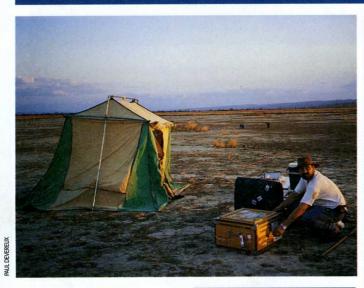




THE UFO FILES

FLYING SAUCERY

ANDY ROBERTS & DR DAVID CLARKE PRESENT THEIR REGULAR SURVEY OF THE LATEST FADS AND FLAPS FROM THE WORLD OF UFOLOGY



FATE OF MOD PAPERS SEALED?

Here is a revelation likely to be seized upon by conspiracy mongers convinced that the British Government have been hiding "the truth" about UFOs from the public. In July, the MOD admitted that thousands of sensitive Cold War documents had been quarantined in plastic sacks because of fears that they might have become exposed to deadly asbestos while stored in the basement of the War Office building at Whitehall. The files included important documents relating to British nuclear policy and defence intelligence briefings during the Cold War. But we can reveal exclusively that among the records are 25 UFO files generated by the shadowy MOD intelligence branch known as DI55 which investigated the more bizarre reports reported to the Ministry since 1971. Historians who describe the Cold War files as "the crown jewels of contemporary history" are concerned the MOD will use the asbestos scare as an excuse to further delay their release, imminent when the Freedom of Information Act comes into force in January 2005. The MOD has told us that it is possible some of the files might have to be destroyed if the cost of preserving them safely is too high. You would

"As many as 57 extraterrestrial races are visiting Earth"

have thought this was a classic case for the Disclosure Project, with questions in Parliament and a 'save the files' campaign. So what precisely are British ufologists doing about it? Well, this is the first they will have heard of it. It seems they are so busy organising skywatches and social events they have remained blissfully unaware of the impending threat of destruction of their own "crown jewels." And, as usual, it has been left to professional historians to mount a campaign to save them. Guardian, 27 July 2004; www.guardian.co.uk.

THEY'RE HERE!

When you receive a press release from a former Assistant Professor and current Researcher-in-Residence at the American University, Washington, DC, suggesting that as many as 57 extraterrestrial races are visiting Earth, you tend to take notice. Dr Michael E Salla claims just this, and has published an online paper discussing his theories. Seven of

LEFT: Project Hessdalen director Erling Strand setting up a monitoring station during an expedition in Kimberley, Australia. BOTTOM: Moving light in Hessdalen Valley.

these alien races, Salla claims, are connected in a network through a series of secret agreements between themselves and "shadow governments" in the USA and elsewhere, extending the usual bogeyman figure of the militaryindustrial complex to the extraterrestrial-military-industrial complex! Needless to say, Salla believes this cabal doesn't exactly have the interests of human beings at heart, but all is not lost. A further 10 alien races exist who act independently and may be humankind's best hope for survival. So far, so (Tim) Good. But a close examination of Salla's words gives cause for concern. The abstract of his research paper opens with the bald statement: "There are an extensive number of extraterrestrial races known to be currently interacting with Earth and the human population."

Known by whom, Michael? Read further and all is revealed. Instead of well referenced research sources and unimpeachable witnesses, Salla is more than content to rely on the flaky testimony of the retired Army Sergeant Clifford Stone, who claimed to have participated in covert crash retrieval operations, as well as that of Billy Meir and other fringe ufologists and personalities, such as Brad Steiger, Wendelle Stevens and Linda Moulton Howe. This is scarier than any alien take-over bid! Yet Salla's university credentials check out, and he is clearly a hard hitting, heavy-duty academic who, for some bizarre reason - and it isn't because of the evidence - has fallen under the glamour of the extraterrestrial mythos. Salla's report, snappily titled "A Report on the Motivations and Activities of Extraterrestrial Races-A Typology of the most Significant **Extraterrestrial Races Interacting** with Humanity" can be found at: www.exopolitics.org.

THE LIGHT FANTASTIC

Earthlights were once the hot topic in ufology, and for a time in the 1980s were set to become a major theory explaining the origin of some types of UFO. Unfortunately, though, most of the research was done by non-ufologists such as Paul Devereux, who could never quite win over the faithful to his cause. However, the Earthlights theory still has its adherents and a number of window areas across the globe have been identified as Earthlight hot-spots. One of these is Norway's Hessdalen Valley [FT103:26-31], where such lights have been observed, filmed and recorded instrumentally for more than two decades. The valley has its own hitech observation station and the results it has obtained have been subject to many scientific studies, the latest of which appears in Vol. 18, no 2 of The Journal of Scientific Exploration. This study confirms the existence of the phenomenon, and the Italian team responsible claim to have discovered "apparent characteristics consistent with a solid", along with "the capability to eject smaller light balls."

Whilst Earthlights aren't quite as sexy as structured craft of unknown origin, alien autopsies and the rest of the hoo-hah which constitutes pop ufology, they do appear to be here and can be studied by science. The question is, can ufologists discard their prejudices against any UFO theory which doesn't involve aliens and look at what science is telling them? See www.ingenta.com/isis /searching/Expand/ingenta?pub=infobike://sse/jse/2004/0000018/0000002/art00004.

Project Hessdalen is funded mainly by voluntary contributions. All donations are welcome, and those giving a minimum of £50 per annum become 'Project Hessdalen Friends', receive an occasional newsletter and can take part in an annual guided tour of the area. Contact: Project Hessdalen, Bukkholmveien, NO-1747 Skjeberg, Norway.

