

# POSTSCRIPT TO THE NEMINGHA CASE

*Bill Chalker*

**Our contributor, who has a B.Sc.(hons), is research co-ordinator of UFO Investigation Centre (UFOIC) of New South Wales, Australia**

SUBSEQUENT investigations of the UFO "precipitation" event at Nemingha in March, 1976, have not revealed the identity of the "victim" of the incident, so at this point we can only speculate about the personalised nature of the woman's experience.

Further study of the literature has brought to light at least one incident worth considering by way of similarities with this case. In "More on Teleportations" (FSR Vol. 18, No. 5) Gordon Creighton quoted a letter from Dr. P.M.H. Edwards to Gene Duplantier which appeared in the latter's publication, "Saucers, Space and Science."

To recount the incident, an elderly couple were motoring in cloudless weather in Central Wyoming when suddenly their car "was overhung and partially enveloped by a strange yellowy creamish-coloured mist that was weaving about them most peculiarly; it was transparent — yet it seemed to have 'body' or shape..."

Drawing upon this sort of case as a possible stimulating phenomenon leading to teleportation effects, as Mr. Creighton has done, is perhaps a little premature, but certainly these cases deserve documentation. Perhaps in this manner we may determine eventually the validity of the "strange mist" often reported in alleged teleportation events.

## RAAF case

As precipitation effects are quite rare in UFO events, I feel compelled to draw attention to the following case, which comes from the files of the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF). Because of my continuing compilation of an Australian catalogue of trace cases the RAAF, and the Department of Defence (Air Office), have consented to pass on relevant material for inclusion in this catalogue.

In the vicinity of Brisbane, Queensland, on January 13, 1975, at about 3.00 a.m., a man was confronted by "...a large ball of flame in his yard. It was a reddish-brown colour, with flames about 5 feet high. He called his wife and they both watched it from their doorway, about 35 feet away. After 4 or 5 minutes, the flames had died down to about a few inches high, and there appeared to be several small residual objects left burning."<sup>1</sup> The flames lasted for some 15 to 20 minutes. "As they were nearly finished several long jets of flame suddenly shot out, as if small pockets of fuel had suddenly been ignited. There was no discernible sound or smell."

Although there were no overhead high tension wires or any thunderstorm activity, it had been raining heavily, and the ground was soaking wet. RAAF investigators examined the area and found

a lightly sined patch of grass and gravel. "The gravel had deposits of a black tar-like substance still adhering, and some samples were collected... There was no indentation at all, and no sign of a solid object hitting the ground." Analysis of the substance was carried out by the Department of Chemical Engineering of the University of Queensland. Their limited analyses, based only on ignition and comparison of smoke given off, tentatively suggested the material consisted of higher aliphatic and aromatic compounds, as would be expected in tar. It was suggested that the tar-like material was evolved from some heating process.<sup>2</sup>

The Department of Defence's "Unusual Aerial Sightings, Summary No. 7," could not find any known cause, but I would suggest that the much maligned "swamp gas theory" may be applicable. The Condon report detailed the theoretical mechanism, in which "a small amount of hydrocarbon, less than that required for combustion, is suddenly subjected to strong electric fields. The hydrocarbons become ionized and form more complex hydrocarbon molecules which clump together. Eventually there is enough combustible material in the centre to allow a burning core... if the concentration increases, the ball ignites explosively."<sup>3</sup> But the RAAF could find no sources of electrical energy, and therefore this hypothetical mechanism is not entirely valid.

This example is designed to show how unusual precipitates can occur in unusual "aerial sightings." While these effects can manifest in nature on rare occasions, it is worthwhile considering, how these effects would occur in the hypothesized propulsion mediums ascribed to UFOs.

To add more food for thought, G. Liuti et al, in "Nuclear Applications", Vol. 6, p. 494, May, 1969, and Suelo Machi, et al, in a paper presented at the First International Meeting on Radiation Processing at Puerto Rico, May 1976, Proceedings Section VI-2.I: "Radiation Treatment of Combustion Gases", have shown that electron beam irradiation of combustion gases of industrial plants has led to the formation of a white solid probability of approximate composition  $(NO_2)_2S_2O_{10}$ . The reaction mechanism has not yet been elucidated but probably involves oxidation of sulphur compounds followed by rapid reactions with nitrogen oxides ( $NO_x$ ). This reaction has possible relevance in the Nemingha case and perhaps even in some "angel hair" cases. At the same time it evokes some humorous possibilities, which in the long run may not seem as outlandish as at first inspection. One of my associates, in a satirical piece

*(Continued on page 27)*

# THE CAR THAT DISAPPEARED

*Derek James & Jenny Randles*

Case investigated for UFOIN by Mr. James; report prepared by Miss Randles,  
Secretary of UFOIN, 23 Sunningdale Drive, Irlam, Greater Manchester,  
M30 6NJ Telephone: 061 775 4749

FROM time to time we hear stories of incidents that are so amazing they are almost impossible to believe. One is tempted to ignore such events because they do not seem to fit into the customary thought-patterns for the subject. This is particularly true in the field of reported activity of MIB (Men in Black). One hears vague accounts of experiences with such mysterious individuals, although all too often these come by way of rumour (probably as one might expect them to come, if true, since their very nature would make direct relating of them dangerous).

In Britain there have been such rumours from time to time, and people have left the subject in apparently strange circumstances, but usually there is insufficient *prima facie* evidence to allow commitment to the beliefs. It is also quite obviously true that ufology, being the emotive field that it is, must generate incidents which are blown up out of all proportion and probably relate factors which are totally random to create an impression of mystique. These circumstances accepted, we should like to relate an incident about which there appears to us to be little doubt that it did happen, though what it might mean we cannot yet judge.

The incident began quite innocuously with a report from the Midlands of a light in the sky. This was one of many in a series which occurred during August and September of that year (1971). In essence it appeared no different to any other, but one of us, Derek James, followed it up superficially. A telephone call from the witness threw the incident into new perspective.

Apparently this witness had received a call from two men from the Ministry of Defence who, allegedly, told him that what he had seen was the Russian satellite, Cosmos 408. Now this is a rather unusual occurrence in Britain, as the Ministry takes interest in relatively few cases, and in fewer still do they personally visit the witness. It is stranger still when one considers that the original sighting was of nothing more than a white light which need probably have been no more than a satellite or an aircraft on first consideration.

In view of the above Derek checked with the satellite information at Farnborough, and ascertained that the Cosmos 408 satellite was over Newfoundland at the time of the incident and indeed was never visible from England at all!

This was perturbing, and a letter was despatched to the Ministry, but the official reply totally ignored the query as to why false information was given to the witness. No explanation was forthcoming.

At this point the witness contacted Derek once more, and not without trepidation because, for

several nights in succession, two strange men sat in a black *Jaguar* car outside his home. This alarmed him considerably, and prompted Derek to attempt to do something to assist.

Now Derek James has a relative who is a high ranking official on the local police force of the area in question, and he decided to approach him to see if any help could be given. The approach was made on the basis that the witness lived very close to a very large toy manufacturing firm, and the police should therefore be concerned as to whether plans for a robbery were being contemplated. Duly this was acknowledged, and a Panda control car with two policemen in it was instructed to keep a check on the vehicle.

By now events had taken us into October, and the patrol car kept watch on the vehicle on October 19 and 20. They timed it as it parked outside the house and waited for some time, and then drove off. On the third night, October 21, at approximately 21.05 the officers were given instructions from their superiors to detain the two strangers for questioning.

The patrol car was parked on the main road just away from where the *Jaguar* was standing. The police officers got out and walked towards the *Jaguar* and its occupants. They came up to it and were about to knock on the window when the car and its two passengers simply disappeared, as if they had melted away in front of the eyes of the astonished policemen.

The area was examined but there was no way in which the car could have disappeared naturally, and in any event the police officers were close enough to be quite positive as to what had transpired.

Subsequently neither car nor occupants were ever seen again, but the police officers and their superior (the relative of Derek James) had an unenviable task explaining away what had occurred.

For fairly obvious reasons neither names nor addresses of the participants nor the specific location of the event can be published here, although they are available on file with UFOIN.

Naturally one asks oneself many questions about this event, which parallels quite markedly certain close encounter UFO experiences (cf. the Bowles/Pratt affair in FSR Vol. 22, No. 5, where the object simply disappeared). One could explain the incident in almost any manner one wished, to relate it to any accepted theory. Did it become invisible? Did it disappear into another dimension? Or — perhaps we really ought to consider this more carefully — was it ever “really” there at all? To determine this we would have to define “real” and in the UFO phenomenon that is not particularly easy to do.