appointed State Section Director for Cobb and Paulding Counties in Georgia. A resident of Marietta, Ruth has an amateur radio operator Extra class license with call letters AA4YX.

Francis L. Ridge, State Director for Indiana, has appointed the following two State Section Directors: **James E. Delehanty** for Clark, Floyd and Harrison Counties and **Roger K. Lamberson** for Howard, Carroll, Cass and Miami Counties. **Ray Feltmeyer** of Belleville, Illinois has accepted the position of State Section Director for St. Clair and Monroe Counties. **Kevin T. Minns**, USAF has been appointed State Section Director for Yuba and Sutter Counties in California.

John H. Bielinski, a member starting in 1980 and an amateur radio operator WA1ZRT, has been assigned as State Section Director for New Haven and Middlesex Counties in Connecticut. **William M. "Bill" Diesenroth**, joining MUFON in 1974, is the State Section Director for Washtenaw County in Michigan. Bill was one of the official photographers at the MUFON 1986 MUFON Symposium in Lansing, Michigan. **Richard D. "Rick" Holt** was recommended by **John F. Schuessler** to become the State Section Director for Harris County in Texas that encompasses Houston, Tex. replacing **L. David Kissinger**.

It is a pleasure to welcome three new Consultants to MUFON's Advisory Board. They are **John J. Ladden, M.D.** (Elkins Park, Penn.) in Surgery; **Winston Sarafian, Ph.D.** (Oxnard, Calif.) in History; and **James DeMeo, Ph.D.** (Miami, Fla.) in Earth and Atmospheric Sciences.

David M. Jacobs, Ph.D. and **Jerome "Jerry" Clark** have accepted invitations to speak at the MUFON 1988 UFO Symposium at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln on June 24, 25 and 26, 1988. The theme of the symposium is related to the ETH and the abduction scenario. It will be headquartered on campus at the Nebraska Hotel Center, 33rd and Holdrege Streets, Lincoln, NE 68583-0901. UFO Conferences were held in these fine facilities in 1982 and 1983. Jerry Clark will speak on "The Fall and Rise of the Extraterrestrial Hypothesis" and Dave Jacobs will use material from his upcoming book on abductions planned for publication in 1988.



New officers for Massachusetts MUFON elected on December 5, 1987 are **Joe Santangelo**, Director; **Joanne Bruno**, Asst. Director and Secretary; and **Robert Taylor**, Treasurer. With the resignation of **Jim Melescuic**, Joseph Santangelo will be serving as State Director for Massachusetts, as well as Eastern Regional Director for the remainder of his term on the MUFON Board of Directors. Congratulations to Joe and Joanne on their new responsibilities. The Massachusetts UFO Hotline telephone will be operated from 20 Boyce Court, Reading, MA. **Barry Greenwood** had previously resigned as Asst. State Director to devote more time to a follow-up book to *Clear Intent* and CAUS.

With the promotion of **Dan Wright** to Deputy Director of Investigations on the MUFON Executive Committee, a vacancy was created for Central Regional Director on the MUFON Board of Directors. An election will be conducted in early 1988 to fill this

(continued on page 23)