

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

2025

CT 1982

Registered file number

3EC (AS) 12/2/1

Part No. A

1. Attention is drawn to the notes on the inside flap

DIVISION/ESTABLISHMENT/UNIT/BRANCH

2. Enter notes of related files on page 2 of this jacket.

3EC (AS) 2a

SUBJECT Unidentified Flying Objects (U.F.O.'s)  
Report of Sighting, Rendlesham Forest  
December 1980

to	Date	Min/Encl	Referred to	Date	Min/Encl	Referred to	Date	Min/Encl	Referred to	Date	Min/Encl
<p style="font-size: 2em; opacity: 0.5;">SECRET</p>											
<p>Sent Out Date: 1-11-00 Ext 344 From DR2e2 Bourne Ave. Hayes, Middx, UB3 1RF.</p>											
<p>Debra Bere 3A3-8-4</p>											

E ONLY

File Ref: 3EC(AS)12/2/1  
Part: A

PA ACTION  
(MOD Form 262F must be completed)

RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED



**RAF LIAISON OFFICE**

Royal Air Force Bentwaters Woodbridge Suffolk IP12 2RQ

Telephone Woodbridge 3737 ext 2333  
~~xxx~~ 2257

(E110)

MOD (DS8a)

Your reference

Our reference BENT/019/76  
AIR

Date 15 January 1981

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS (UFO's)

I attach a copy of a report I have received from the Deputy Base Commander at RAF Bentwaters concerning some mysterious sightings in the Rendlesham forest near RAF Woodbridge. The report is forwarded for your information and action as considered necessary.

D H MORELAND  
Squadron Leader  
RAF Commander

Copy to:

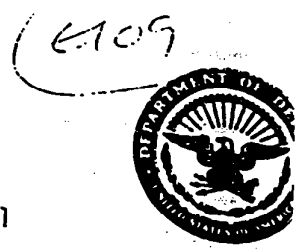
SRAFLO, RAF Mildenhall

*Copy sent to Ops (SE) 2b Sq WY Bicester*

*also consulted by Ops (SE) 2b. etc*

*DISSE  
PS/ACS (Comms)  
Refer establishments in  
area.*

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
HEADQUARTERS 81ST COMBAT SUPPORT GROUP (USAF)  
APO NEW YORK 09755



REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: CD

SUBJECT: Unexplained Lights


13 Jan 81

TO: RAF/CC

1. Early in the morning of 27 Dec 80 (approximately 0300L), two USAF security police patrolmen saw unusual lights outside the back gate at RAF Woodbridge. Thinking an aircraft might have crashed or been forced down, they called for permission to go outside the gate to investigate. The on-duty flight chief responded and allowed three patrolmen to proceed on foot. The individuals reported seeing a strange glowing object in the forest. The object was described as being metallic in appearance and triangular in shape, approximately two to three meters across the base and approximately two meters high. It illuminated the entire forest with a white light. The object itself had a pulsing red light on top and a bank(s) of blue lights underneath. The object was hovering or on legs. As the patrolmen approached the object, it maneuvered through the trees and disappeared. At this time the animals on a nearby farm went into a frenzy. The object was briefly sighted approximately an hour later near the back gate.

2. The next day, three depressions 1 1/2" deep and 7" in diameter were found where the object had been sighted on the ground. The following night (29 Dec 80) the area was checked for radiation. Beta/gamma readings of 0.1 milliroentgens were recorded with peak readings in the three depressions and near the center of the triangle formed by the depressions. A nearby tree had moderate (.05-.07) readings on the side of the tree toward the depressions.

3. Later in the night a red sun-like light was seen through the trees. It moved about and pulsed. At one point it appeared to throw off glowing particles and then broke into five separate white objects and then disappeared. Immediately thereafter, three star-like objects were noticed in the sky, two objects to the north and one to the south, all of which were about 100' off the horizon. The objects moved rapidly in sharp angular movements and displayed red, green and blue lights. The objects to the north appeared to be elliptical through an 8-12 power lens. They then turned to full circles. The objects to the south was visible for two or three hours and beamed down a stream of light from time to time. Numerous individuals, including the undersigned, witnessed the activities in paragraphs 2 and 3.

  
CHARLES I. HALT, Lt Col, USAF  
Deputy Base Commander



012

OOSE MINUTE

D/DD Ops(GE)/10/8

DS8 ←

UNEXPLAINED LIGHTS

Reference: A. D/DS8/72/1/2 dated 20 Jan 81.

1. At Reference you forwarded a report from RAF Bentwaters for information and asked if anyone else might have an interest in the content. You will see from the attached IM, I forwarded a copy to DI55 and PS/ACS(G)(RAF). I have had no response.
2. SOC/CRC Neatishead regret that the radar camera recorder was switched off at 1527Z on 29 Dec 80 and an examination of the executive logs revealed no entry in respect of unusual radar returns or other unusual occurrences.
3. I have spoken with Sqn Ldr Moreland at Bentwaters and he considers the Deputy Base Commander a sound source. I asked if the incident had been reported on the USAF net and I was advised that tape recorders of the evidence had been handed to Gen Gabriel who happened to be visiting the station. Perhaps it would be reasonable to ask if we could have tape recordings as well.

S D BADCOCK  
Sqn Ldr  
Ops(GE)2b(RAF)  
MB 4258 7274 MB

16 Feb 81

4

MEMORANDUM

to DSS.

From CEZB

MOD Form 4A

Date 9/3/81

Tel 7274

(E35)

Your ref E-36/72/1/2 dated 7/1/81

Our ref D/DOPS(CE)/10/8

Subject UNEXPLAINED NIGHTS

1. Further to my LM at Ref dated 16 Feb attached herewith copies of responses from DISS(a) and DISS — with an offer to pursue from the letter.

*[Signature]*  
(CE)ZB(RAF)

7274MB

RM

E134

1005E MINUTE

75/103/15/1

Cns (GR) 2b (RAF)


Copy to:  
PS/ACS(G)(RAF)

UNEXPLAINED LIGHTS

Reference:

1. D/23 Cps (GE)10/8 dated 26 January 1981.
  1. Having canvassed DSTI for thoughts on this matter, DI55 cannot offer any explanation for the phenomena.
  2. In answer to your specific inquiry regarding the readings of radioactivity, please see the attached correspondence from ADI/DI52.
  3. If you wish to take up ADI/DI52's offer of further assistance, please let me know.

2 March 1981

  
C F COMPER  
DI55(a)  
REF 7/26 4131 MB

Enc: DI52/106/10 dated 23 February 1981.

Loose Minute

DI52/108/10

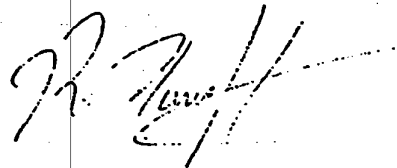
OPR 24/2

DI55a Attn Mr C P Comper

Unexplained Lights

Reference: DI55/108/15/1

1. Like DI55, DI52 do not know of any serious explanation for the phenomena described at reference.
2. Background radioactivity varies considerably due to a number of factors. The value of 0.1 milliroentgens (mr), I assume that this is per hour, seems significantly higher than the average background of about 0.015 mr. I would not expect the variation in this to be much more than a factor of two, although it might be greater for specific reasons.
3. If you wish to pursue this further I could make enquiries as to natural background levels in the area. The way the US report is written, however, suggests that 0.1 mr was greater than they expected.



23 February 1981

R C Horscroft  
ADI/DI52



Copy taken from File DS8/10/209 Karl E on 1 Sherry 2a

MD

E129/1

LOOSE MINUTE

D/DD Ops(GE)/10/8

DS8 ←

6/209

UFO SIGHTING - RAF WOODBRIDGE DECEMBER 1980

1. At Reference you ask if the suggestion that the USAF be asked for the tape recordings was followed up by this Deputy Directorate. It was considered that the tapes would reveal no better report than that already received, and no further request was made. However, it is considered that your approach to the RAF Liaison officer, will produce any considered views on the event.

2. I believe your outlined response is the right one; Westishhead, which is the Sector Ops Centre responsible for that area had nothing unusual to report, and nothing more substantive has come to light. I have received no evidence that any radar reported unusual tracks. Miss Bandles appears to have "evidence of radar track n", and provided that it can be managed without undermining our position, I would like to have a look at this radar evidence.

21 Mar 83

*Baddock*

J B BADCOCK  
Sqn Ldr  
Ops(GE)2b(RAF)  
MB 4253 7754 MB

< Note.

Spoke to Giles Cowling at the Defense Radiological Protection Service (0705 584326), re the radiation readings

recorded at the time of the Bantlesham Forest incident.

0.01 would be the general level of background radiation, so

the 0.1 recording is about 10 times what would be normal.

However, military radiation detectors are geared for high level readings, so low-level readings may be difficult to record accurately, as the scale will be small at the bottom of the meter.\*

We don't have details of what instrument was used.

It is just possible to have such an event. A university lab might well have some radioactive source with a very short half life, and could use it so as to give readings, what would not be recorded a few days later.

The level of radiation of 0.1 is completely harmless.

N. Page  
15/4/94

\* Especially if the needle was fluctuating.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
HEADQUARTERS 81ST COMBAT SUPPORT GROUP (USAF)  
APO NEW YORK 09155



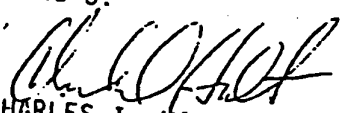
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13 Jan 81

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2. The next day, three depressions 1 1/2" deep and 7" in diameter were found where the object had been sighted on the ground. The following night (29 Dec 80) the area was checked for radiation. Beta/gamma readings of 0.1 milliroentgens were recorded with peak readings in the three depressions and near the center of the triangle formed by the depressions. A nearby tree had moderate (.05-.07) readings on the side of the tree toward the depressions.
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CHARLES I. HALT, Lt Col, USAF  
Deputy Base Commander

10

LCOSE MINUTE

E2

D/Sec(AS)12/2/1

25 Jan 94

DPO(RAF) - David Davies

CENTRAL TV UFO DOCUMENTARY - REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON RENDLESHAM FOREST

1. We spoke yesterday about Central TV's request for information on the UFO sighting in Rendlesham Forest in December 1980.
2. I have been through our file on this incident, and have drawn together an unclassified note based on previous MOD statements. This can be drawn upon in answering questions, or passed to Central TV in toto. I have also attached a copy of Lt Col Halt's report, which can be passed to Central TV.
3. As I mentioned yesterday, Pam Titchmarsh is still in the Department, and works for the Housing Trust Team. I do not know what the rules are with regard to interviews with present or former officials, or whether it would be worthwhile having a word with her. I have not contacted her, but if you wish to do so, she is on 88328MB.
4. Please let me know if you need anything else; as I mentioned, my understanding is that this documentary is to be much more serious than some of the more sensationalist programmes that have been produced in the past. I believe that it will be in our interests to be as helpful as we can, and to try and reflect the good relationship that we now have with many of the more serious UFO groups and researchers. There are still a few within the field who believe that the MOD is involved in a cover-up, and I think the more helpful and open we are, the less likely it is that this view will get an airing.

*N. Pope*

N G Pope  
Sec(AS)2a  
MB8245 82140MB

//

UFO SIGHTING AT RENDLESHAM FOREST

We are aware that on 27 and 29 December 1980 a number of personnel from RAF Woodbridge saw strange lights in the vicinity of the base, in Rendlesham Forest.

Lt Col Charles Halt USAF, the Deputy Base Commander, submitted a report on these events, which was passed to the Ministry of Defence. As is the case with all UFO reports submitted to the MOD, Lt Col Halt's report was examined carefully by those staff responsible for the air defence of the United Kingdom. No evidence was found of any threat to the defence of the United Kingdom, and no further investigations were carried out. No further information has come to light which alters our view that the sightings of these lights was of no defence significance.

No unidentified object was seen on radar during the period in question, and there was no evidence of anything having intruded into UK airspace, and landed near RAF Woodbridge.

We are aware that there are a number of theories circulating about these UFO sightings. One theory was that what was seen was the beam of the Orford Ness lighthouse, with distortions being caused by the beam having been seen from through the trees. There were also suggestions that fireball activity might explain some of the lights.

In the absence of any hard evidence, the MOD remains open-minded about these sightings.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
HEADQUARTERS 81ST COMSAT SUPPORT GROUP (USAF)  
APO NEW YORK 09155



REPLY TO  
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13 Jan 81


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CHARLES I. HALT, Lt Col, USAF  
Deputy Base Commander



**RAF LIAISON OFFICE**  
Royal Air Force Bentwaters Woodbridge Suffolk IP12 2RQ  
Telephone Bentwaters (0394) 432557

E26

Mr N G Pope  
Secretariat (Air Staff)2a  
Room 8245  
Ministry of Defence  
Main Building  
Whitehall  
LONDON SW1A 2HB

BENT/1/2/AIR

8 July 1992

Dear Mr Pope

UFO SIGHTING - DECEMBER 1980

Reference:

A. D/Sec(AS)12/2/1 dated 2 July 1992.

1. I refer to your letter at Reference A concerning the reported sighting of a UFO on 27 December 1980. I have no records on this subject and the file to which you refer has long since been destroyed.

2. However, I have spoken with our resident Historian from the 81st Tactical Fighter Wing who has unearthed an article which I have photocopied for your information. It all makes interesting reading.

Yours sincerely

P. ROONEY  
Squadron Leader  
RAF Commander

**WOODBIDGE RAF/USAF AIR BASE**

In December 1980 it is alleged that a grounded UFO was seen in the Rendlesham Forest area outside the back gates of RAF/USAF Woodbridge in Suffolk, England.

There are various, and conflicting, reports about what occurred on the night. According to the official report made by the Deputy Base Commander, Lieutenant-Colonel Charles Halt, two security police witnessed lights outside the back gate and called for permission to investigate on the grounds that an aircraft might have crashed. Three patrolmen were sent and they reported seeing a glowing object in the forest, described as triangular in shape, about 9 feet wide and 6 feet high, and emanating a powerful white light. Other reports detail blue and red lights at various points on the object. It was either hovering or standing on short legs and as the patrol approached, it manoeuvred away slowly through the trees on to a nearby farm (causing some disturbance in the animals there) before disappearing into the sky very quickly. However, the object was briefly sighted again about an hour later.

Investigation the following day found three ground traces indicating possible landing leg depressions.

However, there are other stories of events that night including one that the overall Commander of the base, Wing Commander Gordon Williams, was present at the investigation and also communicated with aliens that had been seen apparently carrying out repairs to the craft.

It is alleged that many films and photographs were taken but that these were all confiscated by senior officers and have not been released.

Investigators examining these claims have obtained interviews with two of the patrol who investigated the UFO, airman John Burroughs and a second airman who remains anonymous and is given the pseudonym of James Archer. Basically their stories agree with the Deputy Commander's statement. Archer denies seeing aliens but saw shapes inside the object, to which he had approached within three feet, and commented, 'I don't know what they were but the shapes did not look human. Maybe they were like robots.'

One of the security police at Woodbridge, Sergeant Adrian Bustinza, came forward after the publication of a book, *Skycrash* by Jenny Randles, Brenda Butler and Dot Street (see References and Background Material), and told his detailed version of events in the forest that night. Again, for the most part, his account basically agrees with that of Lieutenant-Colonel Halt. He describes the object as being seen through a yellow mist like 'nothing I have ever seen before', and comments that it was a tremendous size compared to the clearing it was in and that he was surprised it was able to fit into the area. One major discrepancy arises in his description, however; he describes it as saucer-shaped rather than triangular-shaped, which would seem to be a very major disagreement considering both reports come from eye witnesses.

There is allegedly a tape recording made by Lieutenant-Colonel Halt and his men while in the forest investigating the event and part of this has



been released by a former base commander at Woodbridge, Colonel Morgan. On the tape various voices including Lieutenant-Colonel Halt describe what they are supposed to be seeing as they pursue the object through the woods.

When challenged by a former Chief of the Defence Staff, Admiral the-Fleet Lord Hill-Norton, the Secretary of State for Defence, Michael Heseltine, through Lord Trefgarne, released the statement that the events to which you refer were of no defence significance.

As Lord Hill-Norton put it, there would seem to be some defence significance either in an unknown object's entering and possibly landing in British territory or, alternatively, a deputy base commander of an RAF/USAF base filing a ludicrous and make-believe report. Lieutenant-Colonel (now Colonel) Halt has confirmed subsequently that this memorandum is legitimate. He also went on to say, 'There are a lot of things that are not in my memo.'

#### WOODRUFF, R. S.

In many people's eyes the quality of the witness to a UFO event is as important as the event itself. On that basis one sighting of three red lighted UFOs buzzing low over cars near Bethel in Vermont, USA should rank highly. Witnesses in other cars watched a police car ahead being buzzed. The police car contained a high State police official and the State pathologist, Dr R. S. Woodruff.

Calculation by the police indicated that the speed of the UFOs was some 2,000 miles per hour.

Despite the fact that the UFOs had come down precisely together in line of formation, slowed down and flown parallel to the ground, the Air Force explained that they were only meteors.

#### WRIGHT PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE

Wright Patterson Air Force Base in America is a name that frequently occurs in the pages of this encyclopedia and in the annals of UFO research.

It is alleged that this base is the storehouse and examination facility for retrieved crash flying saucers and also for alien bodies.

Other stories have it that Wright Patterson contains a 'quick reaction force' designed to retrieve downed saucers, a sort of SAS or SWAT team to deal with aliens.

There is even an allegation that Senator Barry Goldwater attempted to gain entry to the base to examine UFO evidence but was refused by the then commanding officer, General Curtis LeMay.

#### WYKOFF, LIEUTENANT ROBERT C.

On 10 August 1950 Navy physicist Lieutenant Robert Wykoff, using Navy binoculars, watched a large disc-shaped UFO manoeuvring near Edwards Air Force Base, the scene of many such sightings.



From: N G Pope, Secretariat(Air Staff)2a, Room 8245

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
Main Building Whitehall London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct Dialling) 071-21-8 2140  
(Switchboard) 071-21-89000  
(Fax) 071-21-8

E2

Sqn Ldr P Rooney  
RAF Commander  
RAF Bentwaters  
Woodbridge  
Suffolk  
IP12 2RQ

Your reference

Our reference

D/Sec(AS)12/2/1

Date

2 July 1992

Dear Sqn Ldr Rooney,

1. I am writing concerning the background to the UFO sighting near RAF Woodbridge on 27 December 1980, and the report that was subsequently made by the USAF Deputy Base Commander, Lt Col Halt.
2. I have attached a copy of a letter from one of your predecessors, together with a copy of Lt Col Halt's report, and I have two requests:
  - a. If you have files going back this far, could I have a copy of the original covering letter, BENT/19/76/Air dated 15 January 1981. I believe our copy was archived some time ago.
  - b. I would be grateful if you would confirm that Lt Col Halt's report is a genuine USAF report; this may sound a strange request, but over the years there have been a very clever series of hoax documents produced on the subject of UFOs. These often relate to official government/military knowledge of UFOs, and often appear to be on official notepaper - presumably using genuine official letters sent to members of the public, with the hoax text placed over the genuine text, and then photocopied again. In the absence of all the background papers, I am unsure as to the exact circumstances under which this report first surfaced. I do not know what standard practice would be, but would such a report not have been submitted on paper with a Bentwaters/Woodbridge address?
3. This may all seem like ancient history, but this alleged incident has become the best known UFO story in the UK, being mentioned in dozens of books on the subject (including one entire book relating the story of how USAF personnel repaired a crashed flying saucer and communicated with its alien occupants!). We still receive a steady stream of telephone enquiries and letters on the subject even to this day.

Yours sincerely,

N. Pope

17

3

paper



**RAF LIAISON OFFICE**  
 Royal Air Force Bentwaters Woodbridge Suffolk IP12 2RQ  
 Telephone Woodbridge 3737 ext 2257

*Reply sent.*  
*E132*

MOD(DS8a)

Your reference

Our reference  
 BENT/19/76/Air

Date

25 October 1982

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS (UFO's)

Reference:

A. BENT/19/76/Air dated 15 January 1981.

1. Under cover of reference A I forwarded you a copy of the Deputy Base Commander's report concerning some unexplained lights and sightings on 27/29 December 1980. Some time after the incident I was approached by two women who claimed to be UFO investigators, but I refused to confirm or deny their claims. A week ago I was telephoned from New York by a Mr Eric Mishara from Omnie Magazine. He asked me questions about an article in a British UFO Magazine. He claimed he was a serious UFO investigator and wanted to write an objective article about the incident. I told him that whoever wrote the article he described to me must have had a vivid imagination.

2. I have now managed to obtain a copy of the article and enclose a copy for your information. The magazine is called "The Unexplained" published weekly by:

ORBIS Publishing Ltd  
 Orbis House  
 20/22 Bedfordbury  
 London WC2N 4BT

The article was in Volume 9 Issue No 106.

3. I now anticipate a flood of enquiries and would be grateful for some guidance on MOD Policy concerning UFO's.

D E MORELAND  
 Sen Ldr  
 RAF Cdr

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
HEADQUARTERS 81ST COMBAT SUPPORT GROUP (USAF)  
APO NEW YORK 07155




REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: CD

13 Jan 81

SUBJECT: Unexplained Lights

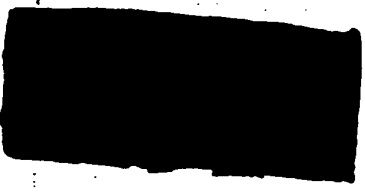
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CHARLES I. HALT, Lt Col, USAF  
Deputy Base Commander

(E24)

file copy



D/Sec(AS)12/2/1

5 August 1987



Thank you for your letter dated 31 June which requested information on the Rendlesham Forest "incident". As we mentioned to you in our letter dated 16 May 1986 the only information that we have on this alleged UFO sighting is the report by the Deputy Base Commander of RAF Woodbridge, Lieutenant Colonel Charles Halt, USAF. In case you haven't seen it before I attach a copy of the report which may be of interest to you. You may recall that the sole interest of the Ministry of Defence in reported sightings of UFOs is to establish whether they have any bearing on the defence of the country. We are satisfied that the events described in Lieutenant Colonel Halt's report are of no defence significance.

I hope that this proves useful.

YK  
[Signature]

To aff.

OK file  
Thaw. (E33)

Draft response to [redacted] letter  
of 31/6/87 is attached.

Lt. Col Halt's report of Jan '81 (see file)  
has already been released by sec(As)  
to a number of members of the public.

G  
48.

Gilbert 17/7

[redacted] has written about Rendlesham Forest on several occasions. Our first reply gave him a standard letter explaining our interest in UFO's [E67 Part A]. His second letter [E5 Part B] did not receive a reply. His third asked us to determine whether or not the Rendlesham Forest incident involved a USAF "stealth" plane. He answered a simple "NO". (E's 31+32 Pt B)

My reply to [redacted] again explains our policy on UFO's and as he appears not to have a copy, I have included a copy of Lt Col Hall's report. This has been released to other ufologists in the past.

Clive

Thank you. Would you please locate Lt Col Hall's report, & also the example of its release to other ufologists in the past.  
Gish

CA 15/07

Examples: E17 pt A 12/2/  
E16 pt A 12/2/1  
(flagged)  
these are plenty more.  
CA 15/7



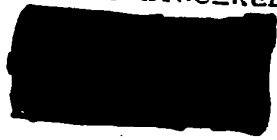
replied 05/02  
to

(E21)

Dear Mr Ross.

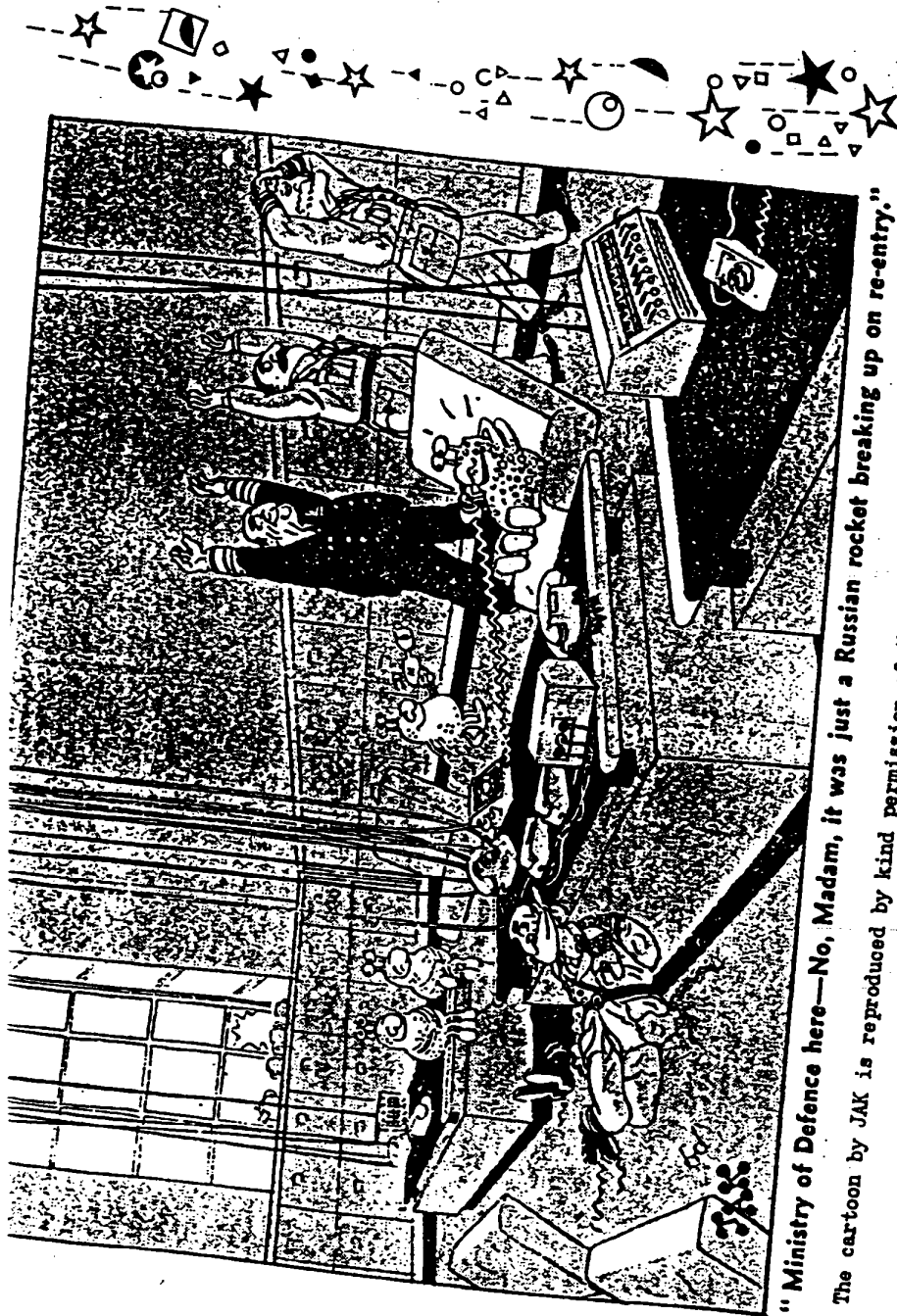
I have enclosed a photo, for which I think will amuse you.  
I would be very grateful if you could send me any information  
that you may have on the Rendelsham forest case in "Dec 1980".  
If you don't have any information in the ministry could you  
tell me where to obtain some information on this case.

YOURS SINCERELY.



12/ 2/1





**"Ministry of Defence here—No, Madam, it was just a Russian rocket breaking up on re-entry."**  
The cartoon by JAK is reproduced by kind permission of the London "EVENING STANDARD" (22/NOV/68)

From: P M Hucker, Secretariat (Air Staff)2a, Room 8245

E20



**MINISTRY OF DEFENCE**  
Main Building Whitehall London SW1A 2HB

Telephone 01-218 (Direct Dialling)  
01-218 9000 (Switchboard)



Your reference

Our reference D/Sec(AS)12/2/1 ✓

Date 21 August 1985



Thank you for your letter of 9 July 1985. The Ministry of Defence's interest in Unidentified Flying Objects (UFO's) was explained to you by my predecessor, Mr Mathewson, in his letters of 19 June and 18 July 1984.

The only information we have on the alleged "UFO sighting" at Rendlesham Forest in December 1980 is the report by Colonel Charles Halt, of the United States Air Force. We are satisfied that the events described are of no defence significance. We can find nothing in our records to suggest that alleged eye-witnesses were interviewed by the MOD, this is consistent with our normal practice when dealing with UFO reports.

*Yours sincerely*  
*P M Hucker*

OUR REF:

YOUR REF:

D/DS8/10/209

Ministry of Defence,  
Main Building, Rm 7230,  
Whitehall,  
London.  
SW1A 2HB

For the attention of A. Mathewson Esq.

Dear Mr. Mathewson,

re: UFO Sighting at Rendlesham Forest

I would be grateful if you could kindly indicate to me if your Department interviewed any of the alleged eye witnesses to the above incident and if so, whom and the dates of such interviews.

Kind regards.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

PP: 10/209/44  
12/2/1

(E 14) (S & P)

9th July 1985



**MINISTRY OF DEFENCE**  
Main Building Whitehall London SW1A 2HB

Telephone 01-218 (Direct Dialling)  
01-218 9000 (Switchboard)

Sec(AS)2a, Room 8245

(E18)



Your reference

Our reference

D/Sec(AS)12/2/1 ✓

Date

2 July 1985



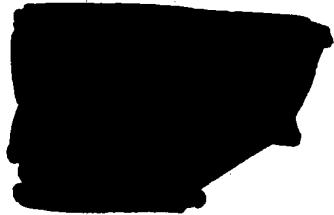
Your letter of 3 March 1985, addressed to the Office of Public Information, has been passed to me for reply. I am sorry that you received no reply to your earlier letter, however I can find no trace of it in our records. You may find it useful if I explain that the sole interest of the United Kingdom Ministry of Defence in reported sightings of Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs) is to establish whether they have any bearing on the defence of the country.

There is no organisation in the Ministry of Defence appointed solely for the purpose of studying reports of such objects, and no staff are employed on the subject full time. The reports we receive are referred to the staff in the Department who are responsible for the air defence of the United Kingdom, and they examine the reports as part of their normal duties.

Since our interest in UFOs is limited to possible defence implications we have not carried out a study into the scientific significance of these phenomena. Unless there are defence implications we do not attempt to identify sightings and we cannot inform observers of the probable identity of the object seen. The Department could not justify the expenditure of public funds on investigations which go beyond the pure defence interests.

We have to recognise that there are many strange things to be seen in the sky, but we believe there are adequate explanations for them. They may be satellite debris re-entering the earth atmosphere, ball lightning, unusual cloud formations, meteorological balloons, aircraft lights, aircraft at unusual angles or many other things.

The only information we have on the alleged "UFO sighting" at Rendlesham Forest in December 1980 is the report by Colonel Charles Halt, of the United States Air Force. We are satisfied that the events described are of no defence significance.



24  
12/2/1

March 3, 1985

Office of Public Information  
Ministry of Defence  
Air Ministry section  
London, England

Gentlemen:

In a letter dated November 18, 1984 I requested certain information from your office in regard to a number of UFO incidents that occurred in the immediate vicinity of the Bentwaters/Woodbridge NATO airbase complex in the county of Suffolk, during the last week of December 1980. It is most disappointing that to this date I have received NO reply.

It is my sincere hope that you will respond to the following questions;

- 1) Does your office confirm receipt of the letter from USAF Lt. Col. Charles I. Halt, Deputy Base Commander, describing the UFO incidents?
- 2) Did your office conduct, or participate in, any further inquiry into this matter? Also, does your office maintain a dossier on this matter?
- 3) Can you suggest any prosaic explanation for these specific incidents?



**MINISTRY OF DEFENCE**  
 Main Building Whitehall London SW1A 2HB  
 Telephone 01-218 (Direct Dialling)  
 01-218 8000 (Switchboard)

Sec(AS)2a, Room 8245

C1

[REDACTED]

Your reference  
 Our reference D/Sec(AS)12/2/1 ✓  
 Date 2 July 1985

[REDACTED]

Thank you for your letter of 15 April. You may find it useful if I explain that the sole interest of the United Kingdom Ministry of Defence in reported sightings of Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs) is to establish whether they have any bearing on the defence of the country.

There is no organisation in the Ministry of Defence appointed solely for the purpose of studying reports of such objects, and no staff are employed on the subject full time. The reports we receive are referred to the staff in the Department who are responsible for the air defence of the United Kingdom, and they examine the reports as part of their normal duties.

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The only information we have on the alleged "UFO sighting" at Rendlesham Forest in December 1980 is the report by Colonel Charles Halt, of the United States Air Force. We are satisfied that the events described are of no defence significance. I enclose a copy of Colonel Halt's report which may be of interest.

Yours sincerely

P M HUCKER

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
HEADQUARTERS 81st COMBAT SUPPORT GROUP (USAF)  
APO NEW YORK 07155

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: (C)

SUBJECT: Unexplained Lights

RAF/CC


13 Jan 81

Early in the morning of 27 Dec 80 (approximately 0300L), two USAF security police patrolmen saw unusual lights outside the back gate at RAF Woodbridge. Thinking an aircraft might have crashed or been forced down, they called for permission to go outside the gate to investigate. The on-duty flight chief responded and allowed three patrolmen to proceed on foot. The individuals reported seeing a strange glowing object in the forest. The object was described as being metallic in appearance and triangular in shape, approximately two to three meters across the base and approximately two meters high. It illuminated the entire forest with a white light. The object itself had a pulsing red light on top and a bank(s) of blue lights underneath. The object was hovering or on legs. As the patrolmen approached the object, it maneuvered through the trees and disappeared. At this time the animals on a nearby farm went into a frenzy. The object was briefly sighted approximately an hour later near the back gate.

2. The next day, three depressions 1 1/2" deep and 7" in diameter were found where the object had been sighted on the ground. The following night (29 Dec 80) the area was checked for radiation. Beta/gamma readings of 0.1 milliroentgens were recorded with peak readings in the three depressions and near the center of the triangle formed by the depressions. A nearby tree had moderate (.05-.07) readings on the side of the tree toward the depressions.

3. Later in the night a red sun-like light was seen through the trees. It moved about and pulsed. At one point it appeared to throw off glowing particles and then broke into five separate white objects and then disappeared. Immediately thereafter, three star-like objects were noticed in the sky, two objects to the north and one to the south, all of which were about 100 off the horizon. The objects moved rapidly in sharp angular movements and displayed red, green and blue lights. The objects to the north appeared to be elliptical through an 8-12 power lens. They then turned to full circles. The objects to the south remained in the sky for an hour or more. The object to the south was visible for two or three hours and beamed down a stream of light from time to time. Numerous individuals, including the undersigned, witnessed the activities in paragraphs 2 and 3.

  
CHARLES I. HALT, Lt Col, USAF  
Deputy Base Commander



April 15th. '35.

Dear Sir,

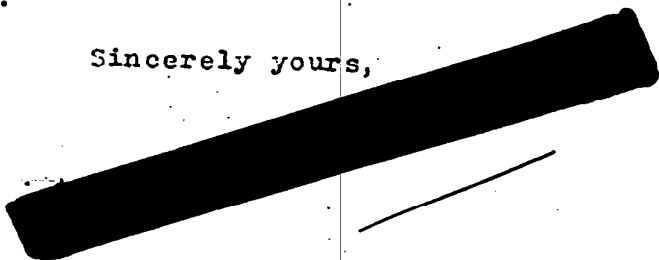
In the late 1970's my daughter saw what could only be described as an unidentified flying object over Accrington in Lancashire.

Since then I have met several people who have had a similar experience, and I have recently read a library book 'SKYCRASH'.

Over the past few years my interest in this phenomina has increased, therefore I wonder if you could let me have any further information or copies of documents relating to the incident in Rendlesham Forest in December 1930?

Your co-operation would be much appreciated.

Sincerely yours,



31



I attach copies of two recent Parliamentary Questions on the Ministry of Defence's interest in UFO reports, which you may be interested in.

Yours sincerely



P M HUCKER

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
HEADQUARTERS 81st COMBAT SUPPORT GROUP (USAF)  
APO NEW YORK 0155

E109



REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: (C)

13 Jan 81


SUBJECT: Unexplained Lights

10: RAF/CC

1. Early in the morning of 27 Dec 80 (approximately 0300L), two USAF security police patrolmen saw unusual lights outside the back gate at RAF Woodbridge. Thinking an aircraft might have crashed or been forced down, they called for permission to go outside the gate to investigate. The on-duty flight chief responded and allowed three patrolmen to proceed on foot. The individuals reported seeing a strange glowing object in the forest. The object was described as being metallic in appearance and triangular in shape, approximately two to three meters across the base and approximately two meters high. It illuminated the entire forest with a white light. The object itself had a pulsing red light on top and a bank(s) of blue lights underneath. The object was hovering or on legs. As the patrolmen approached the object, it maneuvered through the trees and disappeared. At this time the animals on a nearby farm went into a frenzy. The object was briefly sighted approximately an hour later near the back gate.

2. The next day, three depressions 1 1/2" deep and 7" in diameter were found where the object had been sighted on the ground. The following night (29 Dec 80) the area was checked for radiation. Beta/gamma readings of 0.1 milliroentgens were recorded with peak readings in the three depressions and near the center of the triangle formed by the depressions. A nearby tree had moderate (.05-.07) readings on the side of the tree toward the depressions.

3. Later in the night a red sun-like light was seen through the trees. It moved about and pulsed. At one point it appeared to throw off glowing particles and then broke into five separate white objects and then disappeared. Immediately thereafter, three star-like objects were noticed in the sky, two objects to the north and one to the south, all of which were about 10° off the horizon. The objects moved rapidly in sharp angular movements and displayed red, green and blue lights. The objects to the north appeared to be elliptical through an 8-12 power lens. They then turned to full circles. The object to the south remained in the sky for an hour or more. The object to the south was visible for two or three hours and beamed down a stream of light from time to time. Numerous individuals, including the undersigned, witnessed the activities in paragraphs 2 and 3.

  
CHARLES I. HALT, Lt Col, USAF  
Deputy Base Commander

Hansard Extract

13 March 1984

Cols 132 & 133

**Unidentified Flying Objects**

Sir Patrick Wall asked the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many alleged landings by unidentified flying objects have been made in 1980, 1981, 1982 and 1983, respectively; and how many have been investigated by his Department's personnel;

(2) how many unexplained sightings there have been in 1980, 1981, 1982 and 1983, respectively; and which of these had been traced by radar and with what result.

Mr. Lee (*pursuant to his reply*; 9 March 1984, c. 728):  
For the years in question, the Ministry of Defence received the following numbers of reports of sightings of flying objects which the observer could not identify: 350, 600, 250, and 390. Reports of alleged landings are not separately identified. The Department was satisfied that none of these reports was of any defence significance and, in such cases, does not maintain records of the extent of its investigations.

HAZARD EXTRACT

24 OCTOBER 1983

Col. 62

RAF Woodbridge (Alleged Incident)

Sir Patrick Wall asked the Secretary of State for Defence (1) if he has seen the United States Air Force memo dated 13 January 1981 concerning unexplained lights near RAF Woodbridge;

(2) whether, in view of the fact that the United State's Air Force memo of 13 January 1981 on the incident at RAF Woodbridge has been released under the Freedom of Information Act, he will now release reports and documents concerning similar unexplained incidents in the United Kingdom;

(3) how many unexplained sightings or radar intercepts have taken place since 1980.

Mr. Stanley: I have seen the memorandum of 13 January 1981 to which my hon. Friend refers. Since 1980 the Department has received 1,400 reports of sightings of flying objects which the observers have been unable to identify. There were no corresponding unexplained radar contacts. Subject to normal security constraints, I am ready to give information about any such reported sightings that are found to be a matter of concern from a defence standpoint, but there have been none to date.



**MINISTRY OF DEFENCE** Sec(AS)2  
Main Building Whitehall London SW1A 2HB  
Telephone 01-218 (Direct Dialling)  
01-218 9000 (Switchboard)

E16

[Redacted]

Your reference

Our reference

Date D/Sec (AS) 12/2/11 ✓

28 June 1985

[Redacted]

Thank you for your letter of 25 March 1985. You may find it useful if I explain that the sole interest of the United Kingdom Ministry of Defence in reported sightings of Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs) is to establish whether they have any bearing on the defence of the country.

There is no organisation in the Ministry of Defence appointed solely for the purpose of studying reports of such objects, and no staff are employed on the subject full time. The reports we receive are referred to the staff in the Department who are responsible for the air defence of the United Kingdom, and they examine the reports as part of their normal duties.

Since our interest in UFOs is limited to possible defence implications we have not carried out a study into the scientific significance of these phenomena. Unless there are defence implications we do not attempt to identify sightings and we cannot inform observers of the probable identity of the object seen. The Department could not justify the expenditure of public funds on investigations which go beyond the pure defence interests.

We have to recognise that there are many strange things to be seen in the sky, but we believe there are adequate explanations for them. They may be satellite debris re-entering the earth atmosphere, ball lightning, unusual cloud formations, meteorological balloons, aircraft lights, aircraft at unusual angles or many other things.

The only information we have on the alleged "UFO sighting" at Rendlesham Forest in December 1980 is the report by Colonel Charles Halt, of the United States Air Force. We are satisfied that the events described are of no defence significance. I can assure you that there is no question of attempting to cover up any incident or mishap, nor are we attempting in any way to obscure the truth. I enclose a copy of Colonel Halt's report which may be of interest.

36

NOTE

Please inform if your dept does have a procedure that can be arranged that would assure that any large volume of documents could be sent via Air Mail if yes the cost of mailing first class Air Mail I would like to arrange to receive all documents that your dept can release to me this method if you can estimate the cost of this procedure then please reply have provided a return reply envelope with Air Mail stamps on it for courtesy reply will mail the amount to pay for mailing via Air Mail of package first class if volume of documents is large or small either amount I will be happy to forward the amount as instructed by the dept you work in thank you very much

from



file  
12/2/1

MINISTRY OF DEFENSE  
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL  
LONDON ENGLAND SW1A-2HB  
DEFENSE SECRETARIAT 8  
ANDREW MATHEWSON

March 25th 1985

Dear Sirs

I am presently involved in doing some background research into a book titled Sky Crash A Cosmic Conspiracy by Dot Street Brenda Butler and Jenny Randles. I would like to verify some basic facts discussed in this book as they were writing about the MOD DS8 and its capacity or involvement into the Rendlesham Forrest (UFO Unknown Lights) of December 27th and the 30th 1980. The copy of the report that they obtained from the MOD DS8 as it concerns your dept and I am asking of that particular report if a copy of this report is available to the general public if requested. I am aware that the report was sent by Squadron Leader Donald Moreland on January 14th 1981 to the MOD DS8 a copy of this report will be enclosed with this letter plus additional version of that report that should probably be regarded as not very accurate on details or facts surrounding this case in particular also I understand that RAF Watten had picked up on their radar and tracked this UFO to about fifty miles south and to the east of Ipswich and in the general vicinity of the Rendlesham Forrest after which they lost radar contact. This occurred on the night of December 27th 1980 and the radar recordings were examined by USAF intelligence officers concerning this uncorrelated target such recordings are kept a few days before being reused this is a precaution against the unforeseen such as a air crash of an airplane. I believe a rumor circulating around the radar base was that it was possible that a object that they had tracked had crash landed into the forest near Ipswich. This had been a metallic UFO, a structured device of unknown origin. Men who had gone out to confront the UFO from a nearby base had found the engine and lights of their jeep failing as they got closer. They then had to continue on foot. The object was on the ground for several hours before repairs could be undertaken by the aliens who crewed it. During this period high ranking officers from the base went into the forest and the base commander himself we assume Colonel Gordon Williams had conversed with the occupants. It is no known what the radar men made of this tale, but it was apparently told by a radar man to the authors. But the fact that they tracked a target which aroused considerable interest in the USAF was certainly intriguing.