

**“NO KIDDING THIS TIME. MY FLYING SAUCERS
PHOTO IS GENUINE!” * (-Alec Birch.)
BY GORDON CREIGHTON.**

(*Headline of a report in the highly respected British newspaper *Yorkshire Post* of March 5, 1999, by journalist Eileen Brooks).



Photo by ALEC BIRCH, aged 14, at Mosborough, Sheffield, Yorks, on March 4th, 1962.

THE BIRCH PHOTO.

On page 4 of FSR Vol. 8, No. 5 (1962), we mentioned a report (*SCHOOLBOY SNAPS SAUCERS*) describing how a fourteen-year-old-lad, Alec Birch, had, on March 4, 1962, been sitting with two young friends in the back-garden of his home at 12, Moor Crescent, Mosborough, Sheffield, in southern Yorkshire, playing with his old *Brownie 127* box camera and taking snapshots of his dog, when he suddenly noticed dark silent objects hovering in the sky near by and promptly aimed his *Brownie* and photographed them.

The pictures, one of which was to become famous, known and reproduced all around the world, were not developed for some weeks. But when they *were* developed one of them showed a total of five dark craft, two of them complete with the familiar “domed saucer” shape, while the other three appeared to be in what seemed to be various stages of “incompleteness”. (It is well known that many UFO photos have shown curious distortion, and a popular theory has been that this effect might be due to the hazy magnetic field around the UFO itself. **But there is of**

course another possible cause, of a most surprising nature, about which many folk are starting to speculate today - but would never have done so back in 1962!)

Of the two other boys who were in the garden with Alec, at least one, David Brownlow, is known to have given precisely the same account of the five flying objects seen by him as Alec has done.

The photograph was inspected by the Science teaching staff of Alec’s school, Westfield Comprehensive, and Alec and David Brownlow were called in to explain their story to Mr. Colin Brook, the head of the English Department.

Both boys gave him precisely the same detailed account of the five mysterious dark silent objects seen briefly hovering in the sky *and then vanishing suddenly*.

The photograph was next taken to Kodak, whose experts pronounced it to be genuine in their opinion. It is known that the British Air Ministry and the Pentagon received copies of it and conducted enquiries into the affair.

The photograph appeared in newspapers and magazines and television programmes around the world

and the boy Alec spoke at several UFO study conferences. And finally the picture became accepted generally as one of the most convincing pieces of evidence for UFOs ever seen in Britain during the 1960s.

Alec and his father were called to London and grilled rather unpleasantly by officials of the British Air Ministry in Whitehall, and subsequently they told FSR that quite plainly the main preoccupation of the Air Ministry officials was to get both of them bundled rapidly out of London and back to Yorkshire before the journalists could discover their presence in the city. (See my marginal notes on page 4 of FSR's bound office set of FSR Vol. 8, No.5, 1962.)

Although I have no *proof* of this, it seems pretty likely that Birch Senior and his son were also invited to visit Buckingham Palace to discuss their case with either the Duke of Edinburgh himself or with his Equerry.

INVESTIGATIONS BY THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH.

This is because we do know that, as early as 1955, the year in which FSR was launched, the Duke of Edinburgh had requested the Air Ministry to send him a copy of every UFO report that they received (see article in the *Sunday Express* newspaper in summer of 1955 and FSR's account of the matter, on page 8 of our *third issue* - FSR Vol. 1. No. 3 (July/August 1955!).

RAF Air Marshall Sir Peter Horsley, who served for some years as Equerry first to Princess Elizabeth and later to the Duke of Edinburgh and then likewise to both of them after her coronation, has recently issued his highly interesting *Memoirs (SOUNDS FROM ANOTHER ROOM: MEMORIES OF PLANES, PRINCES AND THE PARANORMAL*, pub. By Leo Cooper, London 1997, hardback £21.95, ISBN 0-85052-581-0) and I would urge FSR readers to get it if they can. It may prove difficult to secure, because it was probably in a rather small edition.

Leo Cooper is a quite small publisher who has normally concentrated solely on military and regimental books, and one can suspect that, once he had brought this one out, there was instant "pressure" on him to refrain from further reprints. (Naturally this "pressure" would *not* have come from H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh. I *know* that he has distributed copies of the book to his friends.)

In general there seems to have been a resolutely pursued campaign of silence about the book - as was only to be expected! - both in Britain and abroad. I doubt, for example, whether any American or overseas readers have ever heard of it. I managed to have a copy of it placed in my local public library, but they carefully tucked it away in the "*Biography*" section and when I asked for it to be moved and placed on their shelf of *UFO books*, they refused. (One can see very clearly that there may have been a general edict passed around that this book "would do less damage" if kept off the UFO shelves.)

If there were ever any reviews of the book in the British newspapers, I certainly have seen or heard of none.

One reason why Air Marshal Sir Peter Horsley's book might have been regarded by certain folk as gravely "damaging" is the fact that it has one entire chapter (pages



Mr Alec Birch, aged 50 in 2000.

172 - 202) entitled "VISITORS", in which the author describes his own great interest and his actual involvement in UFO research. This is what he says (page 172):

"My own interest was aroused because many reports came from airmen like myself, and it was only natural that on long journeys the subject of Space travel should be a topic for discussion. As always, Prince Philip's mind was open to the immense possibilities of new technology leading to Space exploration, while at the same time not discounting that, just as we were on the fringe of breaking out into Space, so other older civilizations in the Universe might have already done so. Prince Philip agreed that I could investigate the most credible reports provided that I kept it all in perspective and did not involve his office in any kind of publicity or sponsorship."

The chapter contains quite a full account of Horsley's dealings with the Air Ministry and the RAF and with various officials by name, describes quite a number of very important UFO cases that he investigated, and reported on to the Duke (including the famous case of Captain Howard of the BOAC who, when crossing the Atlantic and approaching Gander, saw, as did his crew and many of his passengers, the huge UFO "possibly as big as the *Queen Mary*", with its little discs flying in and out and around it.) And he also describes the visit by the two boys, Stephen Darbyshire and Adrian Myer, who, on March 28, 1966, had seen and photographed a craft absolutely identical with the much ridiculed Adamski "scout ship", hovering close to the ground on the slopes of Coniston Old Man in Lancashire.

Stephen Darbyshire's father accompanied the two boys to the Palace and Air Marshall Sir Peter Horsley asked the most famous photographic expert in London, Wallace Heaton, to examine the boys' negatives. *Wallace Heaton's report reads as follows:*

"Yes - they could have been faked, but they are so good that it would have cost quite a sum of money on props etc. Who then would have put up the money,

and was there a wider conspiracy?"

Desmond Leslie and George Adamski were among many other people invited to Buckingham Palace to meet Sir Peter Horsley (and - who knows? - maybe even the Duke himself) and tell of their UFO experiences

ENCOUNTER WITH AN ALIEN!

Finally, even more "damaging", no doubt, in the eyes of certain folk, is the rest of this chapter in Sir Peter Horsley's book, for he goes on to relate (pages 180- 198) an astonishing meeting which he says he had, in a house in Chelsea, with an alien, completely human in appearance and with the most profound and impressive intellect and grasp of the Cosmos, who expressed the strongest desire to meet his Royal Highness Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh!

(Quite understandably we are not told whether or not any such meeting between the Duke and an alien ever took place.) If it *did*, you can be quite sure that neither you nor I nor anyone else would ever hear about it.) One needs only to point to the pretty strong indications that President Eisenhower of the United States, and also other American Presidents, may indeed also have had actual meetings with aliens. The carping critics who sneer and assure us that such things cannot ever have happened do not really have a leg to stand on. Such encounters might have constantly been taking place, throughout all the known history of *Homo Sapiens* (As he somewhat rashly calls himself).

ALEC BIRCH CONFESSES - 'HOAX'.

I return now to the story of Alec Birch, for we are not yet done with him. About ten years after he had taken his famous photograph, that is to say when he was about 24 years old, he suddenly called a press conference, and announced that the photo had simply been a "cut-and-paste" fake, a mere schoolboy prank, which had then snowballed and got out of control. He explained that he and his chums had "cut out the shapes of flying saucers and then pasted them on to glass and thus produced the picture which had fooled the experts."

This "confession" may have had little if any effect on the serious UFO research fraternity throughout the world, but it impressed FSR's then editor, Charles Bowen, who fully accepted it. See his article, *Hoaxer confesses after 10 years*, in FSR 18/6 (Nov/Dec 1972).

ALEC BIRCH FINALLY "RECANTS".

Since then, the years have rolled on, and now, suddenly, on March 5, 1999, 37 years later, we find the highly regarded British newspaper THE YORKSHIRE POST carrying an article by Eileen Brooks describing how she has just interviewed Mr.

Alec Birch, now aged 50, who states flatly that he has changed his mind and is now revealing that *the fake had been his confession, not the photograph*. And this too should not surprise us in the slightest.

Here is Alec Birch's explanation:

"People think I made a fortune out of the photo. I have heard estimates of £500,000! In fact I made practically *nothing*, but I did become internationally famous. But with the fame came a lot of misery. I faced a lot of ridicule and pressure. So I decided to claim that it was a fake in the hope that it would all go away and the pressure would be taken off me.

"But it didn't work out like that! The UFO fraternity refused to believe me, and they even called a conference in London and came to the conclusion that my change of story was due to the pressure. The reason I've decided to let the real story be known now is because I think it is important that the public should know.

"The Roswell Museum in New Mexico want the old *Brownie* camera to put on display, because they believe the picture was genuine. I still have it (the camera) and it's become an old friend, and I have not made my mind up yet about parting with it. But it seems that one black and white picture taken in a garden all those years ago will be having an impact on our lives for a long time to come."

As the reporter Eileen Brooks concludes: "THE TRUTH IS OUT THERE". It has of course been extremely important over the past half century to combat the effect of such "dangerous" photos as these by Alec Birch and Steven Pratt, and by George Adamski too, arch-villain of them all, and we can be sure that great amounts of energy and money have gone into the campaigns of ridicule and denigration.

There have been plenty of other cases of "coercion" or "induced confession", and I may compile a note on some of them in due course.

Much has also been done to try to destroy the authenticity of the other famous schoolboy's UFO photo, the Darbyshire one of 1954, but so far as we know, never with any success, and Stephen Darbyshire never issued a "confession" and still asserts that his photo was totally authentic.

Long ago (see FSR Vol 9, No. 5 (Sept/Oct 1963) and Vol 11, No. 4 (July/Aug, 1965), we published the professional orthographic drawings by the well known British draughtsman Leonard Cramp, which show, beyond any doubt, that in shape and dimensions the UFO in the Darbyshire photo is *identical* with the much-maligned "scout-ship" of poor George Adamski. (I have been present with prominent photographic experts from USA and Britain who were totally unable to agree as to whether the latter was "a hospital operating theatre lamp", a "chicken-incubator", or a "beer-cooler"!)

Thank you to our readers and website viewers for all your e-mail, which we do our best to answer appropriately; and also to those who have requested links to our website, and that we visit and take cognizance of theirs. It all takes a little time...

-the Editor and Webmaster.

RESEARCHING “NORDIC-TYPE” ALIEN EXPERIENCER CASES. © BY DON WORLEY (Indiana, USA), FSR CONSULTANT. (1051 Beech Street, Connersville, IN 47331, USA.)

What can we learn from these kinds of cases? What do they reveal about the moral orientation of these entities who are such a vital element in the alien presence. Can they be Angels or can they be just cunning deceivers? Members of opposing groups? All one vast centrally directed conglomeration? These questions are of the upmost gravity for our human species.

For the last 35 years I have specialised, for the most part, in alien human abduction and the Nordic-type aliens. My conclusions will be based on 45 of my cases where the Nordics were involved. In my 71 other cases the Nordics may have been involved but the information was not forthcoming. My conclusions are also based on other cases that I have heard about elsewhere. Due to space limitations I can highlight only important features in the nine cases that I have chosen.

At this point I will describe a Nordic, and this description will apply to all the abductees in the cases I will discuss. These beautiful, tall, entities with angular faces, usually have long blond hair, and breath-taking, unfathomable blue eyes. This is not an absolute, for the eyes can change with emotion. Giant-sized and human-sized Nordics also exist. Females and a rare child have been seen. The beings wear skin-tight garments or beautiful white robes. Their telepathic communications are soothing and they project an intense feeling of love for the abductee. Some persons have remained in a euphoric state for weeks afterward. Let's now look at the cases I have chosen.

Case #144, Virginia State, USA.

Roberto, a successful aeronautical parts dealer, once kidded his lifetime Nordic mentor, whom he calls Thor, about why he, a dark-skinned, dark-haired Brazilian, also has such bright blue eyes. The entity has intense blue eyes, a predominant feature of the Nordics. So much of this “blue eyes business” makes me wonder about gene manipulation.

As a baby Roberto* often played with little rust-coloured beings on the farm in Brazil. Once in the USA it became an assortment of the Grey types, whom he disliked. At the age of 17 Thor appeared, and would always be present along with a beautiful red-headed woman for the rest of Roberto's life. For years Roberto never had a clue about what was happening and sought to escape by moving often.

Once he was taken to a subterranean place, along with over 50 other persons, and shown scenes of massive wave destruction. On another occasion I got him to ask Thor just when all this was going to happen. The reply was, “Only the Creator knows the time.” Sometimes in his life when Roberto is fearful Thor will come into his

mind and reassure him that all is well.

Roberto has had so many periods of lost time that he has lost count. His underclothing is often on wrong, and he has three used shirts in which he has come back and which were never his. Recently his penis suffered minor damage, and a black limo began to park on his quiet street. This was all too much for his wife, and she destroyed his answers to my questionnaire.

Case #99. James Gilliland, The Bridgehouse, 356 Little Mountain Road, Trout Lake, WA. 98650, USA.

Jim has established a retreat in the scenic splendor of Washington State near Mount Adams. He remembers two abductions, and is a frequent channelling source for his Nordic mentor named Cazekiel. A week ago a film company in Studio City, California, called me wanting some good abductee prospects for a show they will produce.

Jim is one of the eight persons that I proposed for them. He called me on March 16th of this year and informed me that things have really got busy at his site. The alien craft have become quite bold, performing aerial manoeuvres overhead and hovering close. These events were witnessed by groups of people, and some good photos have been obtained. The Hollywood company wants to get a film crew to the site. Knowing how things have been on other film events, I hope the aeroforms don't now become shy!

Jim says, “I have been working with the Nordic race which in truth comes from Orion and the Pleiades. It comes with the territory when you awaken spiritually. Many people believe themselves to be working with 'Angelic Guides' or 'Ascended Masters', when in truth it is with *these* spiritually and technologically advanced beings. Most of my work is done with the Andromedans as they are known throughout the Universe. They have magnetized bodies of light, are beautiful, and stand eight feet tall. My contacts with these groups have been a blessing. The Greys give me a headache, and I push them out of my consciousness. *There are others who seem Nordic but do not have Earth's highest and best good in mind. They are remnants of the Jehovah energy, but they are being turned around or removed by higher forces.*”

Case #110. Rural State of Missouri, USA.

Diane* has had a lifetime of alien activity. Here is her description of one meeting with a Nordic. “As I lay listening to grandma's TV in the front room, a very tall being appeared at the foot of my elevated bed. He was a male, had long blond hair, and wore a long white gown tied at the waist. I don't remember the features of his face except that I thought he was beautiful. *He also had*