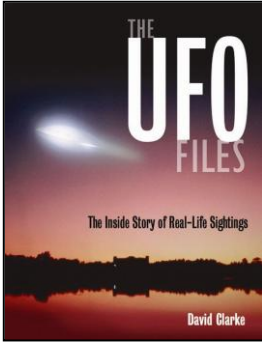




The National Archives



Goodness gracious, great balls of fire! Not to mention flashing light beams, flying saucers and a green alien called Algar...

**THE UFO FILES:
The Inside Story of Real-Life Sightings**

by David Clarke

Published on 22 October 2009 by The National Archives, £12.99 paperback original

THE UFO FILES is a collection of the most impressive reports from the British Ministry of Defence's secret files on real-life UFO sightings, released to The National Archives. These reports, including newly available records, are brought together for the first time, and cover sightings made in the early 1900s, right up to the present day.

The book includes sightings from people from all walks of life who felt they should report their experiences to the authorities, as well as a number reports recorded by military personnel and intelligence agencies. It also looks at the investigations of both British Intelligence and the CIA in response to UFO sightings, and their views on UFO threats to national security.

Highlights in **THE UFO FILES** include:

- Winston Churchill's lifelong curiosity about UFOs began with his involvement, before the First World War, in the first government enquiry into a UFO sighting over a sensitive military base during 1912. The book also reveals that Churchill's son-in-law, Lord Duncan Sandys, Minister of Defence 1957-9, was one of a small group of senior establishment figures - that included Lord Louis Mountbatten - who secretly believed in the existence of flying saucers.
- The full story of the Ministry of Defence's secretive study of the UFO phenomenon that began in 1950 with the "Flying Saucer Working Party" (used to brief Churchill) and ended with "Condign report" completed by the Defence Intelligence Staff (DIS) in 2000. This concluded "that [UFOs] exist is indisputable" but they posed no threat to defence of the UK.
- Interviews with RAF aircrew who reported UFO experiences including Venom pilots who were scrambled to intercept UFOs which buzzed the nuclear-armed USAF base at Lakenheath in Suffolk in the build-up to the Suez crisis of 1956.
- Details of a First World War encounter between a UFO and a British military pilot over London in 1916, when a Royal Naval Air Service pilot opened fire on an elongated object "which looked something like a railway carriage with the blinds drawn."

Pto.

- Wartime accounts from RAF Bomber Command crews who sighted strange balls of fire - known as "Foo Fighters" - that pursued their aircraft during night time raids over Germany, including a sighting by a Lancaster crew of "four balls of light tailing them, two on each side of the aircraft, accelerating in short powerful spurts."
- The detection of a massive formation of UFOs over the English Channel on British Wartime radar in March 1941, leading RAF Fighter Command to believe a large scale raid was under way. Orders were given to intercept, but no targets were found
- The formation of a crack UFO investigation team by the MOD in 1967, a year when the Ministry received more than 360 reports, in response to political and media pressure
- Stories from the MOD's 'Alien Abduction' files – including a Devon lorry driver's encounter with a UFO and its occupants in 1968, subject to a secret MoD investigation, and a Manchester woman who wrote to the MoD during the 1980s pleading for help following an abduction experience
- The story of the Channel Islands UFO sightings, reported by pilots and passengers on a flight across the English Channel in April 2007. Captain Ray Bowyer reported seeing a 'sparkling yellow' object shaped like a long thin cigar suspended on the horizon – a sighting corroborated by both passengers and the captain of a second aircraft, that remains unexplained.

These accounts, amongst many other official reports in the book, shed new light on many famous cases, together with dramatic witness statements and personal interviews, many conducted by the author himself. Combined with rarely seen photographs and drawings, **THE UFO FILES** offers a unique guide to our most intriguing mysteries.

DAVID CLARKE is Senior Lecturer in Journalism at Sheffield Hallam University. He has a long-standing interest in UFOs and other aerial phenomena, and has worked with The National Archives in promoting UFO material recently released by the Ministry of Defence. He is an experienced journalist as well as acting as researcher and consultant to a range of TV and radio productions. He is the author of *The Angel of Mons* (2004).

Video footage from The National Archives, presented by David Clarke, on recent MOD UFO releases, is available at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kcIF5INyAec>

For further information, or to arrange an interview with Dave Clarke, please contact Tracey Jennings, FMCM Associates, Tel: 020 7405 7422, Email: traceyj@fmcm.co.uk.

Note:

The MoD files covering Rendlesham forest UFO incident of 1980; the report by the Flying Saucer Working Party (used to brief Churchill); the Defence Intelligence UFO papers & Condign report were all released as a direct result of the author's requests to the Ministry of Defence using the Code of Practice and Freedom of Information Act between 2001 and 2007. The author and colleagues also played a key role in persuading the MoD to release their remaining archive of UFO files to the public via The National Archives project that is currently on-going.

The National Archives:

The National Archives, www.nationalarchives.gov.uk, is a government department and an executive agency of the Ministry of Justice (MoJ). As the official archives of the UK government, it cares for, makes available and 'brings alive' a vast collection of over 1000 years of historical records, including the treasured Domesday Book.

Not only safeguarding historical information, The National Archives also manages current digital information and devises new technological solutions for keeping government records readable now and in the future. It provides world class research facilities and expert advice, publishes all UK legislation and official publications, and is a leading advocate for the archive sector.

At the heart of information policy, The National Archives sets standards of best practice that actively promotes and encourages public access to, and the re-use of information, both online or onsite at Kew. This work helps inform today's decisions and ensures that they become tomorrow's permanent record.

The National Archives brings together the Public Record Office, Historical Manuscripts Commission, the Office of Public Sector Information and Her Majesty's Stationery Office. See also www.opsi.gov.uk.

www.nationalarchives.gov.uk