

THE FOTOCAT DATABASE : A TOOL FOR THE PRESENT AND THE FUTURE



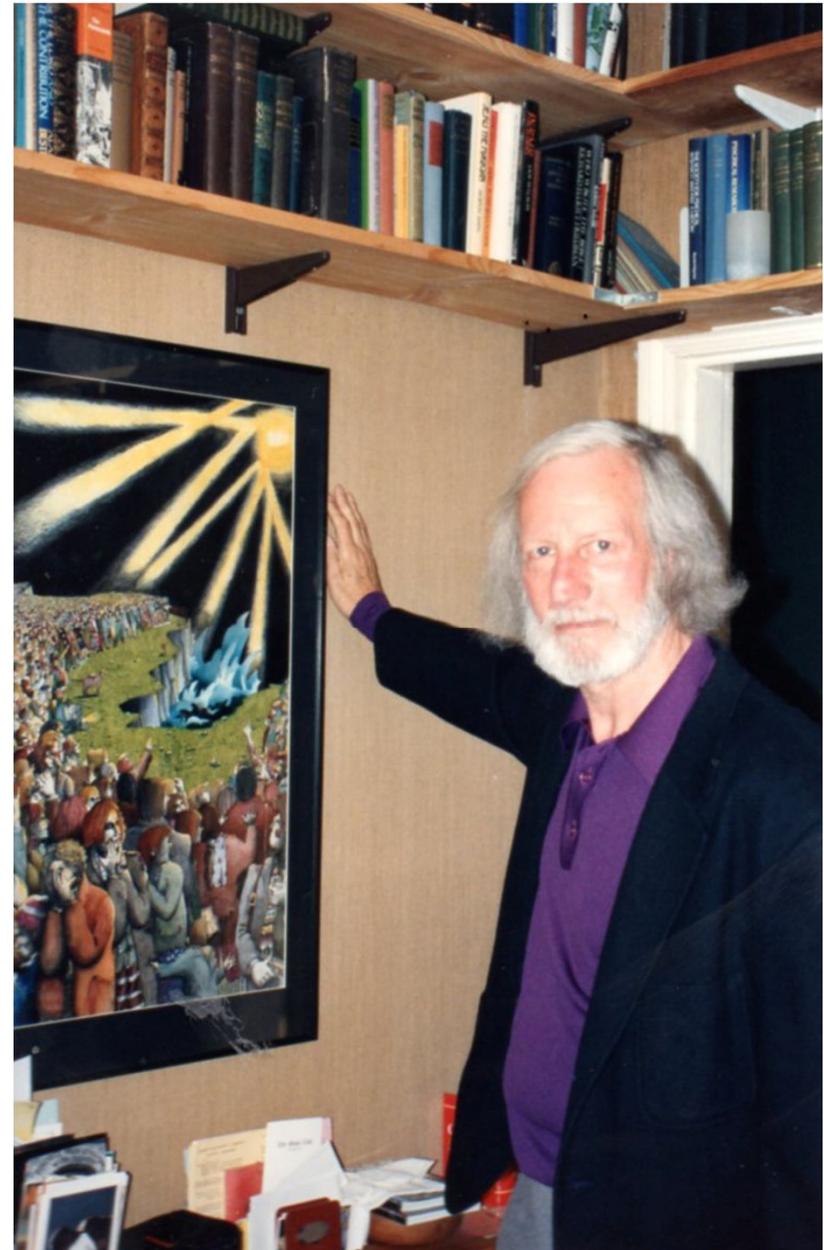
By: VICENTE-JUAN BALLESTER OLMOS

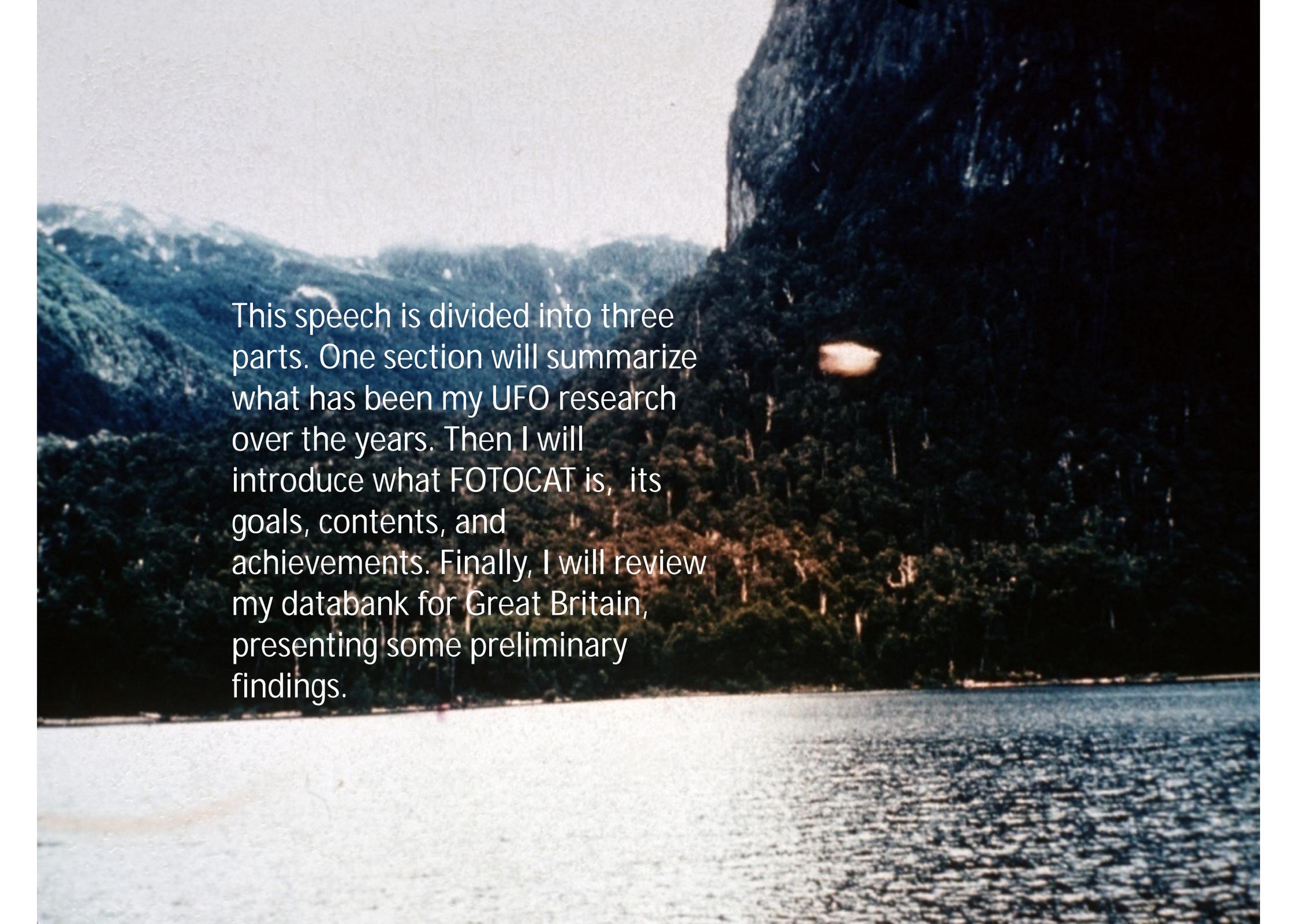
Let me at the onset express my appreciation to BUFORA for inviting me to this important meeting of UFO researchers, and especially to its chairman, Mr. Matt Lyons.

A 50-year anniversary in ufology is something great, but it is dangerous as well. Recently, a few other veteran organizations in our field in Europe and America have vanished because of lack of resources and affiliation. In my view, this risk can be avoided if the matrix of the organization becomes as wide as possible in terms of leadership, age mix, and, above all, philosophy. An organization will only survive –in my humble opinion- if both believers and skeptics may share a structure and work together in intellectual harmony.

Before I start, let me dedicate this speech to the memory of one of the foremost UFO researchers in the world -a British soul-, Mr. Hilary Evans. Hilary was friend, inspiration, helper, a great scholar and a wonderful person I had the privilege to know.

Hilary, you're gone but not forgotten.





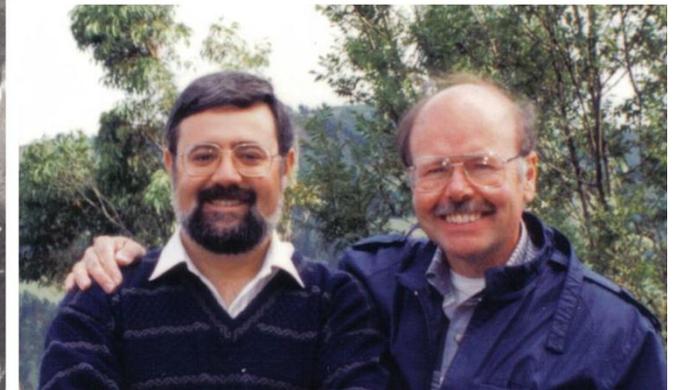
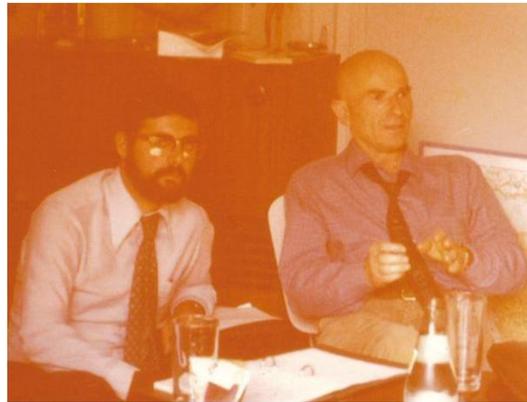
This speech is divided into three parts. One section will summarize what has been my UFO research over the years. Then I will introduce what FOTOCAT is, its goals, contents, and achievements. Finally, I will review my databank for Great Britain, presenting some preliminary findings.

45 YEARS OF PERSONAL UFO RESEARCH

I should perhaps start this speech by remembering how in 1964 my attention was caught by a couple of lines in a book by astronomer Firsoff. These related to the detection of strange objects not satisfactorily recognized. It excited my imagination and I decided to study the subject myself. I was 15 years old. In 1968 I founded in my home town the first ever UFO society financed by a University college.

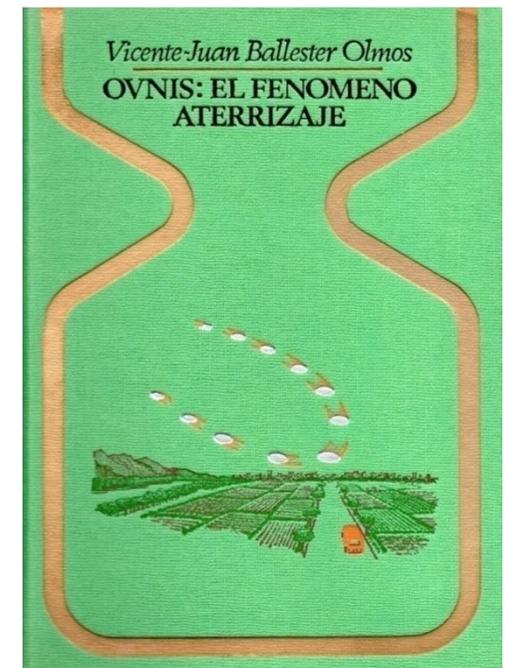
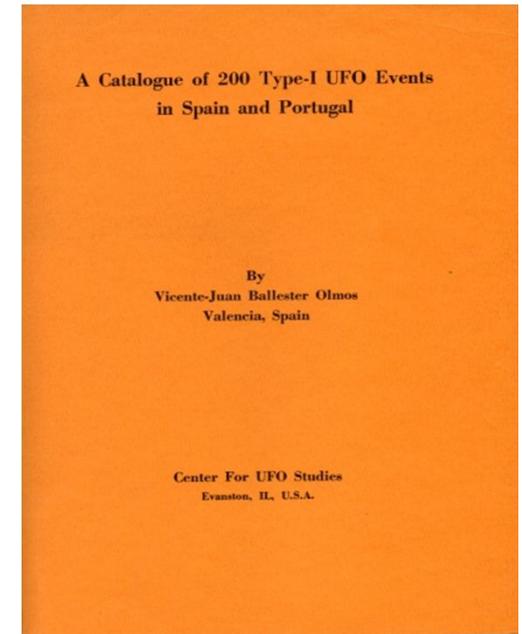
All of my life I have been a student of the scientific method. Also, for 30 years I have lived an intense professional life in the finance community.

In ufology, my mentors came from the French school of thought like Aimé Michel and Jacques Vallee. In the other side of the Atlantic my initial influences were Allen Hynek or Dick Haines. With all them I have met over the years.



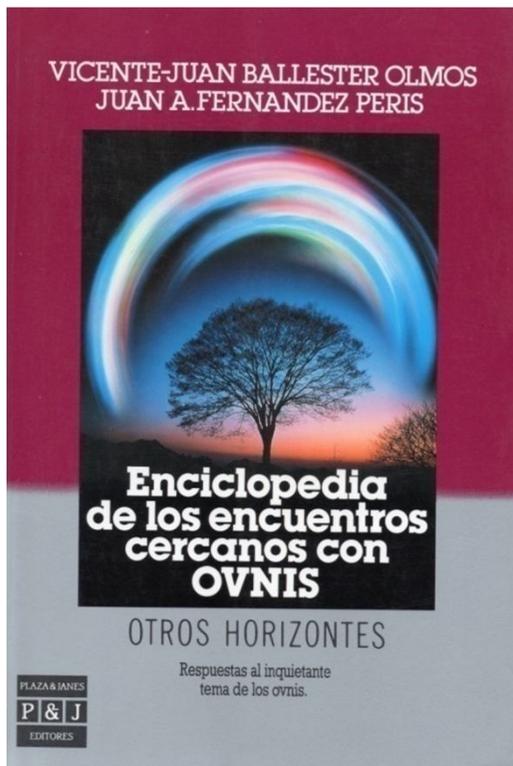
I developed a growing fascination with the stories of UFO landings, then called Type I cases after Vallee, later on to be known as close encounters after Hynek. In line with profuse correspondence with Dr. Vallee, in 1971 we wrote two papers together covering 100 such cases in Spain. Thanks to an unprecedented international agreement it was published in 3 languages and 4 journals, British *FSR*, French *LDLN*, Spanish *Stendek* and American *DATA-NET*.

In 1976, the Center for UFO Studies published my research report on 200 landing accounts in the Iberian Peninsula. I continued working on this class of events and by 1978 my first book was released, not surprisingly entitled **UFOs: The Landing Phenomenon**, which was expanded in following editions.



This did not stop my interest in landing reports; on the contrary it was boosted. An ambitious project was launched. In addition to large-scale collecting reports, I was aimed to first-hand probe as many events as possible, thanks to the assistance of a great network of peers to help in on-site inquiry.

As a result of this paramount effort, in 1987 I published a book with the title **Encyclopedia of the Close Encounters with UFOs**. It disclosed details for 230 landing stories, and a catalogue of 355 cases that were solved in the process. The base line had been increased by three-fold since I started this research 17 years before.

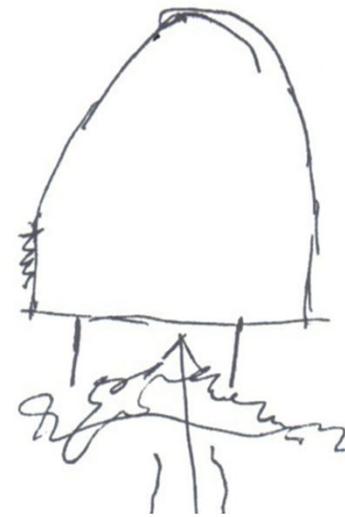


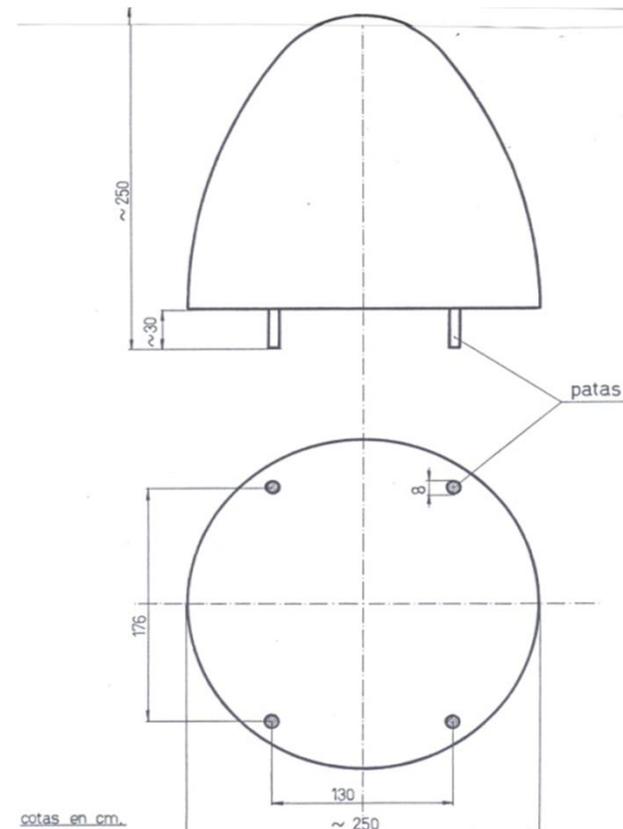
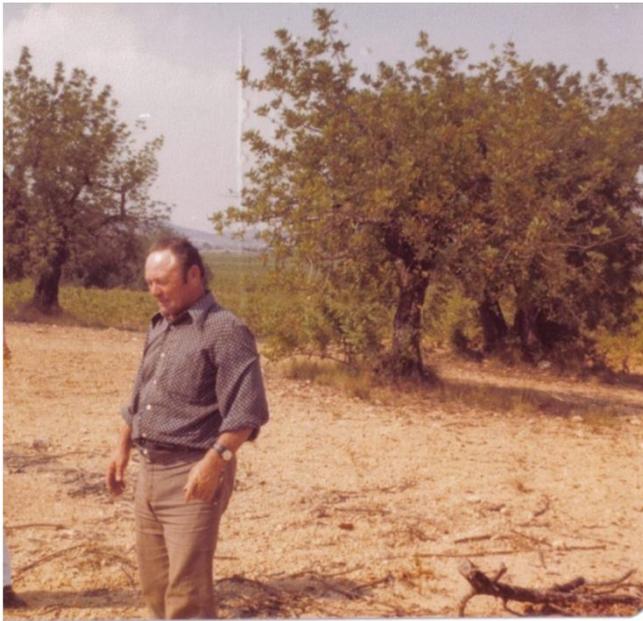
The last phrase of this book read: “Do the UFO events hold specific attributes, in comparison with resolved events?” For me, it was –and still is- a key question.

The investigation highlighted the entropy of the phenomenon, and the absence of singularities of UFO cases in regard to IFO (i.e., explained) cases.



At 11:30 am of July 25, 1979, a wealthy 54-year-old farmer of Turís, Valencia (Spain), was driving to his fields when some 700 m before arriving, he saw a reflection he thought to be a car. About 3 minutes later, when he was about 50 m away, he saw what he first thought was a car parked in the middle of the trail.





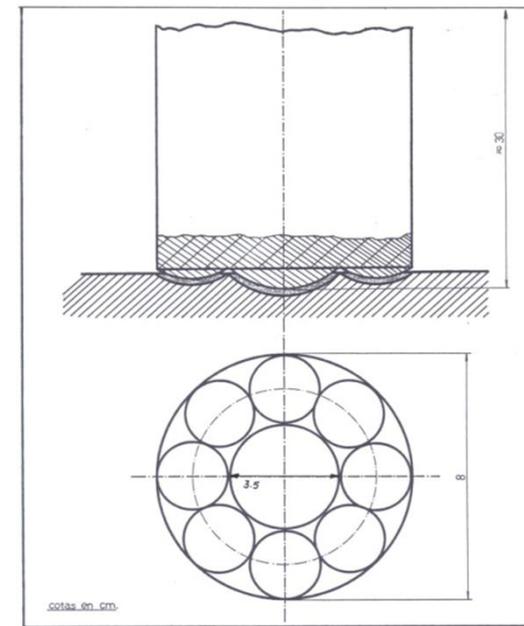
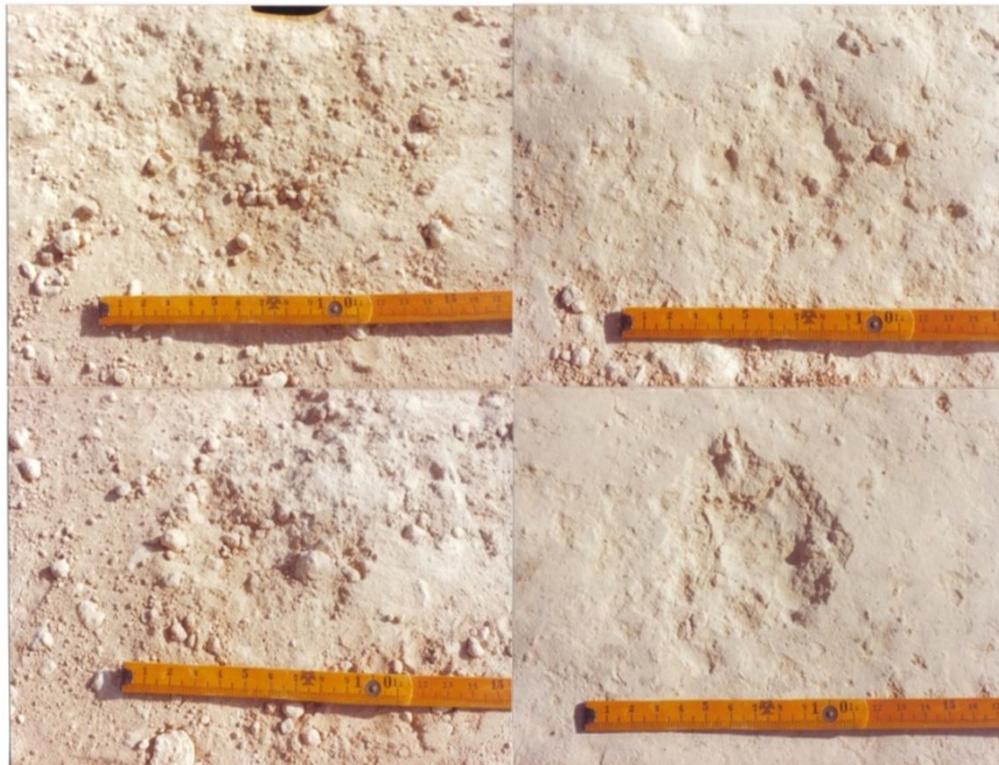
It was only when he was about 4 m from the object, which blocked his way, that he noticed that it was not an automobile. It had a "half-egg" shape, lacked wheels, and was resting on the ground on two "feet." It was white in color, had a flat base, and dimensions of 2.5 m tall and wide. "It was something metallic and very bright", the witness stated.

Amazed and still sitting inside his vehicle, he saw two identical beings come from a carob tree 11 m to his left. They were some 90 cm in height and they entered the object by the left side very quickly. They were seen just for 2 seconds.

Suddenly, the object rose at great speed and disappeared in a few seconds. No sound was heard.

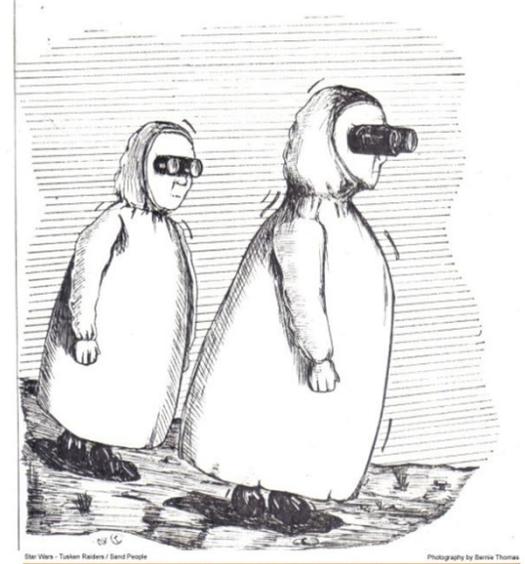


In the following days a complete on-the-spot investigation was done. I also visited the place and talked to the witness. During the investigation, 4 tracks in a 2 by 1 m rectangle were found in the landing place. Each one was a circle formed by 8 spherical holes, which surrounded a central round hole. Using a manual device, a weight of 4 tons was roughly estimated.



30 years later I revisited the area and the witness to find the same claim with the same energy from a person of 84 years of age. Was it a dream, a hallucination, something unreal? He denies it with passion. He is convinced that this happened in front of his eyes. And he is convincing.

A critique is not easy. It has been said that the clothing of the beings resemble that of two characters of Stars Wars, but the movie culture of our man is extremely poor.



This case is unique. This is precisely the problem with close encounters: it seems that each event is singular and different, as if it was the product of a personal mental construction. And this is a paradigm because it represents the hard core of the high-strangeness UFO phenomenon: whether the testimony of an alleged out-of-the-ordinary experience follows from a true physical reality or from an invention.

For a skeptic ufologist like me, the investigation and reinvestigation of this case has been a fire test. ***My impression is that the witness is sincere. He believes in the reality of his experience. As an investigator, I have been unable to find any objective justification for a lie. This is something extraordinary, either materially or mentally.***

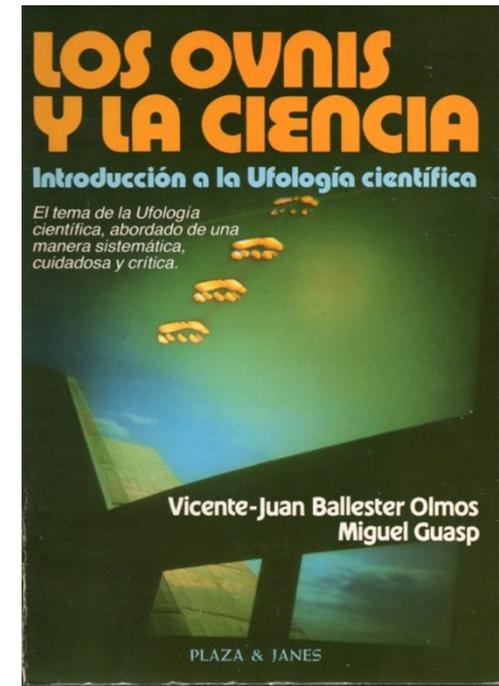


My dedication to UFO research has mainly centered in applying a scientific approach to UFO data, setting up principles for investigation, statistical analysis, pattern search, epistemology, examination of theories, design of quantifiable indices, on-site field inquiry, eyewitness interview, tools to aid for UFO investigation, testimony study, etc.

All this was published in two other books, **UFOs and Science** (1981) and **UFO Investigation** (1984).

By then I proposed that the UFO phenomenon might consist of one of these three theories:

- A transitory pattern of anomalous mental behavior
- A spontaneous energetic phenomenon
- Examples of ET visits



In the 1990s I changed my research topics quite drastically. I got involved with UFO sightings from military personnel: Air Force, Navy, Army, Police, and Civil Guard. The final target was achieving the release of official UFO files from the Ministry of Defense. For 10 years I collected some 600 reports, many of which were analyzed in detail.

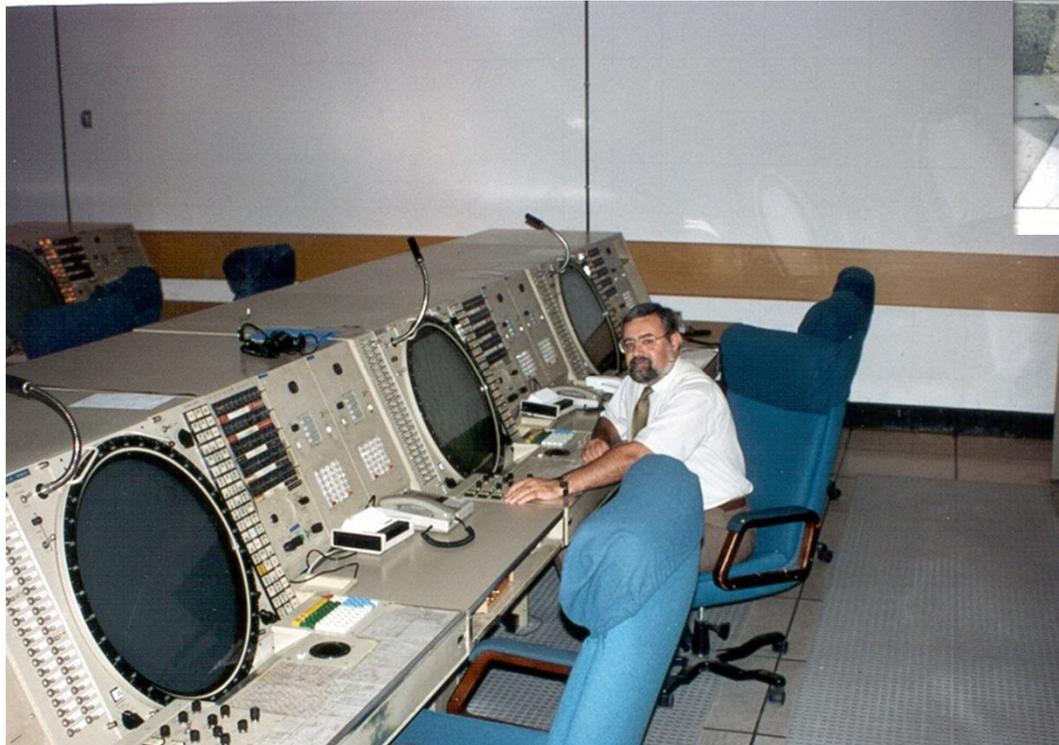


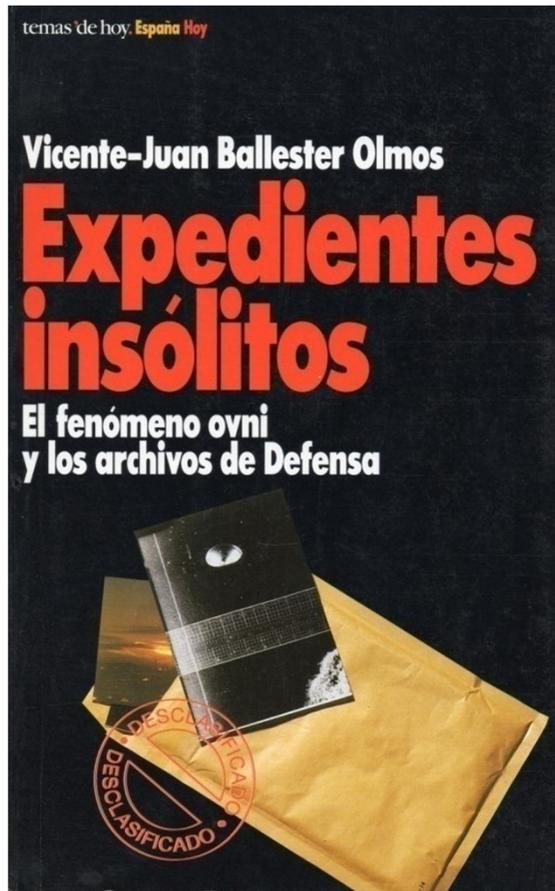
During my interaction with the officers in charge of the UFO files, I succeeded in placing a formal request for full disclosure in the Air Force Staff. As a result, in 1992 the files were downgraded from classified to routine, this is, subject to full declassification.



In the meantime I was asked to become a consultant to the declassification process, between 1992 and 1999. Let me add that it was unpaid, of course.

As the only civilian cooperating with the Air Force Intelligence, my aim was to check that disclosure was complete. And it was.



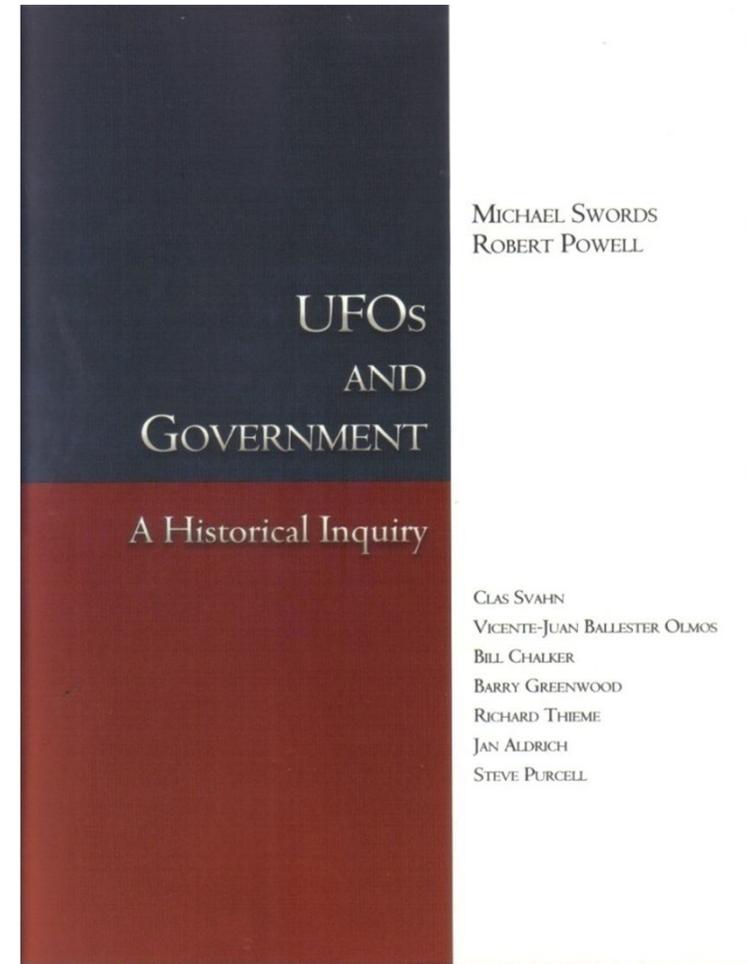


Finally, full archives were made public, 2,000 pages, 84 files, 122 individual events that had been reported from 1962 to 1995 to air authorities.

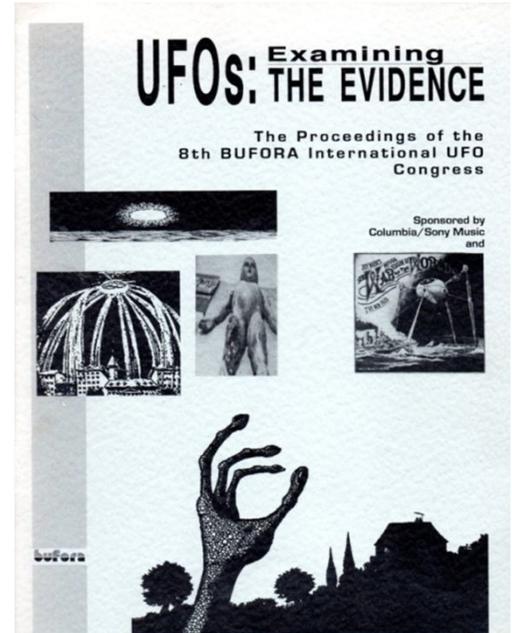
Our research concluded that 81% of cases can be solved, 12% had insufficient information for an evaluation, and 7% were, well, UFOs.

I have published many papers to document this release process as well as to cover the main incidents, including a book devoted to this, **The Alien Files** (1995).

This current year (2012), a US publisher has released the book **UFOs and Government**, edited by Michael Swords and Robert Powell, where I am one of the contributing authors, with a chapter on UFO secrecy and UFO disclosure in Spain.



Somehow BUFORA has been following up my work since the beginning. In 1979 I came to the London congress to speak about landings, and in 1995 I participated in the BUFORA conference held in Sheffield, where my topic was UFO disclosure in Spain. Today I am here to cover my latest research program.



EXPLORING FOTOCAT.

UFO reports not only exist in the form of millions of eyewitness testimonies but also as material evidence as pictures, footage or digital media. On year 2000 I started a new project, FOTOCAT. The objective is to collect all known information produced about every single UFO report in the world where a photograph, film or video has been obtained.

For this, a huge archive has been created. This working program also encourages the analysis of events. FOTOCAT attempts to become a reliable database for current and future students of UFO phenomena. It is a public service in the sense that it is meant to be provided to the research community in full and free when finished.

The actual catalogue is a computer-based databank, an Excel spreadsheet register containing 25 standard data columns. The first 7 columns are compiler's control data for internal management. The 18 data columns that follow represent the bulk of the information compiled. According to the printing range selected, the catalogue prints into 3 pages per entry. The first covers basic information like date, time, ID, and location.

FOTOCAT: WORLDWIDE CATALOGUE OF UFO PHOTOGRAPHS © Vicente-Juan Ballester Olmos, 2012																						
Type	Format Available			Date (*)	Aprox	(**)	Description			OK	Location (Country)											
A	M	D	F	V	I	d	Day	Mo	Yr	Y	M	D	Time									
							29	09	65					UFO				Ciudad de México, Distrito Federal (México)				
							30	09	65				Night	Streetlamp, mercury vapor	OK			Norwich, Connecticut				
							01	10	65				D	Astronomical, Comet <i>Ikeya Seki</i>	OK			Northern Hemisphere				
							01	10	65				D	Afternoon	UFO			Lake Norman, North Carolina				
						C	05	10	65				Night	Venus	OK			Ciudad de Buenos Aires, Capital Federal (Argentina)				
							07	10	65				15.45	UFO				Cley Hill, Warminster, Wiltshire (UK)				
							07	10	65		Y			UFO				Mexico				
							08	10	65					UFO				South Bay, California				
							09	10	65				12.30	UFO				Haneda Airport (Japan)				
						C	12	10	65				22.05	Fake	OK			Warminster, Wiltshire (UK)				
							15	10	65					UFO				Ciudad de Buenos Aires, Capital Federal (Argentina)				
							20	10	65					Astronomical, star, Capella?	OK			Oregon				
							20	10	65				18.45	UFO				Arceetri Observatory, Firenze (Italy)				
		D	F			C	21	10	65				18.10	Streetlamp (Larry Robinson) / UFO (Bruce Maccabee)	OK			St. George, Minnesota				
							25	10	65				D	UFO				Camarillo, California				
							26	10	65				20.30	UFO				Mogi Guacu, Sao Paulo (Brazil)				
						d	27	10	65					Fake	OK			Castejón (Navarra)				
							31	10	65					Astronomical, star, Capella	OK			Eftand, North Carolina				
						C	01	11	65				D	Cloud?	OK			Tallahassee, Florida				
							05	11	65					UFO				Bellingham, Massachusetts				
						D	09	11	65				Night	Lens flare	OK			New York, New York				
							09	11	65					UFO				Niagara Falls, New York				
						d	14	11	65				Day	Processing flaw?	OK			Rosario, Santa Fé (Argentina)				
							15	11	65				D	Reflections	OK			México				
							19	11	65				Night	UFO				Osaka (Japan)				
							22	11	65					UFO				Ciudad de Buenos Aires, Capital Federal (Argentina)				
						D	F		d	C			01	12	65		20.40	Processing or film flaw	OK			Outer space (San Miguel, Buenos Aires, Argentina)

The second page contains national and regional codes, mode of image, codes for CE or ball lightning events, name of photographer, data for media professionals, full duration, and special features of the photograph.

	Province	Photo				(***)		Blue		
Nation	State, Region	Film				Media	Duration	Book		
Code	Department	Video	CE	BL	Photographer/Cameraperson	(for professionals)	(secs)	Special Photo Features	Files	Airborne
MEX	DF	PHOTO				El Diario				
USA	CT	FILM			Ken Skinner	Norwich Bulletin	several minute			
UNK		PHOTO			Schuetz				*	
USA	NC	PHOTO			Phillip Parker	Mooresville Tribune		photographs from airplane		*
ARG	CF	PHOTO			Luis Anconetani					
GBR	SW	PHOTO			Lionel Downey			unseen by photographer		
MEX		PHOTO			Gerardo Su Hernández					
USA	CA	PHOTO			Gillis					
JPN		PHOTO			Yusuke J. Matsumura					
GBR	SW	PHOTO			Michael Rae					
ARG	CF	PHOTO								
USA	OR	PHOTO			USAF				*	
ITA	FI	PHOTO								
USA	MN	PHOTO			Arthur A. Strauch (Deputy Sheriff)		600		*	
USA	CA	FILM			Universal Pictures Corporation					
BRA	SP	PHOTO			Azevedo Gomes					
ESP	31	PHOTO			Luis Larrad Mur					
USA	NC	FILM			Stubblefield				*	
USA	FL	PHOTO								
USA	MA	PHOTO			Davidson				*	
USA	NY	PHOTO			Arthur Rickerby	LIFE Magazine				
USA	NY	PHOTO			William Stilwell					
ARG	SF	PHOTO			Omar J. Lampeatti			unseen by photographer?		
MEX		PHOTO			Zimmerman				*	
JPN		PHOTO			Yuichi Oki					
ARG	CF	PHOTO								
ARG	BA	PHOTO			Luis Ferro			unseen by photographer		

Finally, the third page is for the references and bibliography

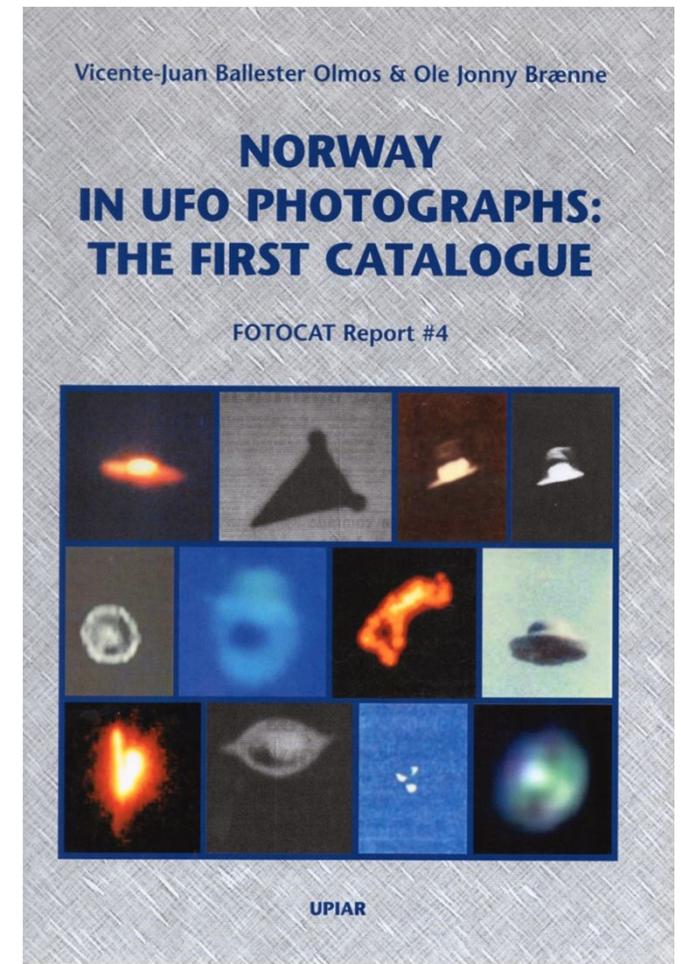
Currently, FOTOCAT has over 11,000 entries. In addition to the spreadsheet, there is a physical archive. It comprises some 200 chronological folders containing case information, including photographic prints, as well as 3,500 slides and a hard-drive file with some 50,000 digital images.

Generally, the catalogue ends on December 31, 2005.

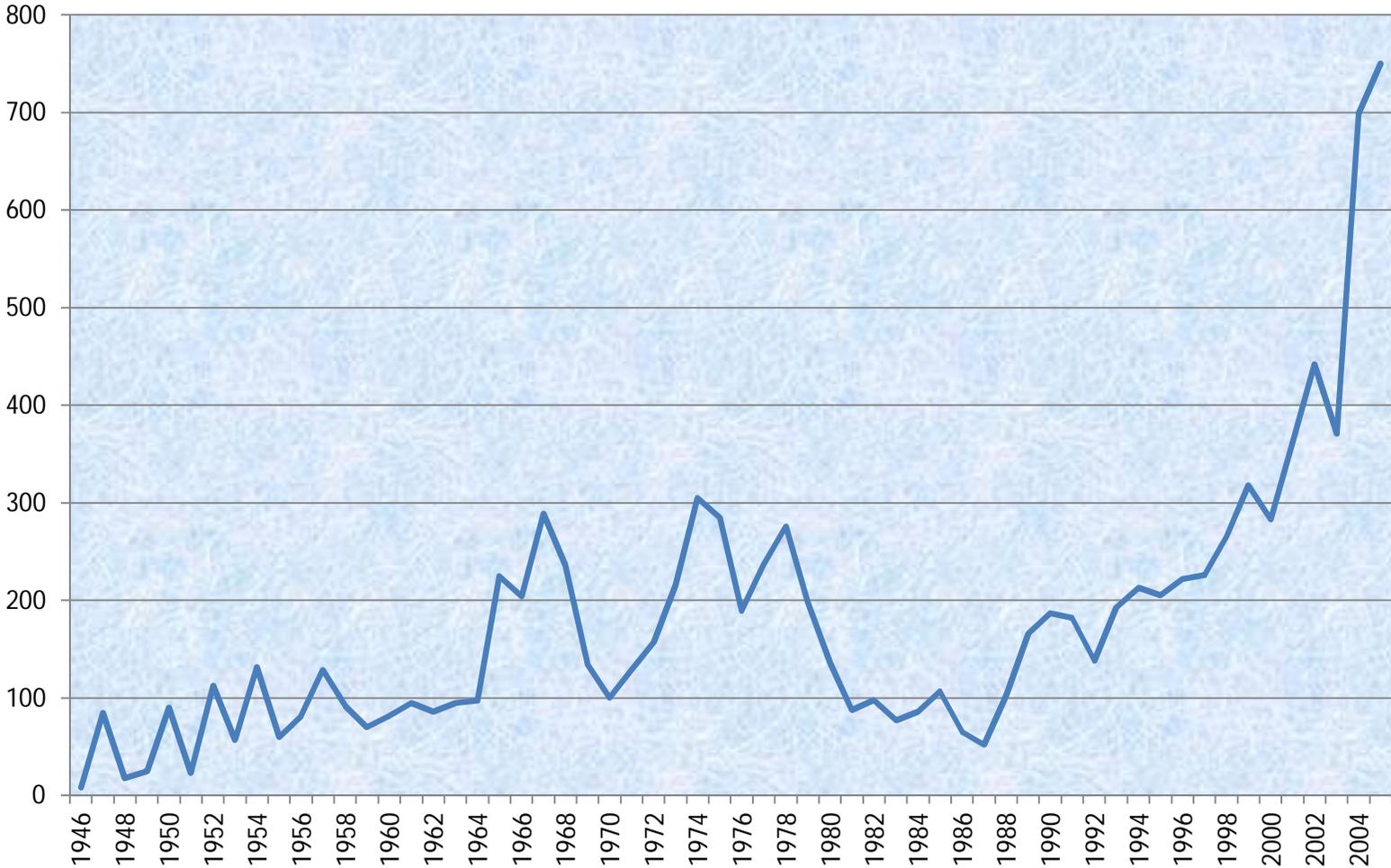
I realized that the number of recent pictures was escalating as a function of the popularity of digital cameras, and a large proportion of incoming photographs were instances of digital artifacts and unseen bug or bird trails, now called "orbs" or "rods".

Our project provides yearly or regional listings to researchers on demand. We also post a blog in internet to inform on progress and publications: [UFO FOTOCAT](#)

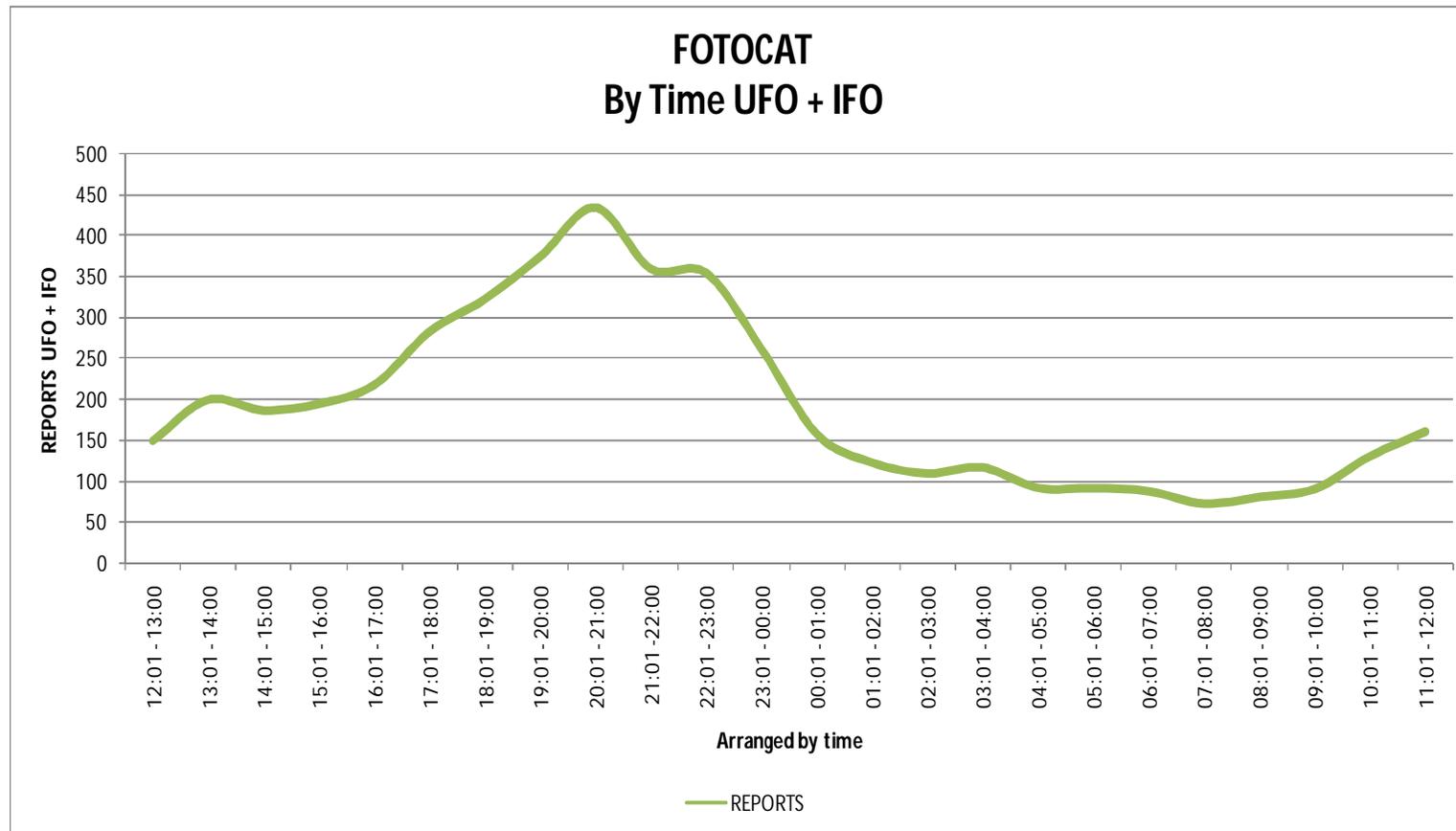
In addition to data storage, we pretend data exploitation and data analysis. To date, 5 major papers have been published, dealing with the 1954 wave, the year 1965 in Argentina, sphere UFOs seen from airplanes, and cases in Norway and in France. Other papers are in preparation.



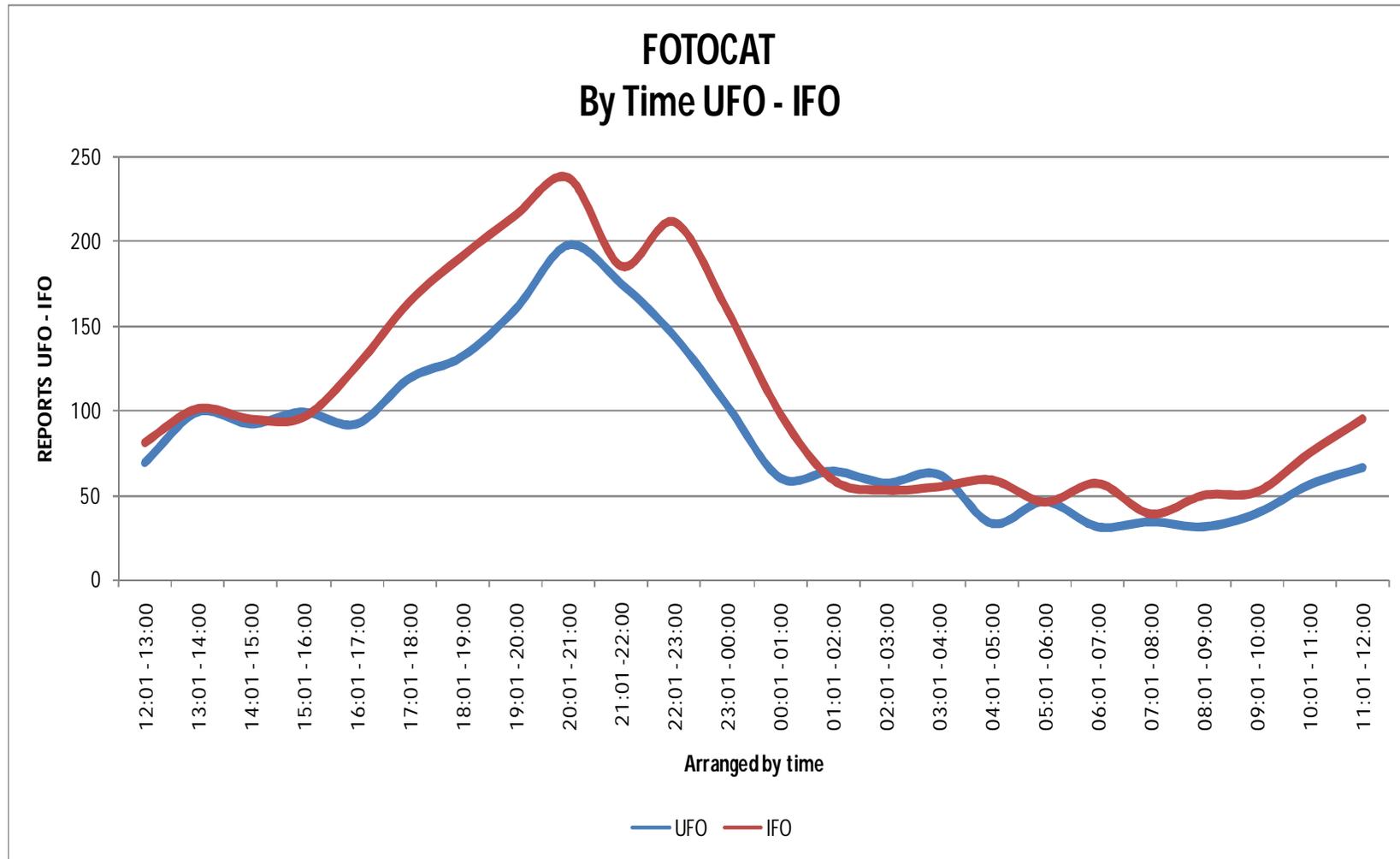
This is a plot of all cases by year. We see classical waves around years 1967, 1974 and 1978. The exponential increase of the incoming reports in the present century is mostly composed by the so-called "invisible" UFOs, not seen by the observer at the time the photograph was taken.



We now look at the reports by time. From lowest reporting rate at 7 am, it smoothly rises up to a maximum at 8 pm, starting to decline again. It looks like a Gaussian curve over the evening and night hours (which is when lights in the sky are better seen) modified by sleeping habits.



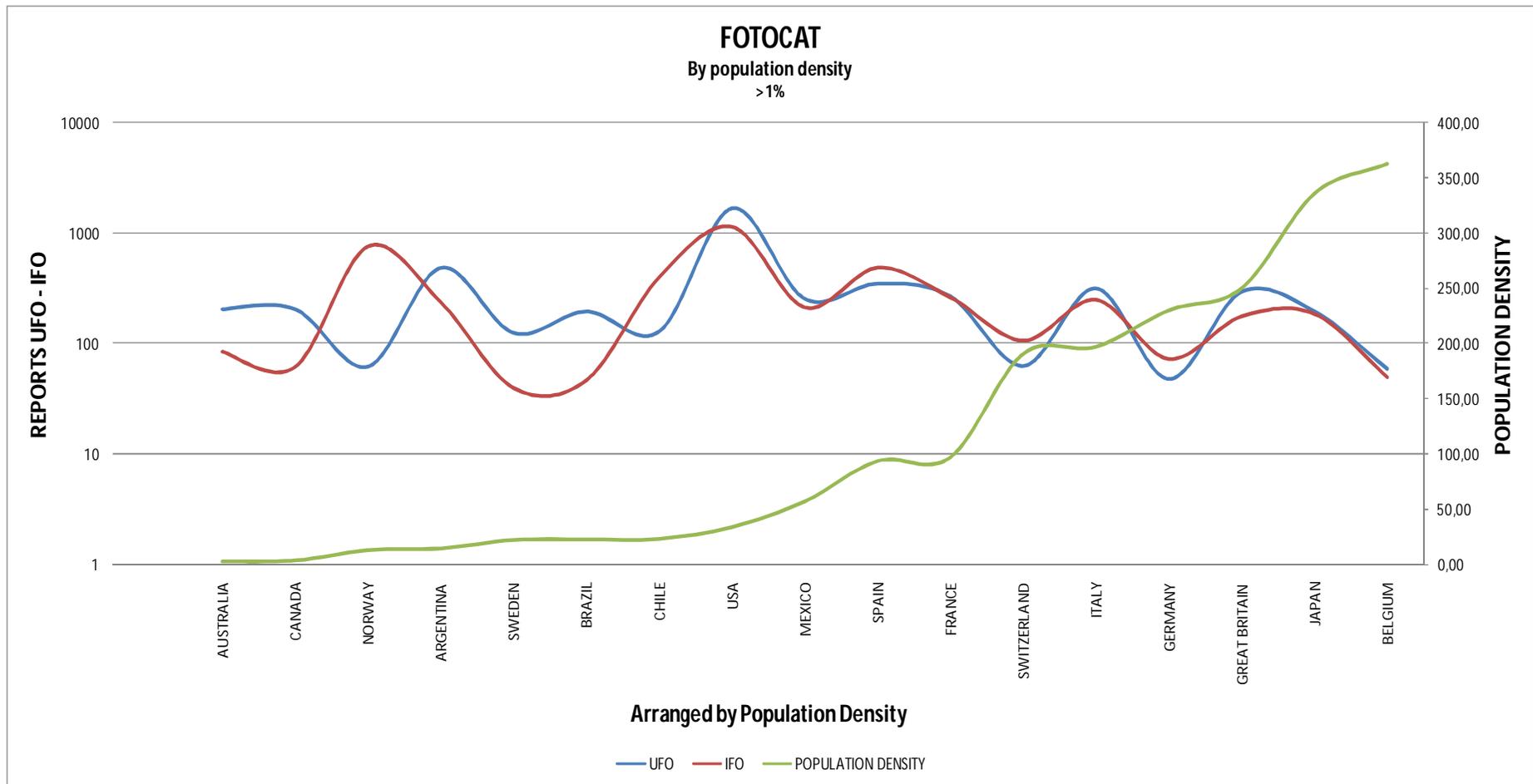
It is remarkable how close **UFOs** and **IFOs** are regarding time. There is a correlation coefficient of 0.95 between them.



Are reports related to population? This chart plots 17 countries with over 1% of total reports, in order to look for any relationship with demography.

Not only there is not a direct correlation with population density, in fact it appears to be a slightly inverse one, with a value of -0.28

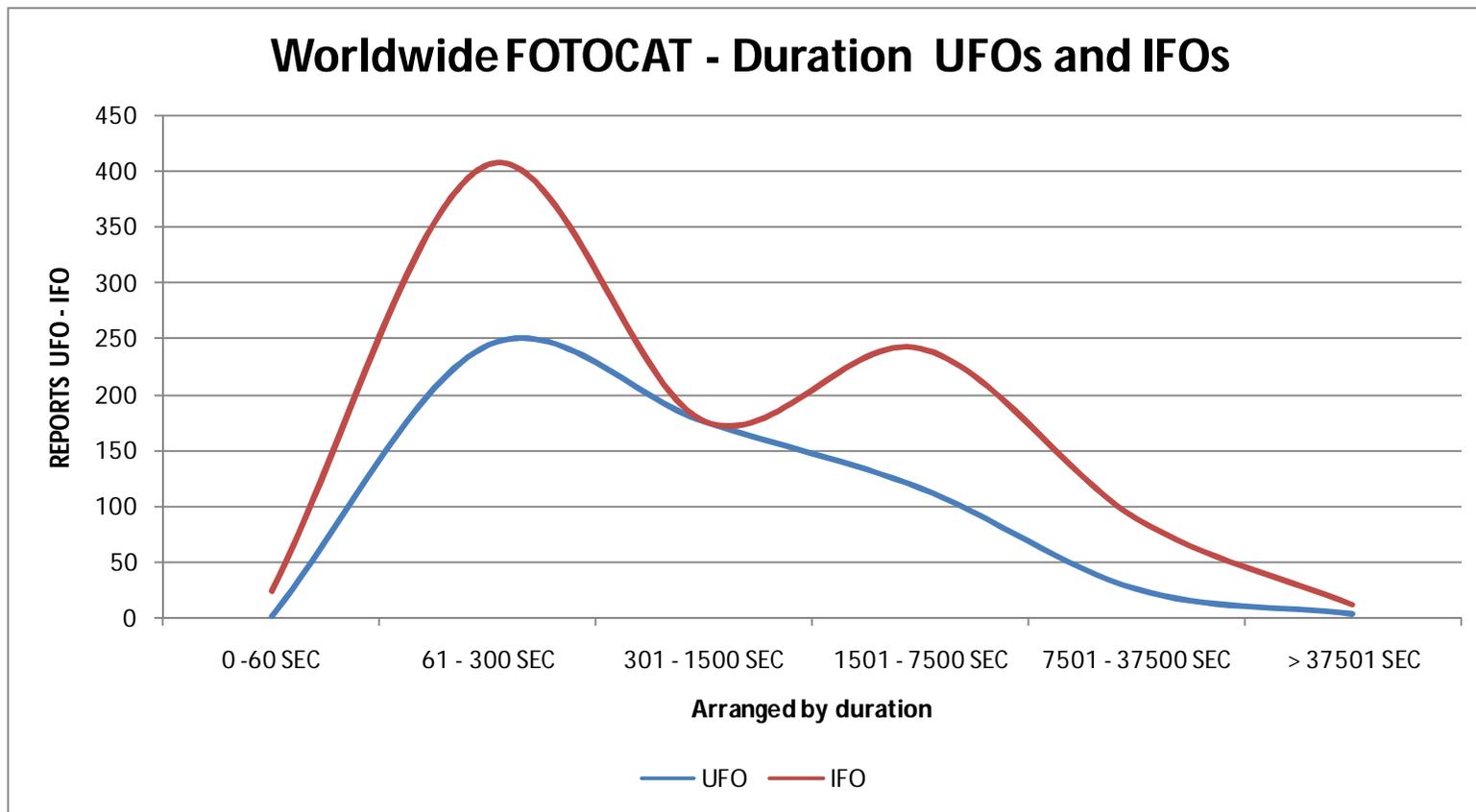
Correlation between **UFOs** and **IFOs** is as positive as 0.75



With limited data on lifetime of reports, this graph shows how **I**FOs have two clear peaks. One, for short events between 1 and 5 minutes (probably aircraft) and another for longer events between 25 minutes and 2 hours (probably balloons and astronomical bodies).

For **U**FOs, it is safe to say that almost half of the sample lasted also from 1 to 5 minutes and the rest is distributed in longer events.

Correlation between both samples is high, 0.93.



In the coming years, I will continue devoting time to expanding the catalogue as a lot of work is still ahead:

- .Many cases to feed the database.
- .Many missing data to add to catalogue columns.
- .Intense international communication to improve the base-line.
- .Joint papers to be done with foreign experts.
- .Case analysis.



The prospect for the future is promising in terms of quality and quantity. In the meantime, we will be pleased to facilitate materials to local students for specific jobs, and our blog will continue to inform of ongoing work.

COUNTRY	POPULATION (MILS)	KM ² (000)	POPULATION DENSITY	UFO REPORTS	UFO REPORTS PER MIL.
GREAT BRITAIN	61.1	244.8	244	472	7.7
FRANCE	63.2	547.0	116	530	8.4
ITALY	58.8	301.2	192	565	9.6
SPAIN	46.0	504.9	91	835	18.1

A BRIEF LOOK AT GREAT BRITAIN IN FOTOCAT

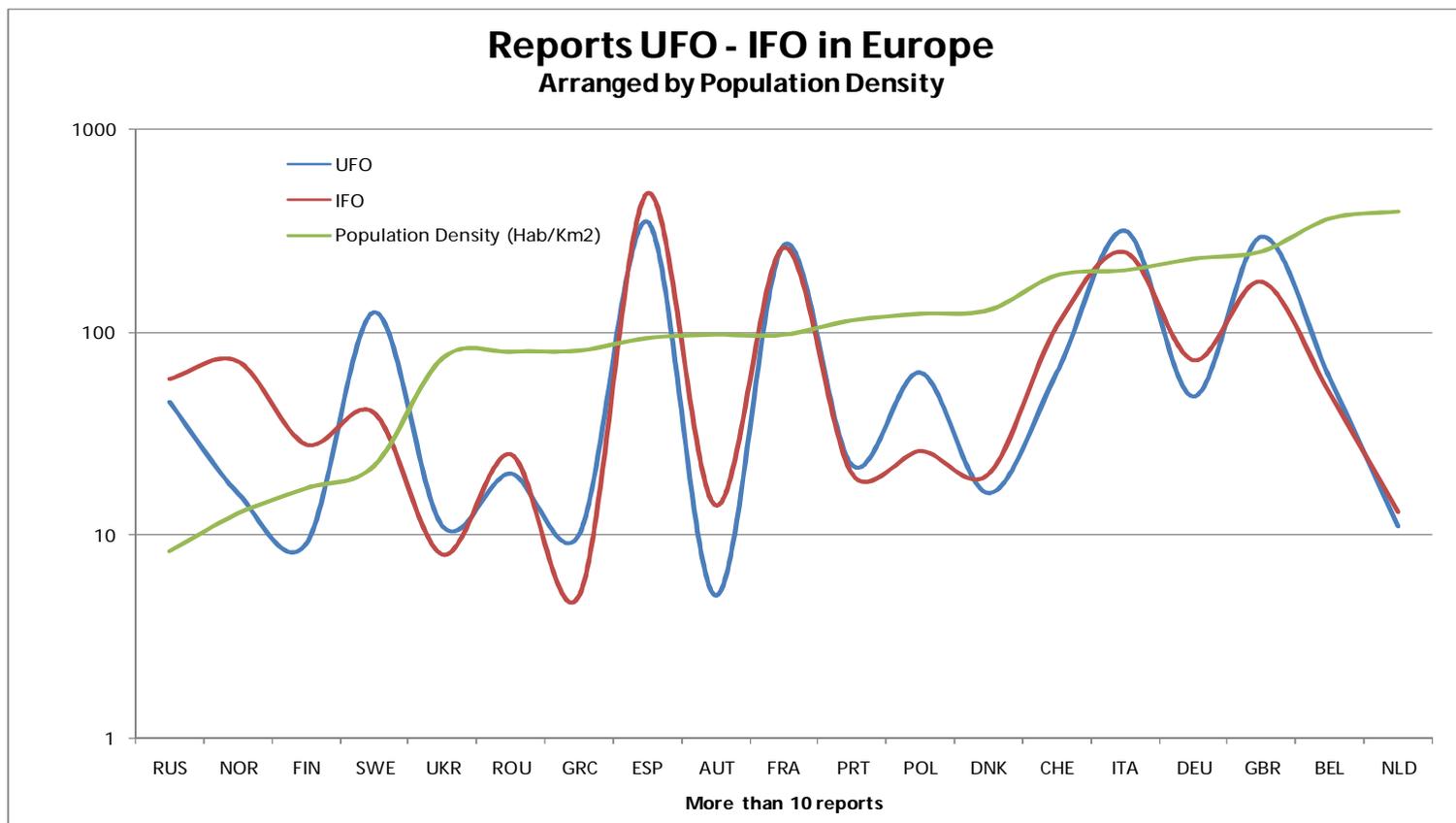
From a total database of 10,813 entries ending year 2005, the Great Britain catalogue owns 472 cases. I admit it does not fairly represent the true magnitude of photographic UFO reporting in the UK. I know its limitations, however, with occasion of this presentation I thought I should at least provide a rough overview of what it is known to date.

I have compared Great Britain's input with three major countries from continental Europe: France, Italy and Spain. It seems that the collection of reports simply depends on the access of cases to the compiler, not to any external factor. This explains why Spain doubles the number of cases of Great Britain. Probably at the end of the collecting process for the UK, the number of entries may be near 1,000. Let it be a call for assistance to you all to provide input to this catalogue.

UFO reporting seems to be unrelated to population or land. This logarithmic plot shows population density and number of reports for 19 European countries, including UK.

The correlation between population and reports is 0.07; in fact, if the calculation is performed with data from 35 countries in Europe, correlation is 0.005, some 10 times lower.

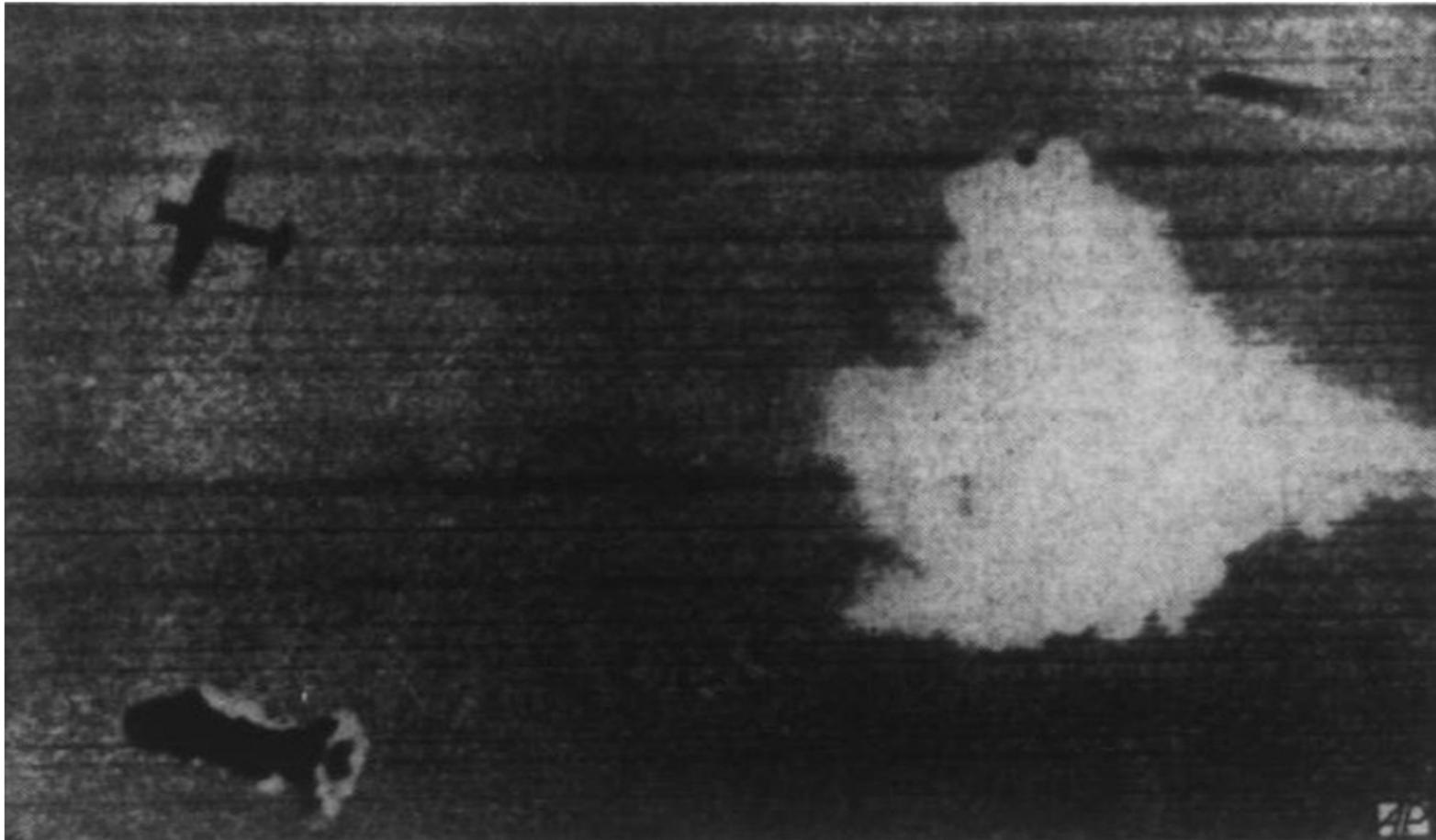
Another finding: **UFOs** and **IFOs** have a high auto-correlation of 0.90, or 0.92 if all countries are computed. Statistically, the two classes of reports do not behave differently.



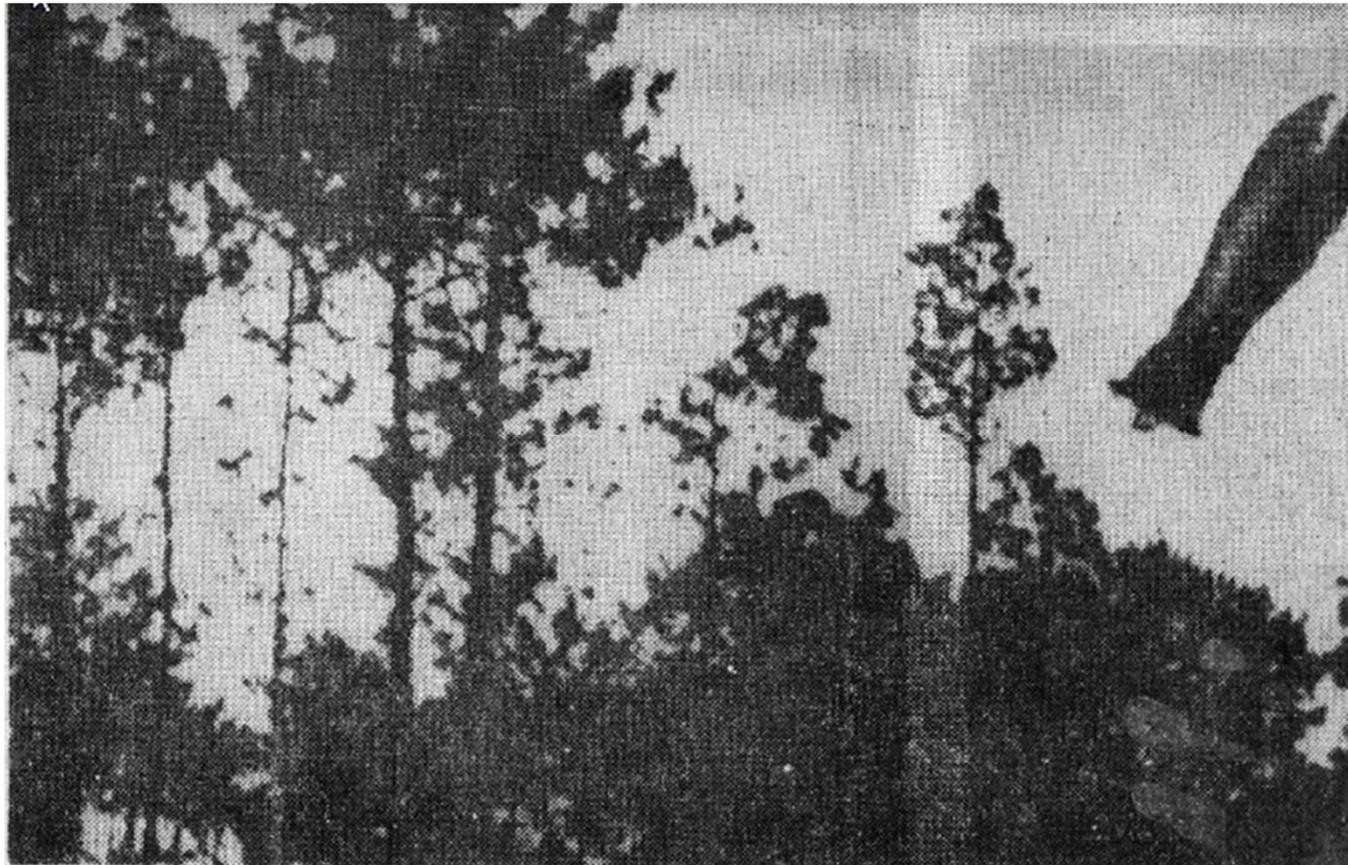
Great Britain contributes 7 reports prior to the magical year of 1947, including 4 examples of ball lightning photographs. The earliest possible UFO image in the UK dates back to September 1908, when an amateur astronomer took a picture of an auroral cloud. Later on he found in the plate a luminous spot above the main cloud. According to the photographer, it was not a film flaw but a real image, he claimed, "of an electric origin".



Another curious early image the contemporary press named “mystery weapon” was published in the *Daily Mirror*, August 12, 1940. It shows a German raider plane caught amidst anti-aircraft bursting shells somewhere in the British coast. The strange object in the lower left-hand corner was not identified by London as a balloon.



To me it looks like a film or development defect. Similar processing artifacts have been found in other photographs as well, having in common that the object was not seen at the time of snapping the pictures, implying it was unreal. The following photo was taken in 1977 in Canelones, Uruguay.

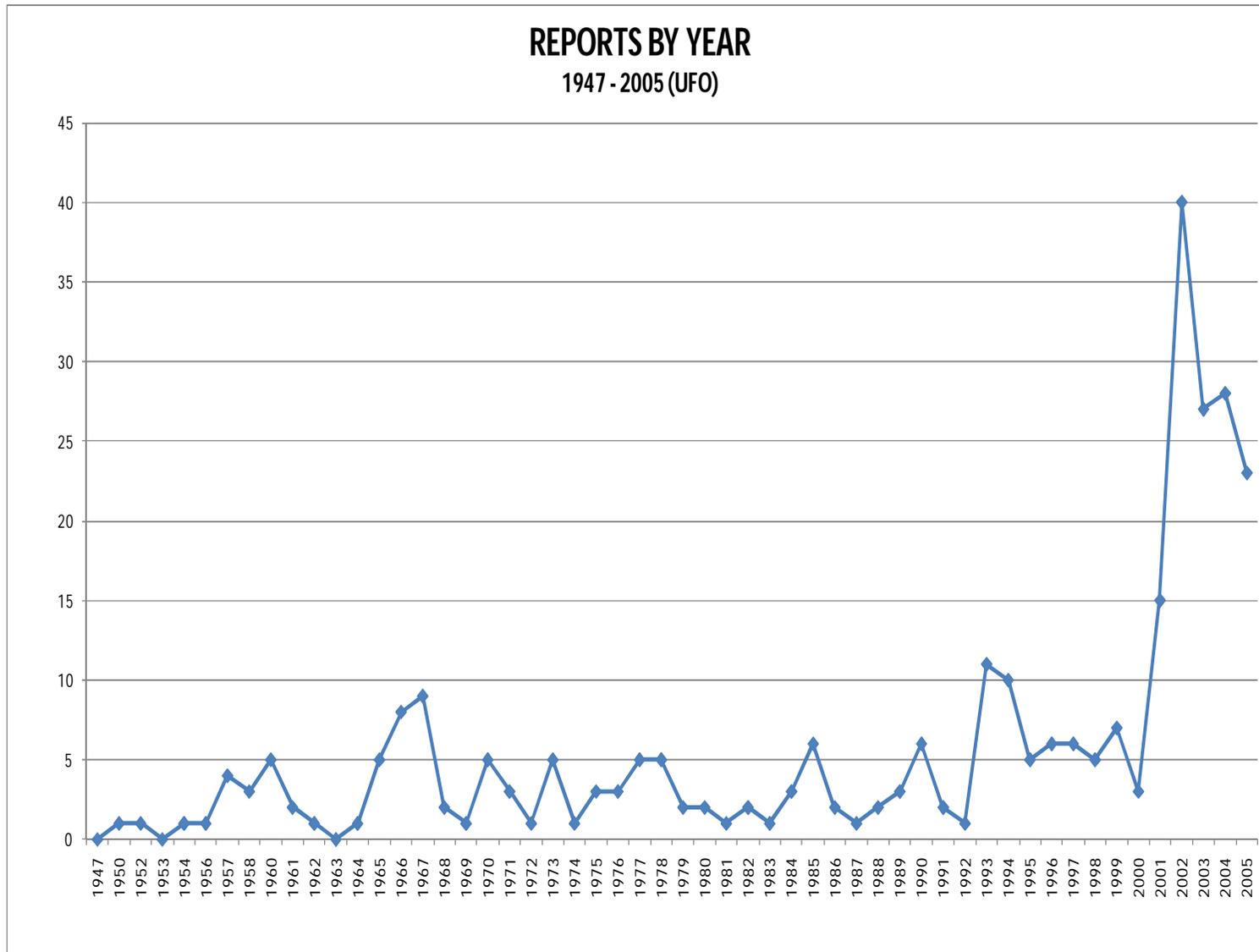


Let me comment in more detail cases by year. This table contains 465 FOTOCAT entries between 1947 and 2005 for UK.

Particular wave years have been highlighted: scattering is the word.

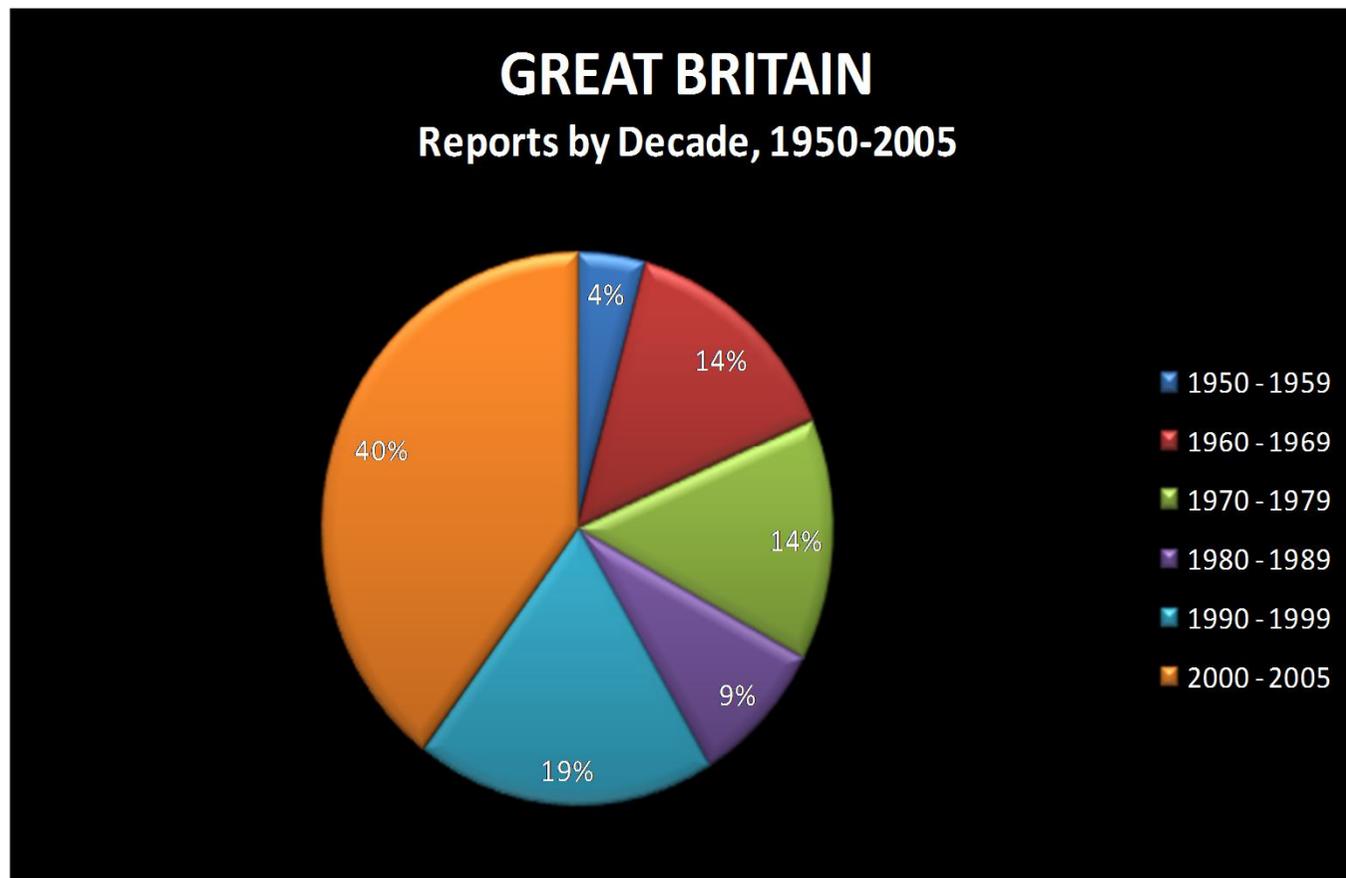
YEAR	REPORTS	YEAR	REPORTS	YEAR	REPORTS
1947	1	1970	7	1988	3
1950	1	1971	12	1989	4
1952	1	1972	6	1990	6
1953	1	1973	6	1991	6
1954	5	1974	3	1992	2
1956	1	1975	4	1993	17
1957	8	1976	7	1994	12
1958	3	1977	10	1995	6
1960	7	1978	6	1996	8
1961	3	1979	5	1997	11
1962	4	1980	4	1998	9
1963	5	1981	3	1999	11
1964	3	1982	4	2000	8
1965	7	1983	6	2001	20
1966	13	1984	4	2002	52
1967	16	1985	6	2003	34
1968	4	1986	2	2004	41
1969	4	1987	4	2005	29
				TOTAL	465

This sample may not be fully representative yet and the following may be tentative, but UFO reporting peaks in several wave years: 1954, 1957, 1966 to 1967, 1971, 1977, and 1993 to 1994. Since 2001, hell broke loose in terms of number of reports, with special intensity in year 2002.



By decade, except for a starting minimum of 4% in the 1950s, claims of UFO pictures from 1960 to 1999 are quite stable, with a variance between 9% and 19%.

However, in the few years of the decade of the new millennium, reported cases become a huge share of the statistical cake.



1947 was the official starting point. To my knowledge, there is a single photograph for this year in GB, and it comes from Outer Hebrides (Scotland). It just arrived to a UFO website managed by B.J. Booth.

At this regard, Scottish ufologist Malcolm Robinson, said to us:

I have never ever seen this photo before anywhere. Not in the annals of Scottish ufology or in the annals of UFO photos. To me it looks suspiciously fake.

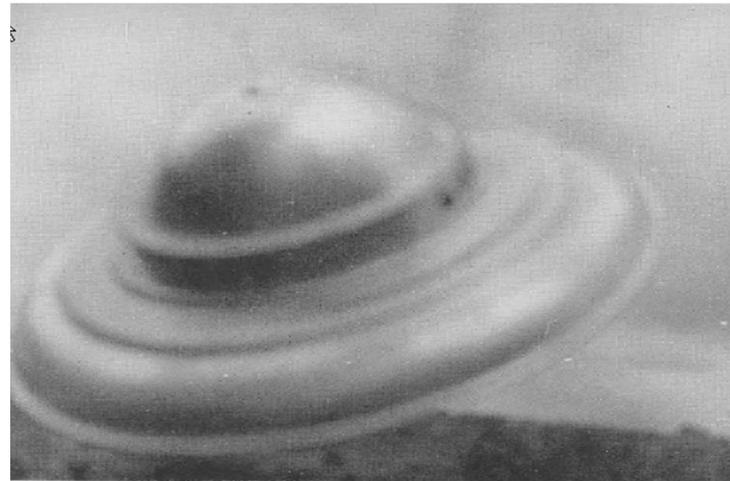
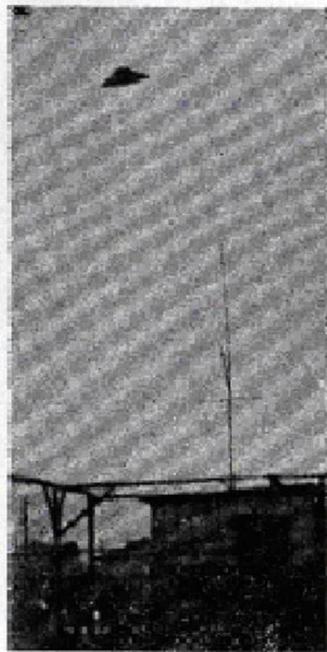
I couldn't agree more.



The first wave, in 1954, had just 5 incidents. It contained the infamous fakes of Coniston and Lossiemouth in February



In December a teenager took this one in Wednesfield. Probably a hoax as well.



And this rare, poorly documented picture made in Sussex in July by B. Simmons. Anyone can provide any clue to this photograph?



Out of 8 records for 1957, I have only images for two. This white object was snapped near Manchester on June. I bet it is just a cloud.



A cloud like the well-known Cappoquin (Ireland) UFO of December 1965.



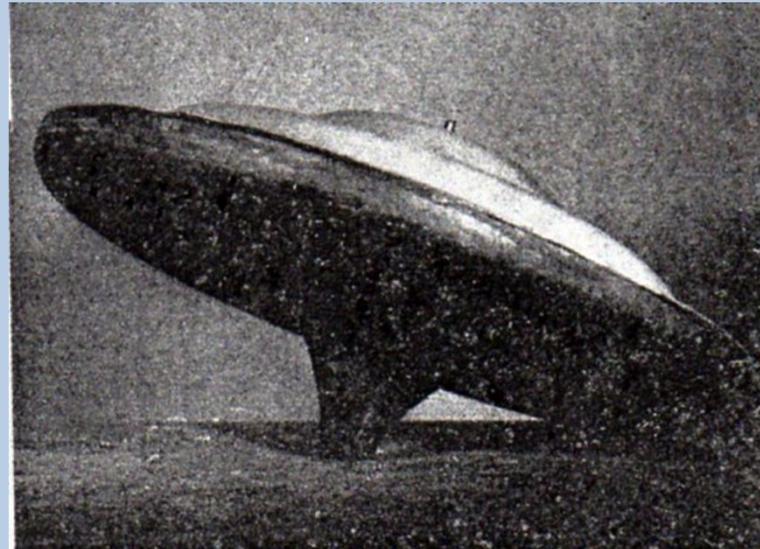
Similar to this lenticular cloud in Wales in 1960.



Or this another UFO cloud in Didcot, 1962.



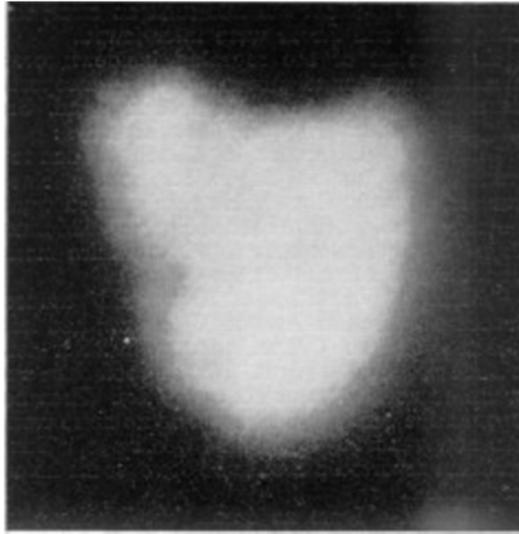
Also in 1957, we cannot forget the object found at Silpho Moor in November, clearly a humanly-manufactured, mini flying saucer, made for fun.



This was not the only such contraption made to fool people. In September 1967 some students disseminated by the English countryside several metal discs shaped like a typical flying saucer.



Few and far between, there are also some interesting images. This is a frame from film footage obtained in Sheffield, at 11 pm on August 19, 1962.



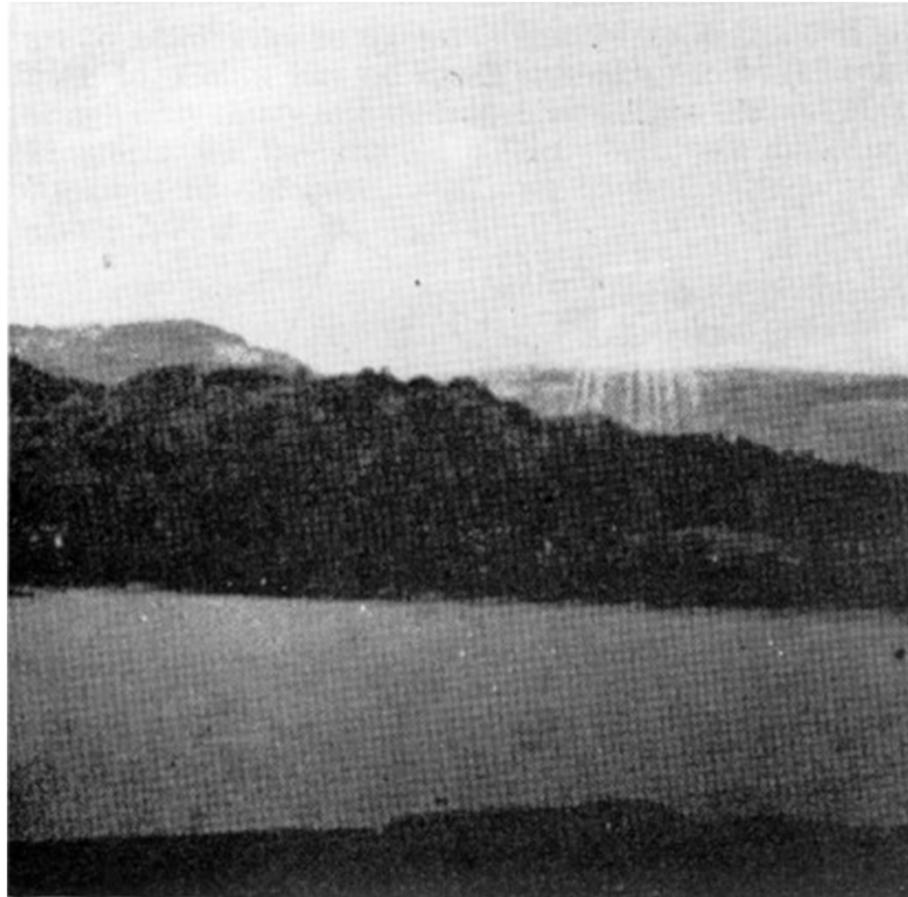
Sighted during 15 minutes, the person who filmed it described it as being like “two saucers on top of one another, with a straight line in the middle”. The light had a red or orange color about it.

Press also reported sightings those days of a light appearing to be four times brighter than the brightest star, appearing in the sky during several days at the same time and watched for a long period of time. It was probably planet Jupiter, standing in the SE at 16° over the horizon with bright of -2.7

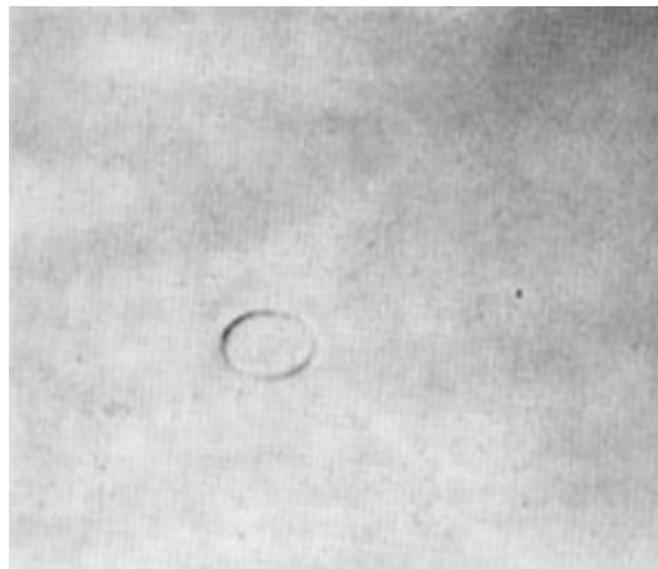
However, this particular UFO was high in the sky and moving from north to south, what seems to exclude an astronomical explanation.

This transparency of August 1963 on Lake Windermere also has potential for a real UFO... or probably for something more elementary.

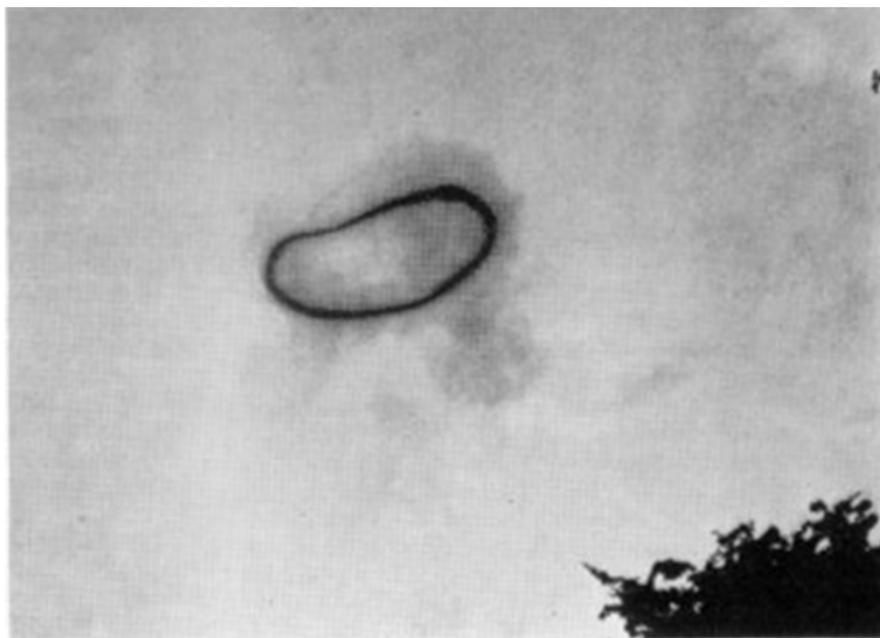
The person who took the slide did not see anything strange at the time, therefore a film or developing flaw is suspected. The slide is in the files of *Flying Saucer Review*; I suggest it is recovered and analyzed with modern technology.



This picture was taken in the Waddington Royal Air Force Base, during an open day and air display on July of 1963. A ring-shaped UFO was observed and recorded by the camera of one of the witnesses.

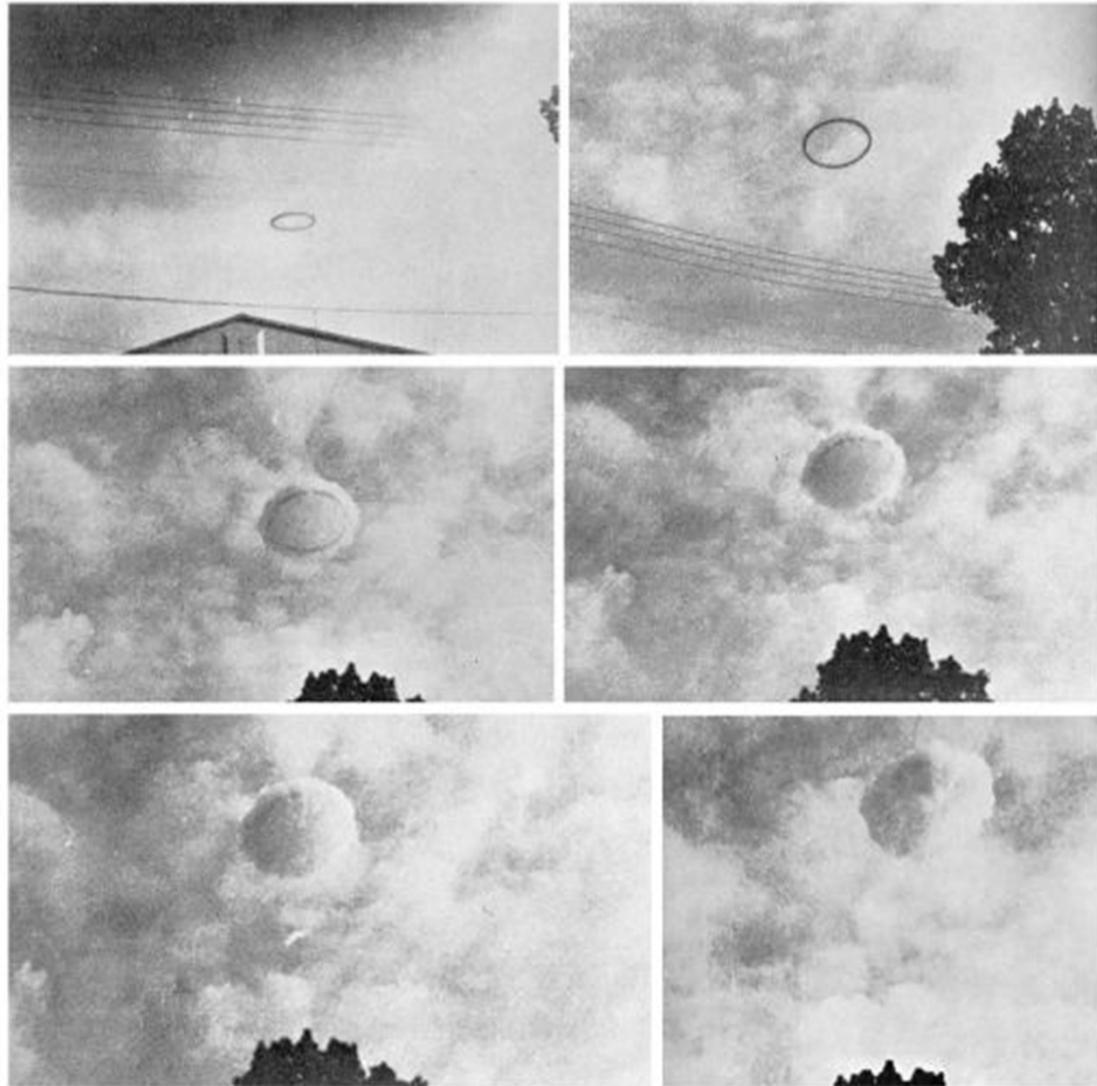


Similar photos were taken in Birmingham in June 1969.



Comparative ufology is what we do when we collate events from several parts of the world with common elements, mainly shape and behavior.

The culprit, in this case, is a smoke vortex ring. Such rings have been seen elsewhere, like the September 9, 1957 series of pictures at the US Army base in Fort Belvoir.



Those vortex rings are meters-wide clouds of smoke or vapor than can be seen floating through the sky, from the explosion of military weapons, aircraft combustion, volcano eruptions, industrial sites, etc. Let us see examples in



Chile, during aircraft exhibitions, February 1997.



March 1973, The Netherlands

August 2005, Nevada

June 2007, Norway



And finally these spectacular images taken during a recent eruption of Etna volcano, Sicily (Italy)



A presentation that attempts to go over the history of UFO photographs in England cannot miss the famous picture of the spaceman of Carlisle, when fireman Jim Templeton took three pictures of his younger daughter posing in the grass on May 23, 1964.

After development, in photo #2 a weird whitish image appeared. It was invisible to the human eye.



The humanoid figure was not evident in the other photographs taken that morning.



Theories abound on this image. From a figure briefly materialized on the physical plane, to a hoax with someone wearing fire protection gear, to a camera lens or processing artifact which by pareidolia adopts the shape of a helmeted humanoid. However, apparently, *Kodak* excluded any tampering or film defect.

In 1997, Roger Green of Bradford University carried out an analysis and concluded the image was the result of a superimposition technique, this is, a fake.

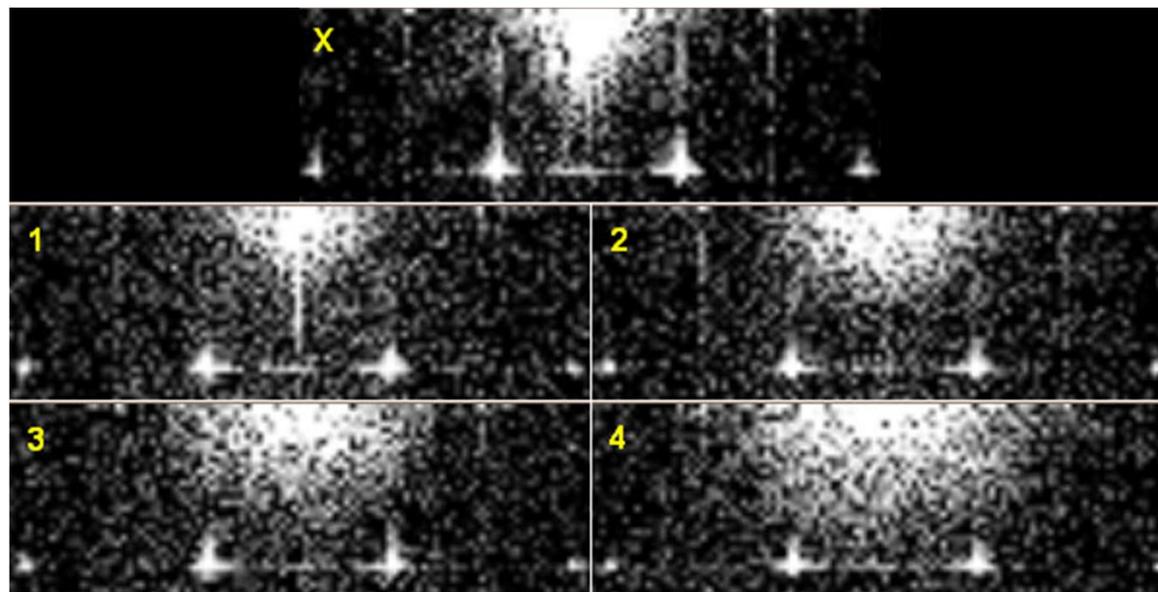
In 2005, after publication of an article in *Fortean Times*, 4 independent readers coincided to propose a much more simple explanation: it was a human figure in the background standing with its back to the camera. It was an optical effect, a misinterpretation of a person facing away from the camera, the blurring due to motion and wrong focus. In 2010, Anthony Bragalia, Bob Koford, Gordon Hudson and others presented online work supporting this theory.

Someone wearing a jacket similar to a parka would produce this effect.



This solution involves no hoaxing and it probably was there since the beginning, when the chemist who developed the photographs told Mr. Templeton that it was a shame the best of Elizabeth was spoiled “by the man in the foreground.”

The ultimate contribution to the case is a preliminary study of a first generation copy by Andrés Duarte. He has applied Fourier spectrum analysis to several points of the picture both from the background (1 to 4) and the spaceman (X).

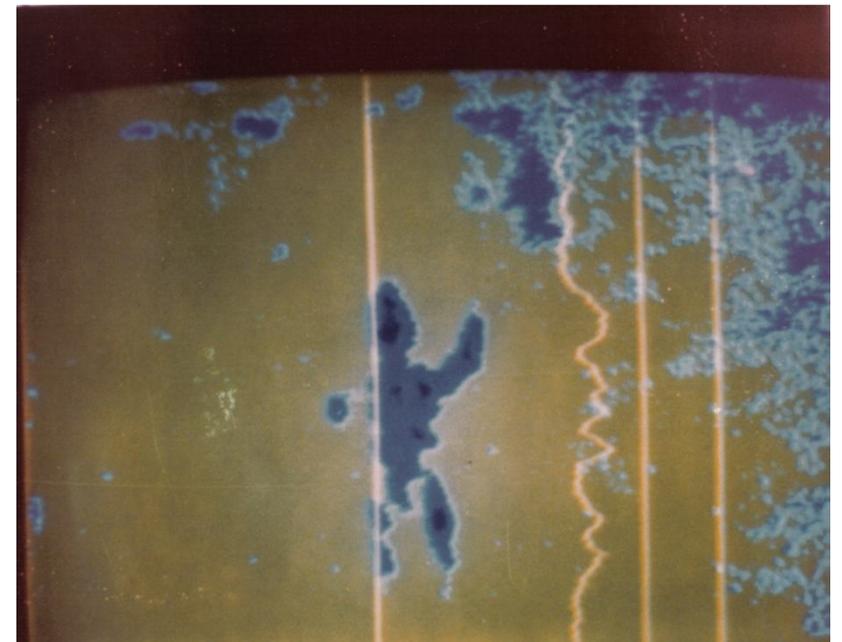


Spectrum X is more comparable to spectrum of spot 1 and it is interpreted as the unknown, real image is actually behind the child and farther than spots 2 to 4. Recent findings, soon to be published, suggest that a person of a height of 1.7 m should be 7 m behind the child, standing 16 cm over her ground level.

Ufology is a land for aliens; therefore there are plenty of images of alleged humanoids. Some are unseen as in the case of Mr. Templeton, or as in this another example, where a tiny homunculus appeared in a vacation family picture after development. It was taken on February 1979 in Puento del Inca, Argentina.



The photograph shows something which was not there, not a surprise to find that is a development artifact, as confirmed by several experts.



Another UFO creature is the blue being photographed by a 14-year-old boy on July 21, 1967 in the small town of Oriental, North Carolina. He reported how a flying object like a white ball 3 m in diameter had landed in his backyard. A little man about 1.5 m tall came from behind the UFO and came to 5 m from the boy.

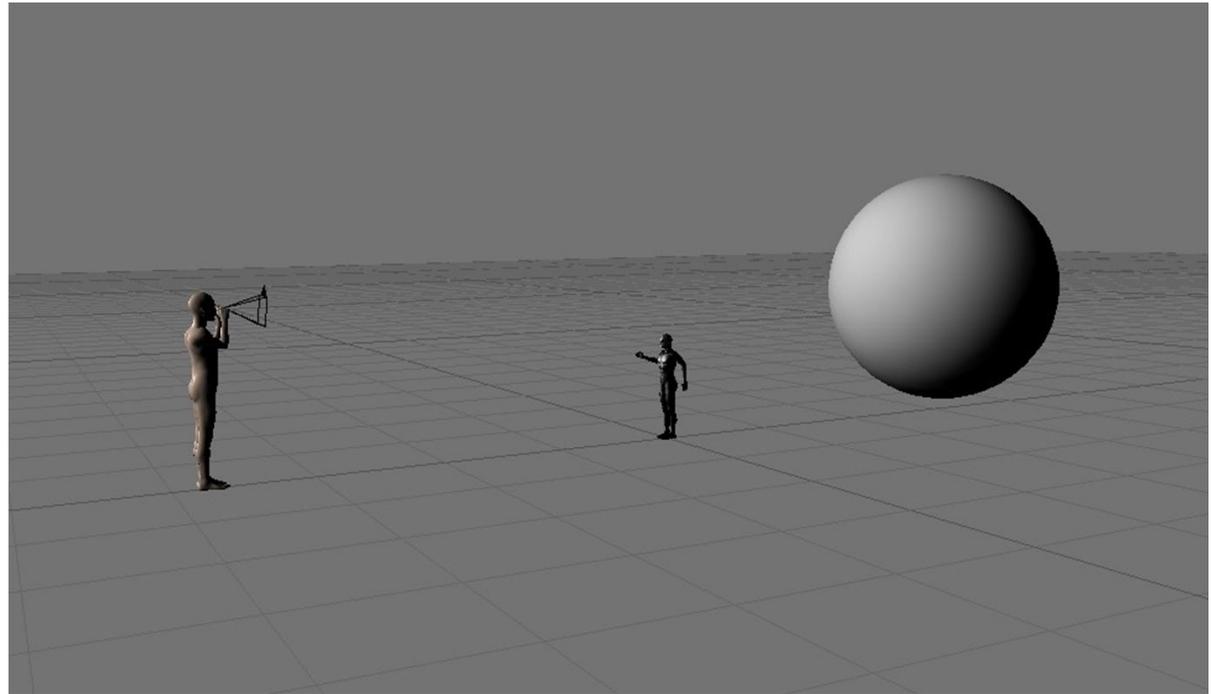


Published initially as a bona fide picture, the rumor expanded that it was a model (a doll wrapped in aluminum foil).

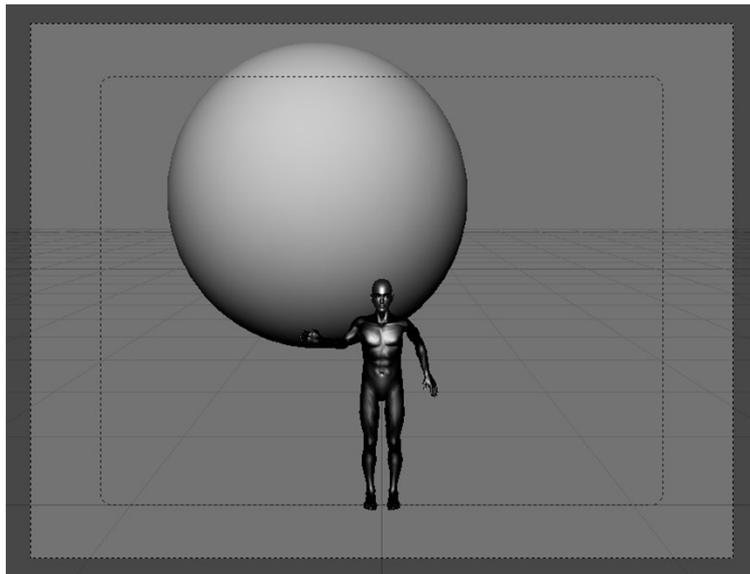
Recently I obtained a scan of the original *Polaroid* and some tests were made on it. Several inconsistencies were found -both in the reported data and the image- that confirm a hoax. Computer generated images and a number of trigonometric calculations were necessary to prove this. This is the kind of ufology we are proponent of.

We did a reconstruction of the event, following the witness descriptions.

Now we can compare how the scene should appear, if distances and dimensions were true, with the real image.



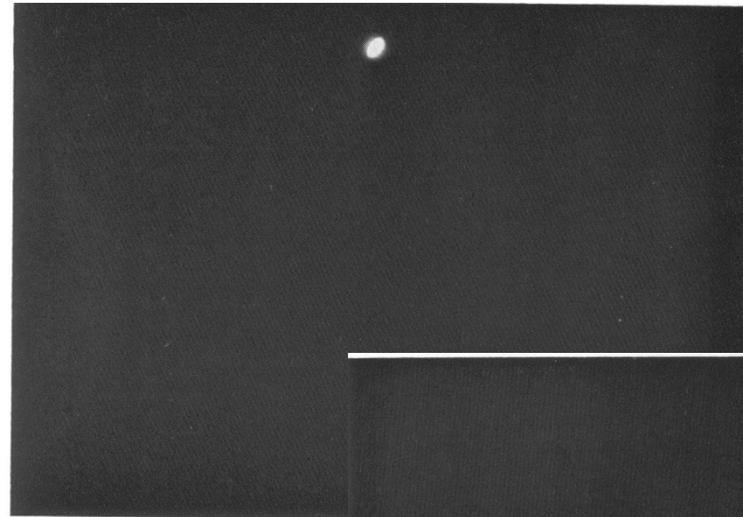
On the left, how a real picture would appear. On the right, the fantasy photo.



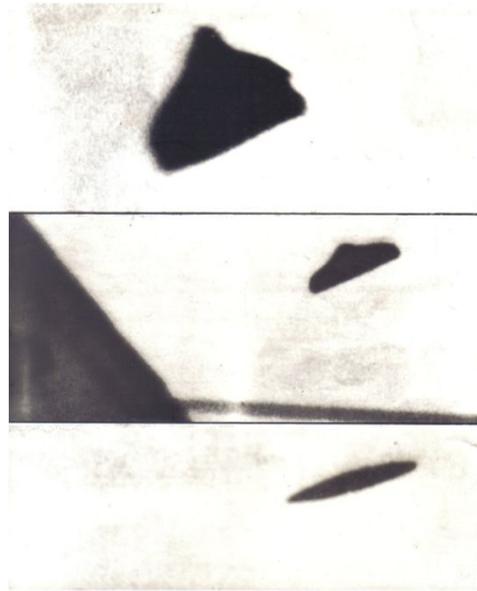
Let's go back to the UK.
According to the catalogue,
the first major wave took place
on 1966-1967, preceded by
the Warminster rash starting
August 1965 with this famous
picture, one that cries for a
proper evaluation.



This two-year wave is quite peculiar.
Half of all reports come from
Warminster, and most of them were
taken by a single cameraman, Robert
Strong, a lucky photographer
stationed in Cradle Hill. The
unimpressive snapshots could be
distant lights of any origin. This flap
debunks itself because it is heavily
supported by unreliable evidence. I
expect someday someone will write
the final story of the Warminster
craze.



1966 contributed a number of well-publicized photographic events, like the one in March at Westbury or another in December in London.



But nothing compared with the stir created by the Conisbrough picture of March 28, 1966.

Like other UFO photographs in England, there is very much literature written but little direct research on the film.



Recently, I requested an analysis of the scanned negatives to a US expert, who found a sort of Moiré interference pattern only in this unique frame in the 4-negative strip. John English's conclusion was therefore that the saucer-shaped objects were placed on a glass plate and a picture taken through it.



However, this analysis is not conclusive as this optical interference pattern may arise from within the film, from a transparent sheet used for the fake, or from the scanner itself.

At the end of the day, other analysts consulted believe it is a trick because there is a difference in focus between the smaller objects and the background, which means that these are small unfocused objects, probably attached to a glass.

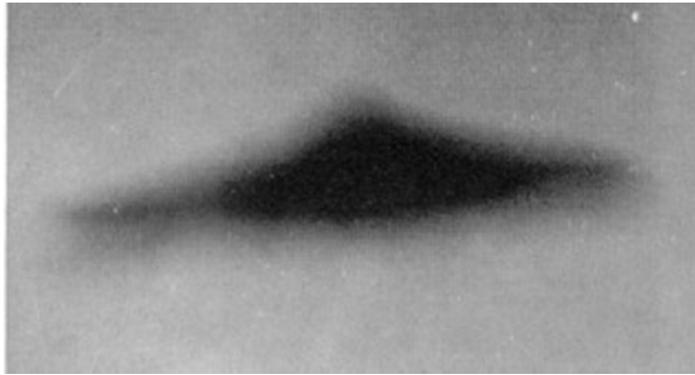
The hoax by a teenager seems to be the consensus among all the UK researchers I respect. My distinguished colleague John Hanson, who will speak after me in this conference, does not agree with this conclusion. Time will judge the accuracy of our assessments and beliefs.

Youngsters are mischievous by nature, and another chap presented this similar picture as real in 1962.

In this case, there is even a wider consensus in the faking evaluation. It seems that the same hoaxing technique was used.



Kids photographs, we have some in 1967 as well. Like the June night-time flying saucer picture by a Heysham boy of 18. In spite of the fact the original investigator had noted some discrepancies in sizes, it was declared genuine by the FSR-consulted expert. Others, however, favor a fake done by placing a drawing pasted to the window through which it was photographed.



And this fantastic but doubtful picture of September over Muswell Hill.



There is an interesting series of photos taken in Sussex on November 1967.

On 6 am, Robert Burke was getting up to go to work when he started to see, with an angle of vision of 40° to 45° , a very bright stationary light of a blue-white hue, looking SSE. It was in view for about one hour.

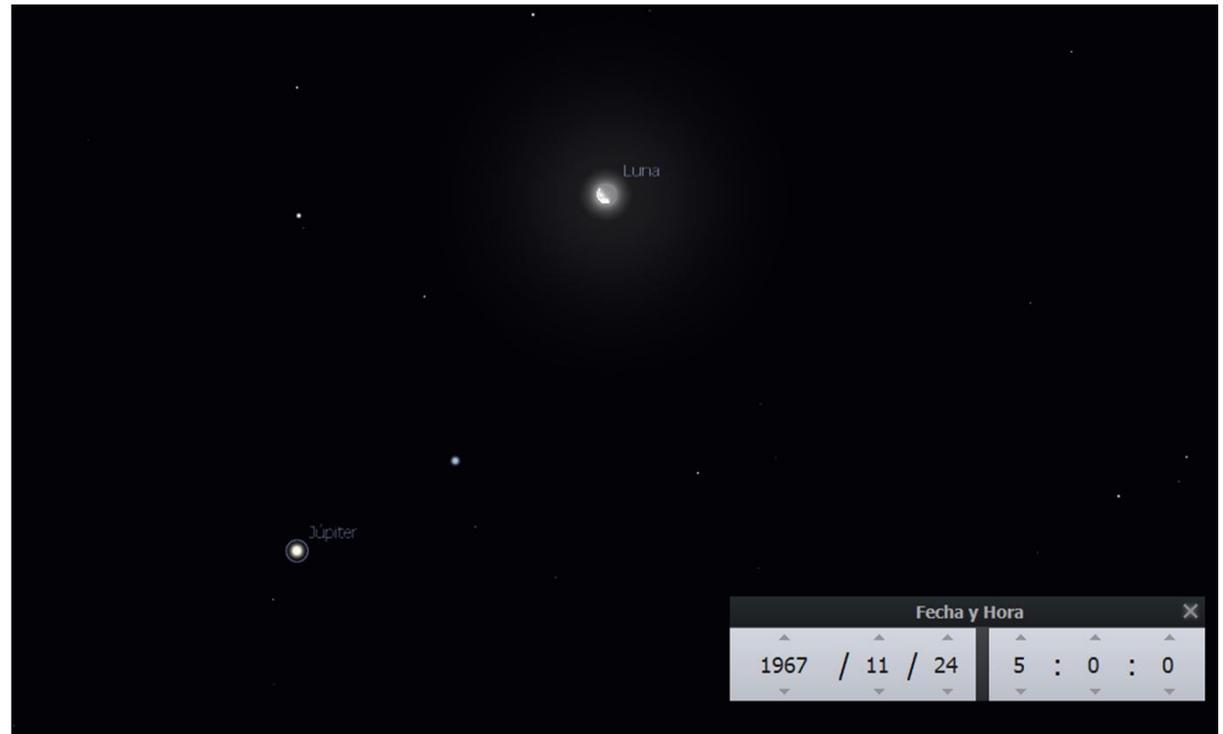


These were defined as “the most important photographs yet produced”.

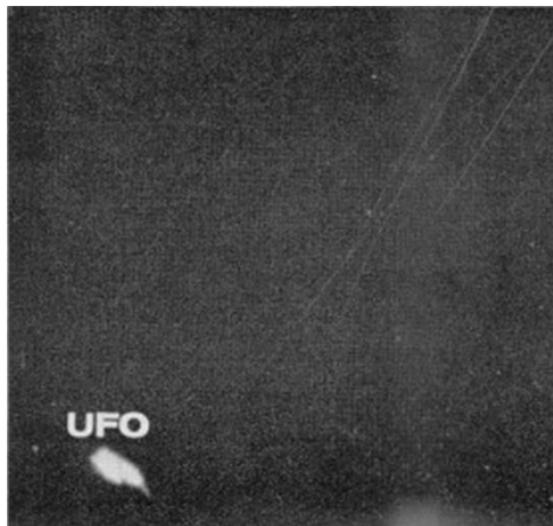
They could be, but they could be not. For ufological standards a pin-point light in the sky sighted during a long time might well have an astronomical origin.

We have inspected the heavens at that hour, direction and elevation to find planet Jupiter in the right place with a magnitude of -1.9

Nevertheless, the pictures do not look like Jupiter. They seem to show the trails of several celestial bodies or lights on time exposure and blurred. Well, I trust that current British UFO students feel now motivated to follow this clue.



Lots of photographs remain to be analyzed. In a time when UFO inquiry was equal to a mere description of events, sightings need a proper study. For example, these nocturnal lights seen from Hanslope during over 35 minutes on January 1968.



Or these other lights on the evening of February 1969 in Tornbridge, observed for almost 3 hours.



1971 was another wave year but few of the UFOs were mystery observations. One of these was the sombrero-shaped UFO at Poole on July, which is demanding a professional evaluation.



Many UFO reports are poorly documented. Usually, best documented cases became solved, as the August 1971 observation by a PC from Aldridge of planet Mars at the time he took weird photographs ofa street light.



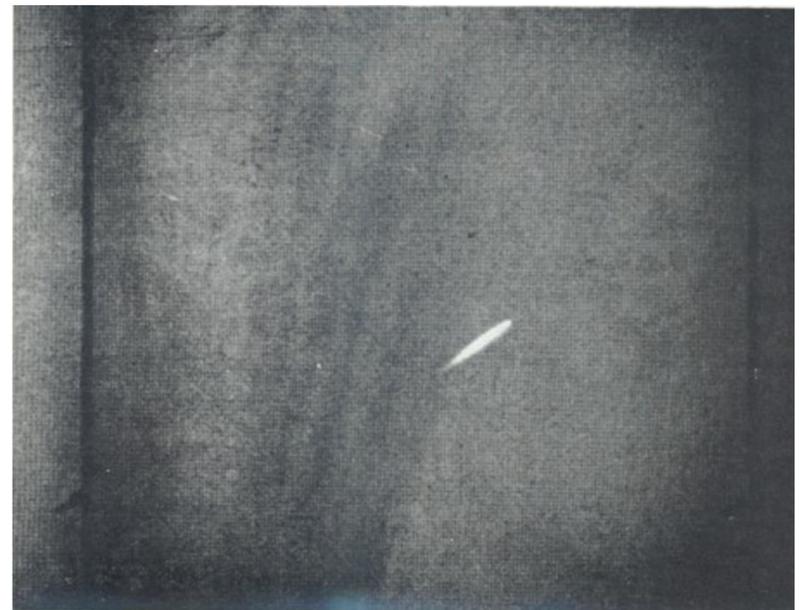
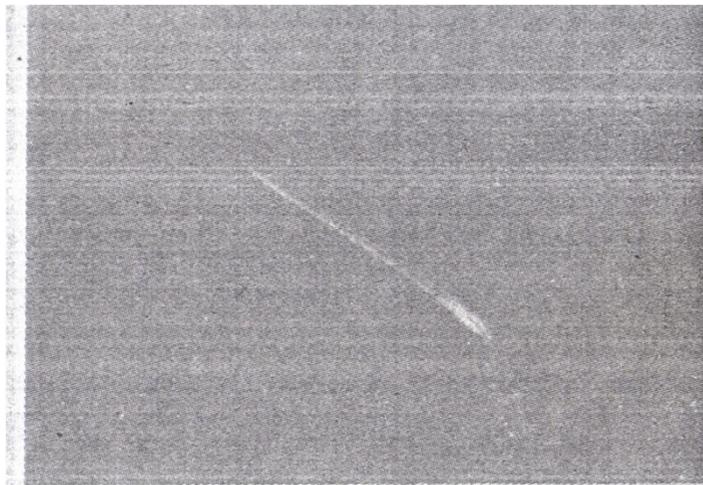
During September, artificial Barium clouds in the high atmosphere were seen from Scotland and England.



But some other images were purely aircraft-related, like the footage made in Enstone on October 1971, an effect due to high altitude fuel dumping.

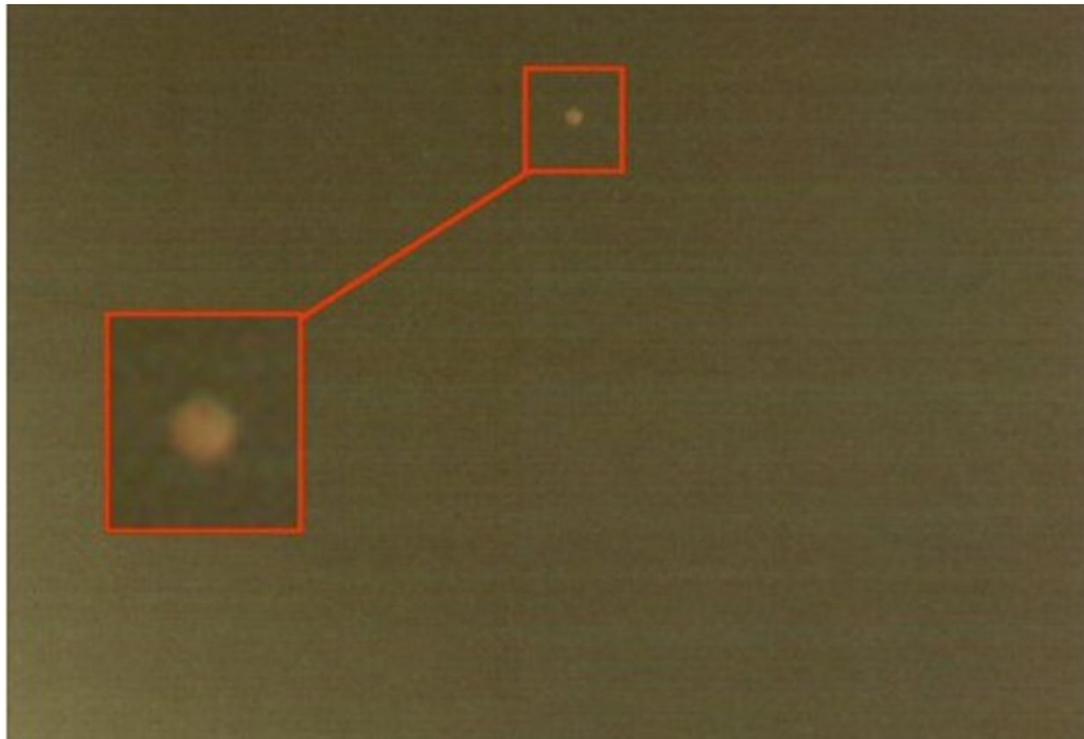


This type of phenomenon relates to other aircraft condensation trail photographs: Grantham, August 1970, and Newport, October 1971 . All of them were taken as UFOs initially.



Before passing to the following peak year I would like to mention a photograph to emphasize the usefulness of the astronomical analysis of UFO sightings. I discovered this case quite recently in a British website.

On September 1973 the witness was serving in the Army and taking part in a military exercise at a place called Penhale in Devon. He was driving a heavy truck at around 2 am when he spotted a dull orange glow to his right (SW), about 10 degrees over the horizon. He stopped and took this photograph before he resumed his trip.



Consulting online astronomical resources, we found out that on September 10, 1973, at exactly 2 am, the Moon was setting with a pale orange color precisely at the SW of Penhale at 15° over the horizon.

The lunar phase also matches with the UFO close-up. It appears we have a reasonable identification here.



Speaking of the Moon and UFO sightings I cannot resist the temptation to comment on a story that came to my attention a few weeks ago.

According to a report by some members of the UFO yellow press, on April 23, 1989, during some contactee-oriented reunions in the island of Tenerife in the Canary Islands, a UFO was observed to emerge from the sea. Even more, there is a picture to prove it. It was 10 pm.



By inverting the picture and comparing it with a celestial map for that night it perfectly correlates not only with a glaring Moon but with several recognized stars.

We also discovered that the picture was taken with a long time-exposure and a few hours later than reported.



Many times in the past, this type of analysis has been missed by ignorance or opportunism. Description is just half ufology. It must be followed up with analysis, serving from tools offered by Science. This is astronomy-aided research using computer technology.

Computer graphics also help us to understand certain problems in studying UFO events. In a paper soon to be published, we used computer-generated imagery to resolve an apparent contradiction in two schemes from the Argentina's Navy Intelligence on a UFO observation of June 1965 in a base of Deception Island, Antarctica. These two diagrams now become compatible if the witness is placed in the right position with regard to the apparent trajectory of the UFO and perspective effects are considered.



The next wave to account for in Britain was in 1977. It is called a wave because its 10 reports double the average for the decade, but the period contains nothing remarkable, as far as pictures is concerned.

We have our share of fakes, for instance, January in North Wales and June in Wheathampsted.



There are also some barely documented UFOs, like this flying football in Cumbria in July, which can be a number of things.



The history of UFO photography in the UK is yet to be told, and I do not pretend to do it here; this is just a quick overview of a catalogue in progress, still with many deficiencies.

There are puzzling and fascinating-looking images in the course of the years that can or cannot offer evidence for a clandestine, unknown phenomenon generated in the atmosphere or flying in our skies. Research, in capital letters, is to be invested on those reports with potential scientific pay dirt.



Years 1993-1994 also show a general increase in photographic sightings. Was it the last classic wave? I mean, before the craziness of the new century. Camcorders were popular already and it multiplied the video recorded images. Yet by then the surprises of the new cameras were not well known, like this diamond-shaped UFO displayed in a footage achieved October 1993 in Norfolk.



We now are very familiar with this camera artifact produced by an extreme use of the zoom. Examples of identical effects appear in video clips obtained in Ukraine and Italy.



As usual in any wave, there are beautiful pictures belonging to the hoax class, as this one made in Dorset in December 1993.



There are also reports with some evidence for strange objects or phenomena as well. To mention one example of sightings that merit investigation, we have the March 1993 video at Bispham.



Or the Fife (Scotland) event of February 1994, reminiscent of a plate launched to the air.



If my files for the 1990s start to show limitations (a fault soon to be corrected), this aggravates from year 2000 onwards. However, not as much as being unable to find that photographic reports skyrocket hugely. And not to fail to notice that the rise from year 2001 has quite specific features:

- * **most of the cases are video recordings**
- * **most of the cases come from Bedhampton, Hampshire**
- * **most of the cases originate from Abby Parker and Anthony Woods, in fact these two names promoted 53 reports between 2001 and 2003, just 50% of all**

This defies any reason and any rationale. Mystification, hoaxing, misinterpretation are the key words here. If there is any signal within the 2001-2005 surge, it is entirely lost by the noise of these reports.



It is perhaps premature to analyze in full why UFO reports with images boost so dramatically when the society less underwrite the existence of a UFO phenomenon, when press and university decline taking the subject seriously, and when many governments close their UFO programs and release all files to the public.

Perhaps it is a combined effect of the availability of digital cameras and well-seated extraterrestrial beliefs in the minds of a number of people by the cumulative power of literature and cinema.



Let us now review what the catalogue figures say. First, UFOs *versus* IFOs. It is a well-established fact that most alleged UFO reports have satisfactory, mundane explanations. This is particularly true for UFO photographs. For Great Britain we have the following rates: 63% are UFOs, 37% are IFOs.

ID	REPORTS	PERCENT
UFO	296	62.70%
IFO	176	37.30%
TOTAL	472	100.00%

A comparison by decade shows that between 1950 and 1990, the percentage of **unexplained** cases has been ~50%, but in the last two decades it has increased up to 74%. My interpretation: a much lower rate of investigation over reported events.

DECADE	# UFO	PERCENT	# IFO	PERCENT
1950-1959	11	55.0%	9	45.0%
1960-1969	33	50.0%	33	50.0%
1970-1979	33	50.0%	33	50.0%
1980-1989	23	57.5%	17	42.5%
1990-1999	59	67.0%	29	33.0%
2000-2005	136	73.9%	48	26.1%

The work by Allan Hendry with 1,300+ sightings found a 10/90 relationship of UFO to IFO reports (a ratio of 0.11).

The French GEIPAN database shows a proportion of 25/75 (a ratio of 0.33) over a set of 6,000 eyewitness reports.

Therefore, a value between **0.1** and **0.3** would appear to be a standard metric for signal-to-noise ratio for an acceptable level in case analysis.

UK cases show an average relationship of 63/37, a very high ratio of **1.7** that indicates very limited research invested on reported cases.

I have just tallied FOTOCAT for this metric, and for comparison I am presenting rates for several European and American countries.

COUNTRY	# UFO	PERCENT	# IFO	PERCENT	# TOTAL	RATIO
NORWAY ¹	16	18.2%	72	81.8%	88	0.2
CHILE	127	24.1%	401	75.9%	528	0.3
SPAIN	349	41.8%	486	58.2%	835	0.7
FRANCE	268	50.6%	262	49.4%	530	1.0
ITALY	317	56.1%	248	43.9%	565	1.3
USA	1690	60.2%	1115	39.8%	2805	1.5
ARGENTINA	480	66.5%	242	33.5%	722	2.0
GREAT BRITAIN	296	62.7%	176	37.3%	472	1.7

(1) Except Hessdalen phenomena

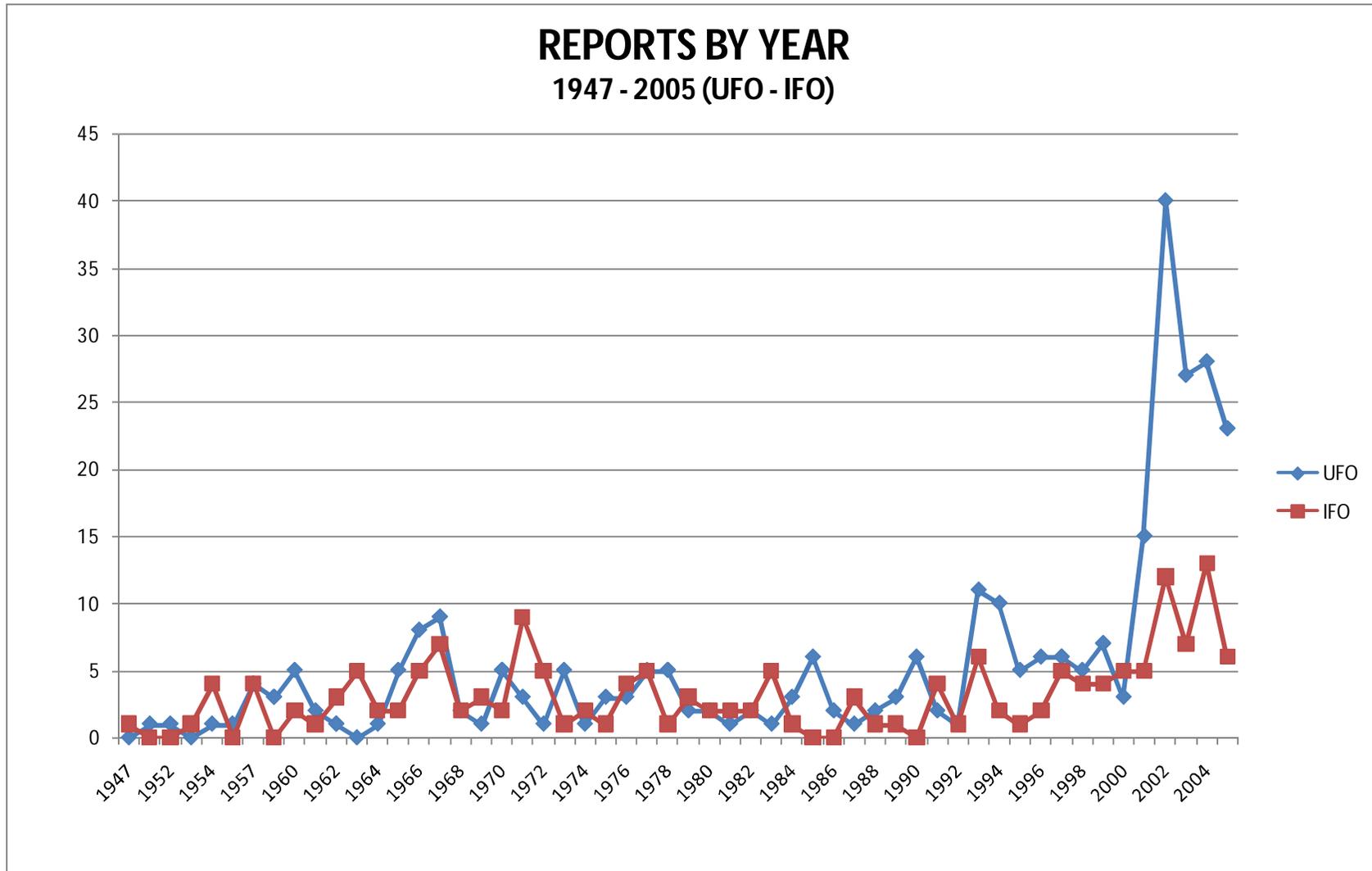
This table first contains two countries where photographic events have been thoroughly examined, Norway and Chile. They are in the lower limit of this ratio (0.2 to 0.3).

Two other nations where case analysis can be certainly improved, Spain and France, have a UFO to IFO ratio which is medium in the scale (0.7 to 1).

Finally, the evaluation level of reports for Italy, USA and Argentina leaves much to be desired with higher ratios (1.3 to 2). As I said, UK shows a 1.7 ratio.

In this annual plot of reports we see massive **unexplained** reports in the last years.

In my view, this is a clear indication of lack of evaluation over the reported incidents.



I have reviewed the geography of cases.

Given that the sampling is not large, a division of reports by county would provide meaningless statistics. So I opted to use the Region as a landmark and distributed the entries by the standard names you know well:

EA (East Anglia)

NE (North East)

SC (Scotland)

WM (West Midlands)

EM (East Midlands)

NI (Northern Ireland)

SE (South East)

YH (Yorkshire & Humber)

LN (London)

NW (North West)

SW (South West)

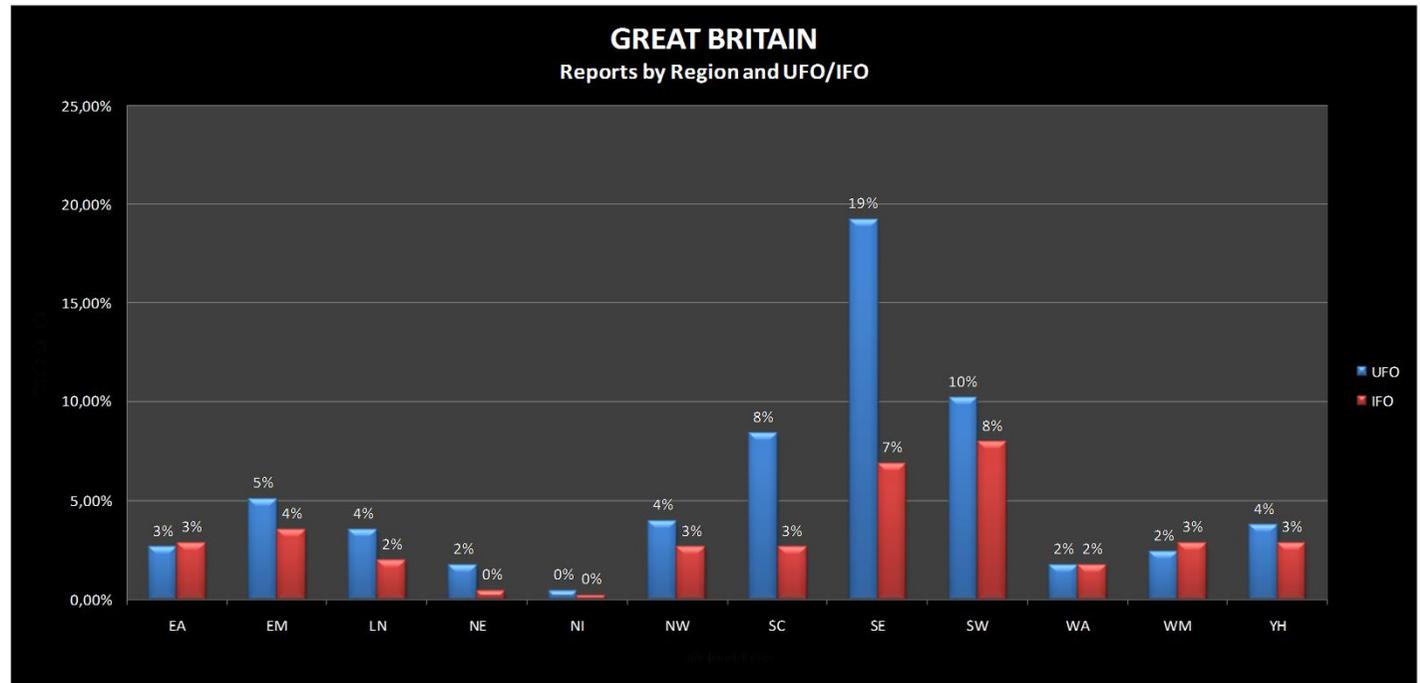
WA (Wales)



The division of photo-events by Region exhibits that 44% of all reports concentrate in the South East and South West of England.

Basically it is the effect of the large incidence of episodes at Bendhampton and Warminster. Scotland follows with 11% of the total.

REGION	UFO	IFO	TOTAL
SC	38	12	50
NI	2	1	3
WA	8	8	16
SW	46	36	82
EM	23	16	39
NE	8	2	10
EA	12	13	25
YH	17	13	30
WM	11	13	24
SE	87	31	118
NW	18	12	30
LN	16	9	25

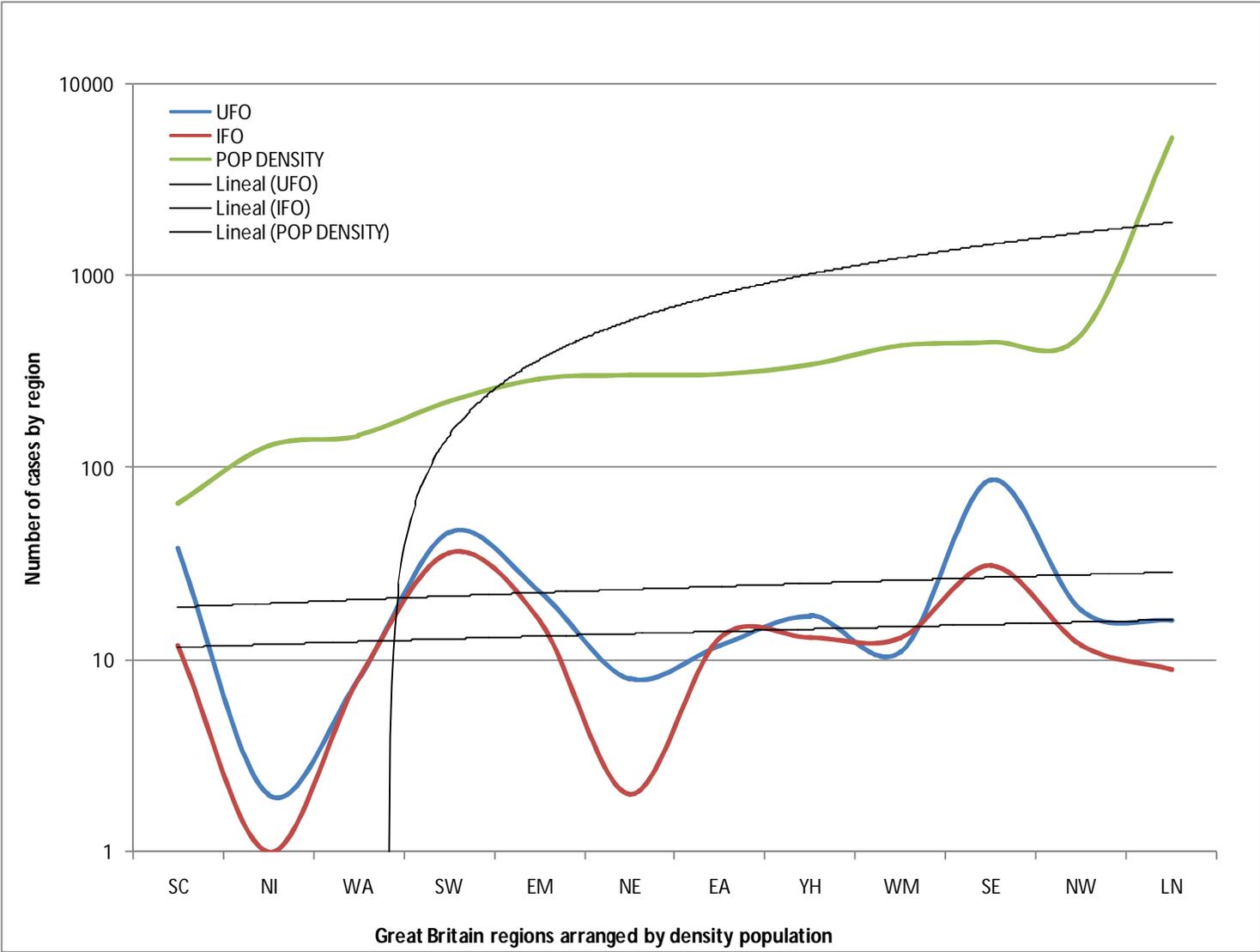


To study the possible relationship between UFO reporting and demography in the UK, this chart plots **UFO** and **IFO** reports in a logarithmic scale with Regions arranged by population density. Two major findings are apparent.

(1) Both UFO and IFO reports do not correlate at all with population. There is a weak inverse correlation of -0.1

(2) There is a very high mutual correlation of UFO and IFO of 0.82

This is another proof of the indiscernibility of both types of reports.

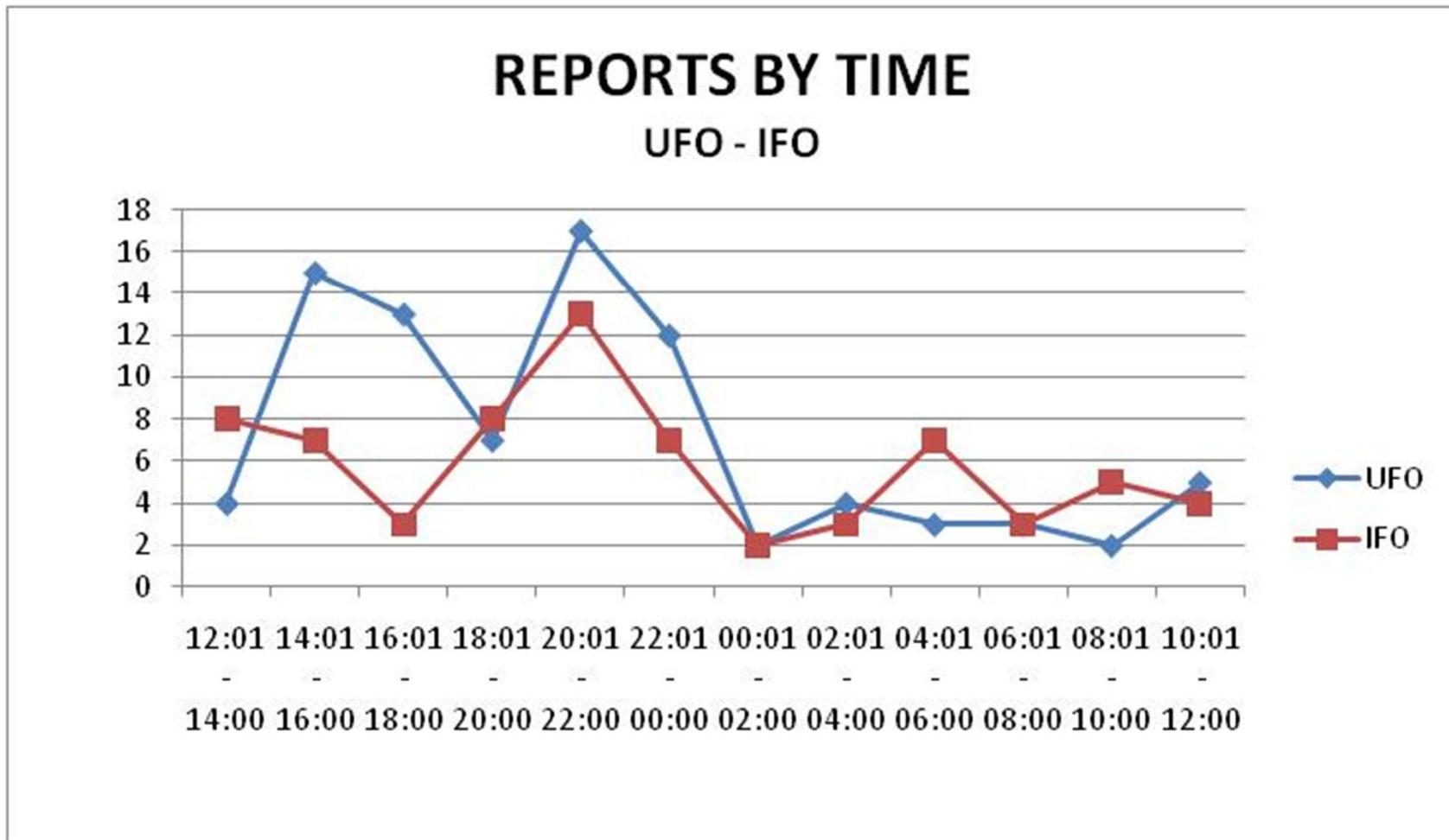


Let us take a quick look now to the distribution of reports by time.

Pitifully, the sample of cases where the time of the day is recorded in the catalogue is still small, less than 200. This is the reason I have grouped reports in 2-hour periods to find any significant pattern.

REPORTS BY TIME						
TIME	UFO		IFO		TOTAL REPORTS	
12:01 - 14:00	4	4,60%	8	11,43%	12	7,64%
14:01 - 16:00	15	17,24%	7	10,00%	22	14,01%
16:01 - 18:00	13	14,94%	3	4,29%	16	10,19%
18:01 - 20:00	7	8,05%	8	11,43%	15	9,55%
20:01 - 22:00	17	19,54%	13	18,57%	30	19,11%
22:01 - 00:00	12	13,79%	7	10,00%	19	12,10%
00:01 - 02:00	2	2,30%	2	2,86%	4	2,55%
02:01 - 04:00	4	4,60%	3	4,29%	7	4,46%
04:01 - 06:00	3	3,45%	7	10,00%	10	6,37%
06:01 - 08:00	3	3,45%	3	4,29%	6	3,82%
08:01 - 10:00	2	2,30%	5	7,14%	7	4,46%
10:01 - 12:00	5	5,75%	4	5,71%	9	5,73%
	87		70		157	

As the table and the plot show, both types of events peak on night hours. The biggest difference is a second peak of **UFOs** to appear from 2 to 6 pm. Results need to be revised with a larger sample.

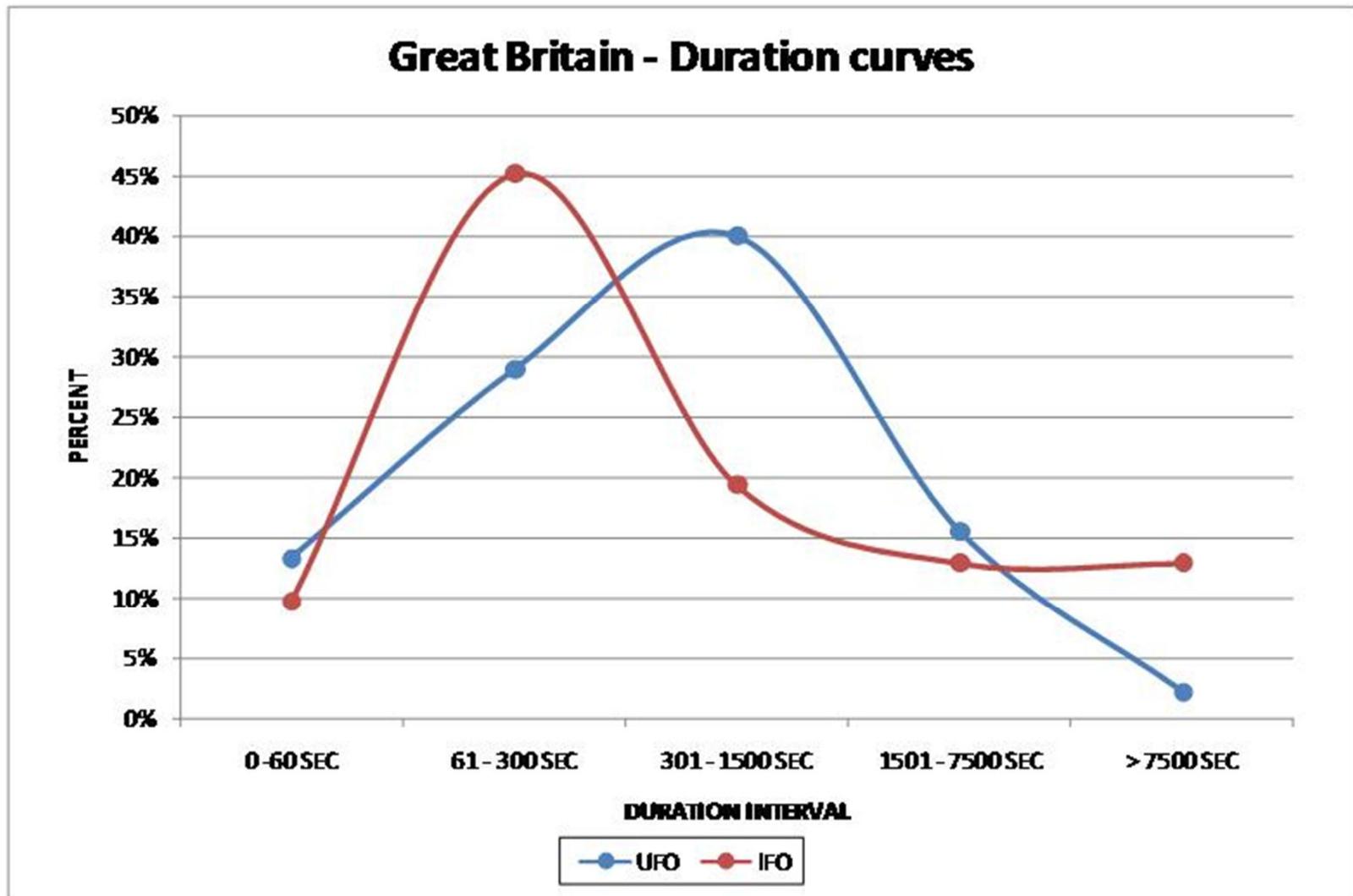


The data problem affecting the hour is even more acute with the duration, because there are reports which lack this basic information. Only a small sample of 76 (or 16% of the total) is collected here for analysis. This is something we will improve.

Cases have been distributed in 5 groups: up to 1 min, 1 to 5 min, 5 to 25 min, 25 min to 2 hours, and over 2 hours.

DURATION	UFO		IFO		REPORTS
0 -60 SEC	6	13,33%	3	9,68%	9
61 - 300 SEC	13	28,89%	14	45,16%	27
301 - 1500 SEC	18	40,00%	6	19,35%	24
1501 - 7500 SEC	7	15,56%	4	12,90%	11
> 7500 SEC	1	2,22%	4	12,90%	5
	45		31		76

Two Gaussian-like curves show that **UFO** events are longer-lived phenomena, peaking between 5 and 25 minutes, while cases that have been explained are shorter, with a peak between 1 and 5 minutes. Correlation drops to 0.51 only.



What makes people see things in the sky and call them UFOs when they are conventional objects and phenomena? What is producing sighting mistakes? This is the reply for the British catalogue.

First we have to assume a fact: 29% are fakes. Misinterpretation of man-made flying objects, 24%. Artifacts due to camera, film or development process, 16%. Planets and stars, 11%. Birds and bugs, 9%. Meteo phenomena, 7%. Others, 4%

Type of Explanation	Number	Percent
Fakes Photographic (44) Hoaxes (6)	50	29%
Aerospatial objects Balloon (19) Aircraft (13) Flare (4) Others (Blimp, Hand glider, Kite) (3) Vortex ring (2) Reentry (1)	42	24%
Camera & film related Developing, film flaws (10) Lens flare (8) Camera artifact ("rods", zoom) (6) Reflection (4)	28	16%
Astronomical Venus (9) Stars and planets (7) Bolide fireball (4)	20	11%
Birds and insects	15	9%
Meteorological Clouds, natural and artificial (6) Ball lightning, Earth lights (5) Sundog (1) Mirage (1)	13	7%
Miscellaneous	7	4%
TOTAL	175	100%

Well, it is time to finish. My purpose has been in this third part to present a quick overview of a still in progress catalogue of UFO sightings in Great Britain where images are available. It calls for a wider and finer analysis, and it is scheduled for a near future. I expect that this speech will bring some fresh cooperation that helps to improve the current sample of cases for UK.

There is ample evidence that what we call UFO phenomena has manifested over a continuum in history that dates back to the start of mankind. In the last decades we observe these wonders under a technological interpretation, but this does not hold considering the longevity of the phenomenon.

In my opinion, it requires a skeptical philosophy to approach UFO claims that apparently defy conventional wisdom. Only in this way our research will deserve respect from scientific peers. Otherwise we will continue in a perennial, unproductive loop.



This field of research, unlike others, is contaminated by a will-to-believe, by people's credulity, by uncommon sense, and by the aspiration of some to achieve fame or make some money selling smoke. To make things even worse, unlike other subjects, there are lots of lie, scam, fraud and non-events that mud the waters.

Because it is a non-standard field, not recognized by the academy, it is also complicated by lack of authority, and knowledge is not cumulative. Sometimes I have the impression that we start from zero every generation.

In spite of all these difficulties I sustain that we have grown wiser throughout all this investigation and it has been worthwhile, certainly it has paid off our dedication.



Before saying good-bye, I would like to pay a final tribute to the British ufology, from which most of us have learned so much over the years, from the Flying Saucer Review team to Peter Brookesmith, from Bernard Delair to David Clarke, from BUFORA to MAGONIA, from Anthony Pace to Jenny Randles, from Julien Hennessey to Martin Shough, to name just a few luminaries that have lighted this complex field of research. In summary, to all those who work under different perspectives towards a common goal: to find out what is behind the UFO phenomena.

After many years of UFO study worldwide, some popular hypotheses do not meet science requirements as far as evidence is concerned, while vast numbers of classic events find conventional explanations.

This is a legitimate field of study, provided we use it to experiment scientific approach and not to explore personally-rooted beliefs.

At the end of the day we may find out that it all has been a dream. But how much we have enjoyed in the process, how many good friends we have made and -above all- **how much we have learned about the human nature!**

