

Defence Department Confidential Files

The documents below provide recounts of possible UFO activity during December 1980, at an USA air force base at RAF Woodbridge, Suffolk, UK.





SUFFOLK CONSTABULARY

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Your Ref.

Our Ref. 25(3)3/83 DJ/SRP

23 November 1983

Dear Sir

SIGHTING OF UNUSUAL LIGHTS IN THE SKY AT WOODBRIDGE ON 26 DECEMBER 80

With reference to your letter dated 3 November 83 which related to the above mentioned incident.


Police knowledge of this matter is limited to a telephone report of the alleged incident timed at 4.11 am on 26 December and received from a person at RAF Bentwaters together with the two subsequent visits to the location by police officers.

The first visit followed immediately the reported incident and the two officers who attended made a search of the area with a negative result. A note on the log indicates that Air Traffic Control at West Drayton were contacted and that there was no known knowledge of aircraft in that area to coincide with the time of the sighting. Mention is also made on the log of reports received of aerial phenomena over Southern England during that night. The only lights visible to the officers visiting the incident were those from Orford Light House.

A further report was received at 10.30 am on 26 December 80 from a staff member at RAF Bentwaters indicating that a place had been found where a craft of some sort could have landed. An officer attended and the area involved did bear three marks of an indeterminate pattern. The marks were apparently of no depth and the officer attending thought they could have been made by an animal.

It is considered little more would be gained by you making direct contact with the officers involved as the above information constitutes the sum of their knowledge in relation to this matter. It is hoped the information supplied will be of assistance to you in formulating your intended account of the circumstances.

Yours faithfully


Chief Constable



Letter to UFO investigator in response to information request.

'We did see a UFO near Suffolk base'

RENDELSHAM: Former US deputy base commander speaks out

By Lizzie Parry

A VETERAN US air force chief has told of the "bright glowing object" he and other servicemen spotted hovering in the skies at a Suffolk air base.

At a Press conference in Washington last night the servicemen broke their silence describing how they believe UFOs had tampered with nuclear missiles in the US and the UK.

Lieutenant-Colonel Charles Halt was deputy base commander at RAF Woodbridge in December 1980 when patrolmen from the United States Air Force claimed they saw a small, triangular shaped craft moving backwards through Rendlesham Forest before taking off.

They claim missiles often malfunctioned and could not be fired after the strange, disc-like objects appeared at the air base.

Lt-Col Halt told the Press conference he was working at RAF Bentwaters, near Rendlesham, in 1980 when the encounter took place.

He said early one morning in December 1980 several of his base's security forces saw lights in the forest near Woodbridge. Two USAF patrolmen sent to approach the lights reported a craft, describing it as triangular, dark and metallic in appearance, sitting on three legs.

Days later he said he was interrupted at a family Christmas party and told the lights were back. He went back out into the forest with a couple of policemen, a camera and a cassette recorder.

At the site in Rendlesham Forest he said they discovered indentation on the forest floor, of around six to eight feet wide and increased levels of radiation as well as broken branches on the trees.

At the Press conference Lt-Col



MYSTERY: Right sketches of the UFO allegedly spotted near RAF Benwaters, above, in December 1980, drawn by USAF witnesses. Inset above, Lt-Col Charles Halt

Photos: PA

Halt said: "Milling around one of the individuals saw a bright glowing object like an eye.

"It would appear to be winking and was shedding molten metal and silently moving through the trees and at one point it actually approached us."

He then described how the object exploded into five white objects which became visible in the sky.

He described how he moved out of the forest and observed "several objects in the sky" which changed shape from elliptical to round.

One of the objects then directed a beam of light at the feet of the men, the Press conference heard.

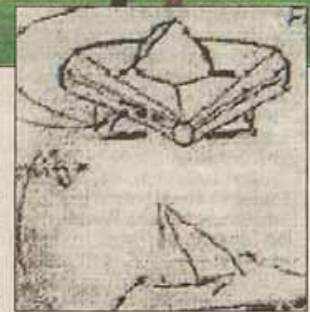
"I have no idea what we saw that

night but I do know it was under intelligent control. My theory is that it was from another dimension or extra-terrestrial," Lt-Col Halt said.

He and five other senior US military officers are calling on US and British authorities to release 60 years' worth of files they claim prove the existence of extra-terrestrials.

The former officers claim that UFOs have been seen over many nuclear launch sites and displayed a number of declassified Government documents at the Press conference to support their claims.

The Rendlesham Forest inci-



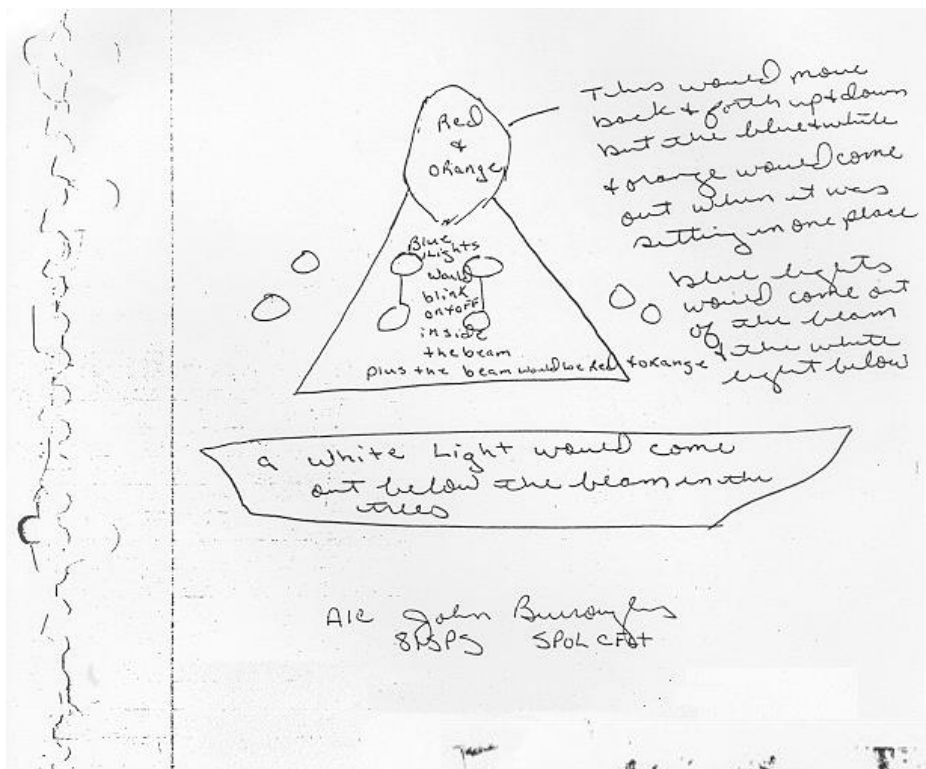
dent, often described as 'Britain's Roswell' happened in the early hours of December 27, 1980, but was never fully explained.

Papers released by the National Archives show the Ministry of Defence's final position was that there was "no evidence of anything having intruded into British airspace."

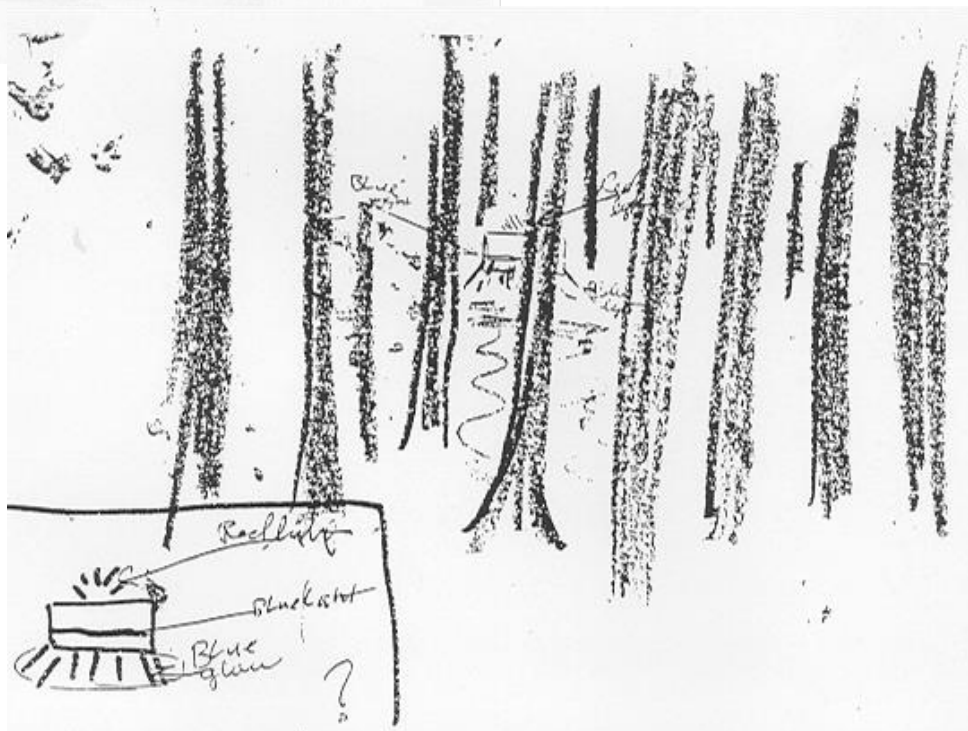
lizzie.parry@eadt.co.uk



Drawing A



Drawing B



A Eye-witness drawing, by Airman First Class John Burroughs, 81st Security Police Squadron.

B Eye-witness drawing, by Staff-Sergeant Jim Penniston, 81st Security Police Squadron.

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 manoeuvred 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 1.5 inches deep and 7 inches 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 (0.05–0.07) 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 degrees 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 north 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.

(Signed)
Charles I. Halt, Lt Col, USAF
Deputy Base Commander



Official Memo reporting incident
to British Ministry of Defence

Rendlesham Forest and the Alien Craft

Rendlesham Forest has long been connected with strange sights and sounds. U.F.O. (Unidentified Flying Object) investigators claim evidence of alien visits and say that the area even contains a doorway to other worlds. However in 1980, it was not U.F.O. investigators but American Air Force personnel and local people who reported a glowing object or alien craft. The sightings took place in woodland that separated the military bases of Bentwaters and Woodbridge.

It was on the 27th of December, at around 3a.m. in the morning, when two U.S. Air Force security patrolmen were startled and alarmed when they saw unusual coloured lights outside the back gate at RAF Woodbridge. They called the Chief Duty Officer for permission to go outside to investigate.

When they entered the forest, they were amazed to see a strange glowing metallic object, triangular in shape. The object was approximately three meters across the base and two meters high. It lit up the whole forest with a white light and it had a pulsing red light on top and many blue lights underneath.

The patrolmen saw it hover and begin to move away from them, as though under intelligent control. It then shot off at incredible speed. It was later reported that the animals on a nearby farm 'went into a frenzy' as this happened. Also that night, a number of miles away, a puzzled radar crew, at R.A.F. Watton in Norfolk, were picking up what they described as an "uncorrelated target". The target went off the screen in the Rendlesham Forest area.

News spread quickly through the bases and the next day, airmen were sent out to investigate further. In the forest they found three depressions, where the object had been sighted on the ground, and burn marks on nearby trees. They checked the area for radiation and readings were found near what would have been the centre of the object. Here, they felt, was a mystery that needed solving.

So the next night about thirty men, including the Deputy Base Commander at R.A.F. Bentwaters, Lt. Col. Charles Holt, went out into the forest. This time they took with them a tape recorder and huge portable floodlights. However, once in the forest, the floodlights strangely refused to work and their radios suffered interference.

As they walked through the forest, a red, sun-like light was seen through the trees, which moved about and pulsed. At one point it appeared to throw off glowing flecks and then it broke into five separate white objects and disappeared. Immediately, three star-like objects were noticed in the sky, two in the north and one in the south. The objects moved rapidly with sharp, jerky movements and displayed red, green and blue lights.

The airmen used a powerful lens to look more closely at them. The one in the north remained in the sky for about an hour and the one in the south was visible for much longer and beamed down a stream of light from time to time. Nearby, a local resident was also watching the strange moving lights.

Even today, there is scarcely any other U.F.O. case that involved such a large number of credible witnesses. U.F.O. hunters continue to believe that an alien spaceship landed in Rendlesham Forest that night and doubters continue to deny it. Over twenty-five years later the mystery remains.

