JOURNAL FÜR UFO-FORSCHUNG, No. 114, 6'1997 ENGLISH SUMMARY

UFO OBSERVATIONS (p. 178 - 196)

The UFO observations discussed in this issue have various explanations. One of the most commune stimuli is still the sky tracker light effect engine. These machines were to blame for the rotating lights on 2 August 1997 at Ahausen, the "flashing lights" on 29 August 1997 at Marktredwitz, the oblong white spots on the low clouds on 19 June 1996 at Arnsberg and the "meteorite returning every two to three minutes" at Hagnau on 31 July 1995 and finally the "sky phenomenon" observed by two policeman over Bottrop on 29 October 1997. A "bright star-like object" was most likely a plane (12 August 1997, Goerlitz); while the elongated orange-yellow object spotted on 2 October 1997 over Soest and the orange light over Neuschwanstein castle on 8 February 1997 were model balloons which provided the main stimulus for UFO reports before the introduction of the sky tracker. Bolides may explain the "wheel-like object" rushing across the sky at Weissbach on 11 July 1994 and a 15 May 1996, Windhoek, Namibia, sighting of a glowing bright cylinder.

Some reports deserve closer attention. A photo of a saucer like spot taken on 21 May 1995 at Assuan, Egypt, was a bird flying through the frame, as could be shown by enlargements; a completely new stimulus was a balloon to which fire candles had been attached, which was mistaken for a UFO on 13 July 1997 at Zeutern.

Two reports could not be classified due to insufficient data: the "disc-shaped object with a red margin" seen on 6 February 1996 over Halle and a black square thing with lights that hovered over a birch tree either in February or March 1996 at Ploen.

CE III IN CORNWALL (pp. 187 - 193)

The witness claimed he had seen a mysterious humanoid floating in the sky above him in Cornwall in August 1984. This case is also mentioned in Peter Underwood's "West Country Hauntings". The witness now lives in Germany. He explained he belonged to a spiritualist group and had experienced astral journeys including visions of godlike beings before and after the event. It is therefore very difficult to separate fact from imagination: while the witness certainly experienced what he reported, must it have been physical?

BALLOONS FOOL GERMAN ARMY (pp. 195-196)

The UFO that appeared over a Bunderwehr (army) base near Bremen on 9 February 1980 is a minor German classic case. However, a recent thorough investigation by Sascha Schomacker revealed that a man had started toy balloons which had been mistaken for saucers by army personal.

FACTS AND FICTION ABOUT THE "SCIENTIFIC" MUFON-CES (p. 196 - 199)

MUFON-CES, the German UFO group which claims they are the only scientific investigators in Germany, has made further unexplicable mistakes. They were called as experts in a German TV competition where people were asked to send in UFO photos. Not only did the group not spot the true identities of the objects in the pictures, the fakes they exposed were mainly wrong guesses, so that a metal model was thought by MUFON-CES to consist of fabric, and a photo faked by German sceptic Henke was thought to hang on a threat while in fact it showed a disc thrown into the air.

REVIEWS (p. 202 - 207)

Peter Hough & Moyshe Kalman: The Truth about Alien Abductions: A collection and analysis of British abduction stories with a strong ETH leaning and partly superficial.