

at different times in the history of our planet. Today we know that this is true, and we know for example that the Ice-Cap of Antarctica, which holds more than 90% of the world's ice, has only been there about 12,000 years or so, and may not be there much longer. So it is no wonder that huge deposits of coal, and skeletons of mighty extinct animals, have been discovered on the Antarctic Continent.

While it looks as though these periodic changes on our Earth are natural features in its evolution, there is also an ancient tradition, long known to students of the Arcana, that an intimate link exists between the "inner state" of Man and the "inner state" of the Planet, *and that the presence of humans of a higher spiritual order can do much to mitigate the severity and drastic nature of the changes.* Edgar Cayce himself also stated this most specifically:—

When asked, (Reading 3976-26), "What can we do to counteract such serious global catastrophes?", his reply was as follows:—

"MAKE KNOWN THE TROUBLE . . . WHERE IT LIES, AND THAT THOSE WHO HAVE FORGOTTEN GOD MUST RIGHT-ABOUT-FACE! . . . TENDENCIES IN THE HEARTS AND SOULS OF MEN ARE SUCH THAT THESE UPHEAVALS MAY BE BROUGHT ABOUT. FOR, AS OFTEN INDICATED THROUGH THESE CHANNELS, MAN IS NOT RULED BY THE WORLD, BY THE EARTH, BY THE ENVIRONMENT ABOUT IT, NOR BY THE PLANETARY INFLUENCES WITH THEIR ASSOCIATIONS AND ACTIVITIES. RATHER IT IS TRUE THAT MAN BRINGS ORDER OUT OF CHAOS BY HIS OWN COMPLIANCE WITH DIVINE LAW. OR, BY HIS DISREGARD OF THE LAWS OF DIVINE INFLUENCE, MAN BRINGS CHAOS AND DESTRUCTIVE FORCES INTO HIS EXPERIENCE."

And on the same theme, on an earlier occasion (Reading 311-10), Edgar Cayce had also said:—

... "THERE ARE THOSE CONDITIONS THAT, IN THE ACTIVITY OF INDIVIDUALS, IN LINE OF THOUGHT AND ENDEAVOUR, OFTEN KEEP MANY A CITY AND MANY A LAND INTACT, THROUGH THEIR APPLICATION OF THE SPIRITUAL LAWS IN THEIR ASSOCIATIONS WITH INDIVIDUALS".

(Most of California is scheduled to go. But it is perhaps worth bearing in mind that Cayce said that "New York will go next".)

* Dr Paul R. Ehrlich: *The Population Bomb*. (1968) U.S. and British editions. (U.K. edition by Pan Books and Friends of the Earth.)

Dr Paul R. Ehrlich and Dr Ann Ehrlich: *The Population Explosion*. (1990) U.S. and British editions. (British edition by Hutchinsons of London, £16.95.)

MYSTERIOUS DEATHS OF BRITISH SCIENTISTS AND INTELLIGENCE PERSONNEL

Gordon Creighton

There may have been earlier rumblings and references in the British press which I did not spot. I first became aware that "something odd" was happening when I read, in 1985 (*Sunday Express*, London, 12 May, 1985) the headline "RIDDLE OF FIVE DEATHS AT SPY HQ". This story, which was the main page 1 news, reported that the Foreign Office had re-opened its files on the strange deaths of five men, four of them Signals Intelligence experts, all of whom had been working at the Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ), Britain's "top-secret electronics spy-centre" at Cheltenham, in the western part of England. According to the newspaper, Senior British experts in Counter-Intelligence denied that any of the five dead men had been the victim of any "stringent security sweeps". But they now admitted that the five cases were once more "under review".

The Five GCHQ Cases

1. STEPHEN DONALD DRINKWATER, aged 25, a clerk employed in the only department permitted to make copies of highly classified documents, was found dead in his parents' house at Cheltenham, on September 11, 1983. A plastic bag was over his head and he had died from asphyxiation. At the inquest there was some talk of "glue-sniffing", or of "a sexual experiment that went wrong".

Coroner's Verdict: MISADVENTURE.

(This first case had occurred five months after the British Appeal Court had dismissed a plea by another GCHQ Intelligence specialist, the Russian language expert Geoffrey Prime, against a 38-year jail sentence for espionage on behalf of the Soviet Union.)

2. JACK WOLFENDEN, another GCHQ man, died when his glider plunged into the Cotswold Hills in July 1982, a few weeks after Geoffrey Prime was sentenced.

Coroner's Verdict: ACCIDENTAL DEATH.

3. ERNEST BROCKWAY, a GCHQ man, found hanged at his home in Cheltenham in November 1982, the same month in which Prime was sentenced. Officialdom insisted that "security press-

ures" had not played any part in this death.

Coroner's Verdict: SUICIDE.

4. GEORGE FRANKS a GCHQ man, who "died of a heart attack" in his flat in Brighton, Sussex, on April 3, 1984.

Coroner's Verdict: NATURAL CAUSES.

5. STEPHEN OKE, aged 35. This man, described by the newspaper as "a highly-skilled radio officer with hourly access to top-secret information", was employed at a secret GCHQ "out-station" at Morganstow, near Bude, in Cornwall. On Easter Monday, April 8, 1985, he was found hanged in his home in West Fairhome Road, Bude. There was no suicide note. The case was described by the Devon & Cornwall Police, on May 12, 1985, as "a strange business".

Coroner's Verdict: OPEN.

Comment in Press and Technical Journals

The *Sunday Express* article of May 12, 1985, concluded by saying that the Junior Foreign Office Minister Tim Renton had told the House of Commons, in a written answer, that the Foreign Office "was aware of inquests having been held in five cases of death involving a GCHQ employee", and that "the official

Foreign Office view is that there was no connection between the five deaths”.

In the meantime we had already published an article in FSR 33/1 (March 1988) about the strange death of one British scientist, David Sands, who had been working for the giant firm of MARCONI on secret defence projects, and who on March 30 of the year before had taken his own life in a most peculiar manner. And it was from this case onwards (it is listed later on in the present Report as No. 14) that we began to notice all the talk about the *mystery death of not merely one but of many British scientists*. (We have however, heard no more about the mystery deaths of Intelligence workers at GCHQ, nor have we seen any explanations for them.)

The most important mentions of all that we found were in the issues of the leading technical publication *Computer News* for March 5, 1987 and April 14, 1988, in which the journal gave the results of a highly interesting survey which they had been carrying out. They reported that there had been — so far — a total of NINETEEN CASES (including one disappearance). All were cases involving British scientists. *And all were still unexplained.* *Computer News* discussed seventeen of them in detail:—

“A year ago, our story on the mysterious deaths of two computer programmers (*Computer News*, March 5, 1987) who were working on classified defence projects, provoked hundreds of pages of speculation around the world. The latest in the series of similar events is the death of Marconi scientist TREVOR KNIGHT. (See Case No. 22 in List below.)

“Several of the strangest cases involve scientists working on sensitive defence projects, particularly in fields relating to signal-processing which is critical for detecting, identifying, and tracking targets. Some of the scientists’ own families have had difficulties in obtaining details from the British authorities which could throw light on the deaths, and they have expressed concern and — in some cases — outright anger, over what they say is official disinformation. (Italics by ED, FSR.)

“There has been much speculation that stress is driving scientists to suicide — and this theory cannot be totally ruled out. (But, according to a Government study of occupational mortality, electronics engineers and scientists are less likely to die prematurely than many other groups of workers!)

“What is more, the stress hypothesis does not explain why so many of these scientists have died in unexplained, sometimes bizarre, circumstances. Other factors also raise question marks: the contradictory statements made by officials; *the absence of any suicide notes in nearly all cases*; (italics by ED, FSR) and firm evidence that some of the scientists were *not* suffering from stress.”

Talk of “Star War” Programme

The next press references that we saw were on March 28, 1988, when, under such headlines as “M.P. CALLS FOR INQUIRY INTO ‘SINISTER’ STAR WARS DEATHS”, three leading London newspapers, *The Times*, the *Daily Telegraph* and the *Daily Express*, all reported that the utmost alarm had been expressed by the Labour Member of Parliament Douglas Hoyle, (himself the President of the Manufacturing, Science, & Finance Union) who had called for an investigation of all the deaths. In an appeal in the House of Commons to Mr George Younger, Britain’s Defence Minister, Mr Hoyle demanded an immediate Governmental inquiry.

“What” — he asked — “is the link between all these cases? Is it not worrying that this is happening to top scientists? Is it simply overwork — or is there something more sinister afoot? It is very alarming!” (italics by ED, FSR.)

(In these press reports, and in an account on the previous day in the London Sunday newspaper *News of the World*, we see that the total number of these mystery deaths of scientists (not including the five Intelligence Services men at GCHQ) was now being given as eight. But the real tally was already eighteen, at the very least! With GCHQ men then, this made a total of twenty-three. Incidentally, not a single press report now seemed to be mentioning the GCHQ end of the picture any longer. *Had official instructions gone forth to “forget about that”?*

But, as we see, the British press had now begun to speak a great deal about the “STAR WARS” angle. At least nine or ten of the dead scientists had been involved in the important contributions by MARCONI and other big British firms to the U.S. “STAR WARS” programme. The *News of the World* report of March 27, 1988, said that the work-force at MARCONI (Stanmore), where the “STAR WARS” projects were in hand, were now talking of “a baffling curse hanging over the secret weapons project”. And they were saying that this “curse” had only started after the “STAR WARS” work had got under way there. The same newspaper quoted MARCONI’s spokesman, Mr Ray Bryant, as having said: “We are not permitted to talk about the matter”.

Enquiry already called for in 1987

According to the *Daily Express* (March 28, 1988) another British Member of Parliament, Mr John Cartwright, had actually already called for a thorough investigation in 1987, but his request had been ignored and rejected. And the *Daily Telegraph* (same date) said: “A year ago, Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, ordered the various Police authorities to liaise over the deaths. *But no inquiry had ever been launched.* (Italics by ED, FSR.)

TUC Call for Enquiry

We saw nothing more on these matters in the British press until September 4, 1988, when the *Sunday Telegraph* reported that Mr Clive Jenkins, the President of the British TUC (TRADE UNIONS COUNCIL) had “launched a top-level inquiry into all suicides, suspicious deaths and possible murders of scientists working on the frontiers of high-technology defence research”. (Italics by ED, FSR.)

The paper’s account runs (in part) as follows:—

The inquiry follows what Mr Jenkins, joint general-secretary of the high-tech. union MSF, last night called the ‘statistically incredible’, apparently accidental, deaths of eight research scientists working for Marconi.

Mr Jenkins said there was great concern among his members over ‘these clusters of suicides, violent deaths, or murders’ of Marconi employees.

The statistical incongruity came to light after the MSF’s national officer, Mr Larry Brooke, carried out a survey into stress among union members working for Marconi, Ferranti, Phillips, Plessey, Racal, and Thorn EMI, all of which firms carry on leading research in electronics high technology.

The union was so concerned by the Marconi deaths and by the high levels of stress uncovered in the survey, that it has now written to the other main electronics companies asking for details of all suicides or mysterious deaths of employees in the past three years.

The union's letter states: 'As you are aware, the media have over the past few months picked up on the stories of mysterious deaths of Marconi scientists. Not surprisingly, this has created concern amongst our members throughout the electronics industry.

'Last night, on the eve of the TUC Conference in Bournemouth, Mr Jenkins expressed his grave concern at the near statistical impossibility of all the deaths being suicide.'

He said: 'We have decided to write to the other major firms in advanced electronics asking for comparable details.

'The question is — could there be a link between these deaths? I ask myself: is there a great cover-up going on? If so — *what? By whom?*

'Is it 'ours' or is it 'theirs' — whoever *'they'* may be?' There is so much advanced information involved in this kind of work that it leads to all sorts of speculation. Could they have been cracking under stress? This is a sinister situation. (End of *Sunday Telegraph* report.)

Incidentally, this *Sunday Telegraph* story about Mr Clive Jenkins and his concern *talks of a total of eight deaths* — all of Marconi men. It makes no mention of the fact that, as *Computer News* had already reported four months earlier, the total of mystery deaths of scientists was already running at a minimum of *nineteen* (not to mention the five at GCHQ). The latest — and eighth — death, said the *Sunday Telegraph*, was that of a retired Army General, John Ferry, aged 60, who had become a Marconi employee and who had been found electrocuted in his company flat. He had mains electric wires in his mouth.

In conclusion, the *Sunday Telegraph* also mentioned another matter. It seems that Marconi's parent-company, GEC, Britain's biggest defence contractor in electronics, had been the subject of a detailed inquiry, by senior Ministry of Defence officials and by detectives of the Serious Fraud Office, for more than two years past. The inquiry had begun after claims of fraud were made in connection with £3.5 billion worth of contracts placed with GEC Marconi. The inquiry, said the paper, had now spread to all eleven Marconi companies in Britain, and involved a total of 57 contracts and included claims that the Ministry of Defence and Royal Navy were being overcharged for signals equipment.

Signs of Disquiet in USA

But a month later (*The Sunday Times*, 9 October, 1988) both the mystery and the alarm had mushroomed greatly, with these headlines:— "PENTAGON QUIZZES BRITAIN ON 22 DEATHS": "MYSTERY OF THE DEAD DEFENCE WORKERS WIDENS AS MORE CASES COME TO LIGHT, AND GEC LAUNCHES A NEW INVESTIGATION". There followed ten photographs of dead scientists, labelled in sequence: "Suffocated"; "Electrocuted"; "Suffocated"; "Drugs Overdose"; "Disappeared"; "Electrocuted"; "Car Crash"; "Death Leap"; "Strangled"; "Shotgun Blast".

Pentagon Call for Enquiry

The *Sunday Times* report of October 9, 1985 is so important that we give part of its text verbatim:

"PENTAGON officials in Washington will this week seek an explanation from the British government for the deaths of 22 British defence workers, some of whom were involved in top-secret projects.

Although the Ministry of Defence in London yes-

terday said it 'was not aware of any contact made by the United States' over the matter, American officials last week told *The Sunday Times* that the Pentagon's specialists want to examine the case histories of 22 Britons who have died in the past six years.

They want the Ministry of Defence in London to look into suggestions that some of those who died were working on the American *Star Wars* project and other secret defence contracts.

Officially, according to a defence spokesman in Washington, the Pentagon 'is not commenting on the deaths'. In the past, the American Defence Department has taken a relaxed view of the matter, but now, according to the spokesman, *'It has got to the point where we can't ignore it any more'*. (Italics by ED, FSR).

The deaths have recently been taken up seriously by the American media; a major television network is preparing a programme on the subject for screening this week. The American enquiries come immediately after the decision by GEC, whose Marconi subsidiary employed some of the defence workers, to launch its own internal inquiry into the deaths at the personal instigation of Lord Weinstock, its managing director.

'We are satisfied that there was no connection between any of the deaths', said a GEC director yesterday. 'The criticism that has been levelled is that we have not taken the situation seriously enough, so we have decided that we should go to someone outside to look again'.

British Officials State All Deaths are Normal

The Ministry of Defence firmly rules out any mystery, pointing out that the incidence of suicides among defence workers is actually lower than in the population as a whole. 'Like the police, our position has been that there is no evidence of any sinister links between these deaths. *But if the Americans ask for explanations, that puts the matter on a different plane'*. (Italics by ED, FSR).

The Ministry, the British Police, and the employers of the men who died still insist that the deaths are a coincidence.

Said one senior M.o.D. source, 'Most of the people on the list have never touched anything classified in their lives. As far as I am aware there is no connection whatsoever with "*Star Wars*".

But last week an American source insisted that some of those who died — he would not say who or how many — *were involved in work for "Star Wars"*. Although the M.o.D. points out that at the very most this may have involved low-level computer simulation done at universities (and even that is unlikely) the American source insisted: *'It's irrefutable that they are working on projects that are applicable to "Star Wars"'* (Italics by ED, FSR.)

He added that if this had happened in Greece, Brazil, Spain, or Argentina, 'and we were buying something from them, we'd be all over them like a glove'.

A week ago *The Sunday Times* published the details of 12 mysterious deaths in the past six years, including two previously unreported. But last week American Embassy sources in London said they were aware of 22, and probably even more, and the names were being sent to Washington.

The American Embassy has been monitoring reports of what have become known as "the mysterious deaths" for the past two years. Most names

have been culled from inquests. (I had missed *The Sunday Times* piece that now carried the total to twelve. ED, FSR.)

French Comment

By December 1988 the matter was being discussed in France. The publication *Lectures Françaises* No. 380 (December 1988) carried an article by Claude Vignon. He emphasised that the total of suspicious deaths of British scientists was now 23, with three of them being at the Royal Military College of Science at Shrivenham.

A much longer discussion of the problem came in the Paris weekly *Rivarol* of December 6, 1988. It is interesting, so I have translated it in full:—

TWENTY-THREE LITTLE — * — IN THE WOODPILE by Louis Seifert

"It may well be thought to sound like an Agatha Christie novel spiced up with a bit of sauce from Ian Fleming or John Le Carré. The fact remains however, that for the past six years Albion has found herself faced with a mystery (and a many-sided one) that goes on getting steadily denser and denser, so that beside it the native British fog evaporates away forthwith.

On April 8 last we have already given a report on this disturbing business (*"La Nouvelle Marque Jaune"*) written by P.P. Bélesta. At that date, about ten British scientists had vanished from the scene in strange circumstances.

But today the number is more than twenty-three, although it is difficult to estimate the exact total. (*The British press seem to stop counting when they get to twelve...*). This is because each case is camouflaged as a "natural death" (And, while it is indeed possible that some have been included who ought not to have been, it is also possible that other cases have still not been included that ought to be.)

One thing nevertheless seems pretty well certain — namely that the firm of MARCONI find themselves right at the heart of the affair.

The latest of the "suicides", Mr Robert McGowan, aged 22, who left no letter of explanation, and who had no known reason for ending his life, was a research worker at the Royal Military College of Science at Shrivenham, in Berkshire. That brings the total of mysterious deaths for just this one establishment to three, all of them of individuals working on matters comprised under Secret Defence. Just like all the other victims of this sombre series.

To begin with, folk had thought that there might be some particular link with *Pakistan* involved, since two of the first deaths were of men from that country. But after that, all the falls from bridges, hangings, asphyxiations by gas, deaths by ingestion of narcotics, etc., involving as they did only individuals of purely Anglosaxon origin, have caused the investigators to abandon that particular scent, and to concentrate their attentions on the single problem of *Defence* and, over and beyond that, upon the position occupied by the firm of MARCONI.

This last-named organization, very much to the fore in all matters concerning military questions, has been engaged most notably in research in the domain of *submarines* — *detection, propulsion, etc.* In this particular field the British are commonly said to be three years ahead of the Americans, and ten years ahead of the Soviets. Enough to arouse plenty of "covetous interest"!

But, while at first this affair looked as though it pointed towards "*Pakistan*", and then later, towards "*submarines*", when, in January 1987, David Sands smashed himself at over 100 kms. p.h. into a wall, this time it was a question of a Marconi man who was *both* not a Pakistani and not working on research on submarines, but on *satellites*. And there were repercussions.

Once more the attempt was made to prove that it really was "*simply suicide*". The reason proposed for this was the "*stress*" being suffered by all those upon whose shoulders lies the burden of a "*military secret*". Another suggestion made was that if an investigation were to be carried out into MARCONI's use of funds supplied for Defence purposes, it would be discovered that certain monies had gone to "fraudulent destinations". But this theory failed to raise many ghosts. And it offers no explanation whatsoever as to why ordinary research personnel should kill themselves and why other persons whose links with the firm of MARCONI were not quite so close (salaried staff of the Royal Military College of Science) should also have died! And anyway, none of these arguments explain away this astounding series of suicides — *some of them perpetrated in circumstances already flatly stated to be "technically impossible"*!

At MARCONI's there is total silence. The giant firm would like to reap some of the £1½ billion promised to the British military manufacturing industries as contracts for the STAR WARS PROGRAMME.

At the prospect of this pile of corpses, the Americans are said to have cooled off a bit now. The officials of the Pentagon murmur: "Well, you know, we do purchase British military material. If, of course, this queer sort of business had happened in Argentina or Brazil, we would have already gone over there to take a closer look".

But, in fact, the Pentagon was already quietly resolved to send over some of its smartest police-sleuths to take a look around in Her Gracious Majesty's domain.

Will they manage to discover the truth? One may have one's doubts, because everyone seems to be still watching for the next "*suicide*", in the hope that his case will yield the key to the enigma. But the trouble is that, with each succeeding case recently, the labyrinth has only got more and more impenetrable. Shall we ever know whether the deaths of those "*Twenty-three Little — In the Woodpile*" were just due to "*chance*", or, alternatively, to "*NECESSITY*"?

And then, in the latter case, on behalf of what power, or in the name of what interests, would it have become necessary to eliminate them?

THE LIST OF MYSTERY DEATHS OF SCIENTISTS

1. Car Crash. March 1982.
PROFESSOR KEITH BOWDEN, aged 46. A computer-programmer and scientist at Essex University, and engaged in computer work for MARCONI. Described as "an expert on super-computers and computer-controlled aircraft". He died in Essex when his immaculately-maintained *Rover* car went out of control across a dual carriageway and plunged down on to a disused railway line. Police said he had been drinking. *His wife said his friends all denied this. Coroner's Verdict: ACCIDENT.*
2. Mystery disappearance. April 1983.
LT.-COL. ANTHONY GODLEY, aged 49.

Head of the work study unit and Defence expert at Royal Military College of Science, Shrivenham. Disappeared, without explanation, in April 1983. *Presumed dead.* (His father had bequeathed him more than £79,000 with the proviso that he claim the money by 1987. He never did.)

3. Shotgun death. March 1985.
ROGER HILL, aged 49. Radar designer and draughtsman, with MARCONI. Killed himself with shotgun at family home.

Coroner's Verdict: SUICIDE.

4. Fatal leap. November 19, 1985.

JONATHAN WASH. A digital communications expert who had worked at MARCONI's parent company GEC, and also at British Telecom's secret research establishment at Martlesham Heath, Suffolk. He fell from a hotel room while working for British Telecom at Abidjan, Ivory Coast, West Africa. He was known to have expressed the fear that his life was in danger.

Coroner's Verdict (November 1988): OPEN.

5. Death Plunge. August 4, 1986

VIMAL DAJIBHAI, aged 24, born in Pakistan. (Hindu.) Computer software engineer with MARCONI, responsible for testing computer guidance-system for *Tigerfish* and *Sting Ray* torpedoes at Marconi's Underwater Systems, Croxley Green, Hertfordshire. (*Sting Ray*, his last job, was described in the press as a torpedo that seeks out the *weakest points* in the titanium hulls of deep-diving Soviet submarines known as "type Mike".) Dajibhai was found dead 240 ft below the Clifton Suspension Bridge, near Bristol. A Police report written just after his death was said to have mentioned the discovery of "a needle-sized puncture mark on Dajibhai's left buttock". But this was dismissed by the British authorities, as "a wound caused by the fall". The Coroner received several letters from friends of Dajibhai, all testifying that he had been a very cheerful fellow, and that he had been eagerly looking forward to starting in a new job 'in the City', in London. He was, in fact, in his last week with MARCONI's when he died.

Coroner's Verdict, (after two post-mortems): OPEN.

6. Strangled. October 1986.

ARSHAD SHARIF, aged 26. Also from Pakistan (Muslim). Computer analyst with MARCONI DEFENCE SYSTEMS, Stanmore, West London. He had put a cord around his neck and then attached the other end of the cord to a tree and then driven off, with his accelerator jammed down by a spanner. He had been working on *the detection of submarines by satellite*.

Coroner's Verdict: SUICIDE. (The death of this man, who lived very near to No. 5, Dajibhai, in Stanmore, also took place in Bristol. He was a recognized expert in advanced signal-processing. Evidence that turned up later seems to have complicated the picture more than somewhat. For it seems that Arshad Sharif had spent his last night in a guest-house in Bristol. Nobody knows why he had gone there. The last person to have seen him alive there said that when Arshad was paying for the room, he pulled out a great bundle of high-denomination banknotes wrapped with a rubber band. Yet only a few coins were found on his body.

According to *Computer News* (April 14, 1988) the owner of the guest-house told the Police all about the great bundle of banknotes, but apparently nothing about this was said later at the inquest! (And the money was never found!) Another "curious" fact — also mentioned by *Computer News* of same date, was that most of the people living in that guest-house were connected with the big British firm of BRITISH AEROSPACE, which lies just a few yards down the road. Moreover, prior to joining MARCONI, Arshad Sharif himself had also worked at BRITISH AEROSPACE on guided weapons technology. And yet, says the paper, we are told that *everybody* — Government Ministers, Police, Coroners — is in agreement that there is no connection whatsoever between these deaths!)

7. Suffocated. April 24, 1987.

MARK WISNER, a software engineer at a Ministry of Defence establishment that is involved in many top-secret projects, was missing for one day and then found dead in the house which he shared with two colleagues. It was precisely one week after the deaths of Miss Shani Warren (Case 18) and of George Kountis (Case 16). Wisner had a plastic sack tied around his head and nine feet of cling-film around his face. The coroner was informed that it "*was a sexual experiment that went wrong*". (See almost identical case of Richard Pugh-No. 8, some three months earlier, with same excuse given in identical terms.)

Coroner's Verdict: ACCIDENT.

8. Suffocated. January 1987. RICHARD PUGH, aged 37. A Ministry of Defence computer consultant and digital communications expert, reported to have worked on defence projects, was found dead in his flat in Essex, with feet tied together and a plastic bag over his head and his body virtually wrapped from head to toe in rope. It was four times around his neck. At the inquest, it was explained that this "*was probably a sexual experiment that had gone wrong*". (!)

Coroner's Verdict: ACCIDENT.

9. Suffocated. January 12, 1987.

DR. JOHN BRITTAN, aged 52. A scientist formerly on top-secret work at the Royal College of Military Science, Shrivenham (known worldwide as one of the leading centres on the technologies of signal-processing, communications, surveillance, and target detection) and later employed in one of the research departments of the Ministry of Defence. Died in mysterious circumstances, allegedly of carbon monoxide poisoning, in his own car, with the engine running, in his garage, shortly after returning from a trip to the U.S.A. connected with his work.

Coroner's Verdict: ACCIDENTAL DEATH.

10. Mysterious disappearance. January 1987.

AVTAR SINGH-GIDA, aged 27. (Sikh.)

This signal-processing scientist, also of Pakistani origin, had worked at the RMCS, Shrivenham, and was now at Loughborough University on a Ministry of Defence grant, and he vanished just when he was in the final stages of writing his doctoral thesis on underwater signal-processing. They said at Loughborough University that his work was "not classified", but nevertheless it soon became known that in fact he belonged to the British Ministry of Defence's Admiralty Research Establishment, a very special place indeed and one deeply in-

volved in top-secret projects.

Avtar Singh-Gida had disappeared while conducting experiments at a reservoir near Derby. The British Police and also INTERPOL launched a big search in several countries, but without result. They said they had found absolutely no sign, at the spot, of his having been abducted, or of there having been any sort of struggle.

But Avtar Singh-Gida *did* turn up again — four months later! Acting on a tip-off from Police Headquarters, a Derby newspaper traced him to a boutique, “in the red-light area of Paris!” Returning to Britain, Singh-Gida told a reporter from the *Daily Telegraph*: “I walked away from the reservoir and caught a number of buses. I can’t remember exactly, but it was a day or two later that I got to Paris. I just wandered around. I didn’t have much money or any clothes. I was just in a state of confusion”. He is now said to be back at Loughborough and completing his work for the PhD, and *has told his family that he is unwilling to discuss his own disappearance, or the death of his colleague and acquaintance, Vimal Dajibhai (No. 5).*

11. Overdose. February 1987.

VICTOR MOORE, aged 46. Design engineer with MARCONI SPACE SYSTEMS. Claimed to have taken an overdose of drugs in Portsmouth.

Coroner’s Verdict: SUICIDE.

12. Suffocated. February 22, 1987.

PETER PEAPELL, aged 46, a scientist at the Royal College of Military Science, Shrivenham, within only a few weeks from the death of his colleague John Brittan (No. 9), was found dead in his own garage in Oxfordshire, also allegedly of carbon monoxide poisoning. A scientist with an extremely high security classification, he had been working on such things as *the testing of titanium for its resistance to explosives*, and on the use of computers in analyzing the signals emanating from metals. The facts seemed to completely exclude both “accident” or “suicide”.

His wife last saw him alive at around 3.00 a.m. on February 22, after they had returned home together from an evening spent with friends. She at once went off to bed, leaving Peapell to garage his car. She had awoken at about 9.30 a.m. and, finding he was not in bed, went to investigate, and found the garage door shut and heard the car engine running. She found her husband dead, lying with his head sticking out from under the car, face upwards, almost parallel with the rear bumper, and his mouth right in line with the tip of the exhaust-pipe.

Her first thought was that he might have been trying to check up on a “knocking noise” that they had heard when driving home. But there was no light in the garage (the light was broken), and Peapell had no torch with him. She told the Coroner there were no marital or financial problems, and that Peapell had enjoyed his work. He had just had a big pay-rise, and all his colleagues were agreed that he “showed absolutely no signs of stress”.

According to a report in the newspaper *Mail On Sunday*, the Police felt completely baffled and were unable to explain how Peapell’s body could even have got into such a position beneath the car! A policeman experimented, to see if he

could crawl under the car and then shut the garage doors. Or, alternatively, how he could have closed the garage doors first and then squeezed himself under the car. *Both tasks were found impossible.* And carbon deposits subsequently discovered on the inner side of the garage door showed that the car’s engine had been run for only a short time.

Peapell had worked at the RMCS, Shrivenham, for 25 years. Whether or not he had known or been a friend of John Brittan (No. 9), also an RMCS scientist who seemed to have died in precisely the same way a month before, did not seem to have been established. When he died, Peapell was no longer actually at the RMCS, but had moved to one of the research departments of the Ministry of Defence. It was, however, to be noted that *both these men were RMCS scientists, and both had just been on trips to the U.S.A. in connection with their work.*

Coroner’s Verdict: OPEN.

13. Suffocated. February 1987.

EDWIN SKEELS, aged 43, engineer with MARCONI, Leicester, found dead in his car with hosepipe leading from the exhaust.

Coroner’s Verdict: OPEN.

14. Car Crash. March 30, 1987.

DAVID SANDS, aged 37. Sands, who was a senior scientist working at Camberley for EASAMS (a sister-company of the big defence contractors MARCONI), was engaged on a “highly sensitive digital communications project”. On his way to work on the day in question, he allegedly performed a sudden U-turn on a dual carriageway and drove his car, loaded with extra petrol cans, at high speed into a disused café, and died in the fire. He was wearing his seat-belt. No obvious reason for suicide could be found. Dr. John Brittan (No. 9) had also been working at Camberley.

Coroner’s Verdict: OPEN.

15. Car Crash. April 10, 1987.

STUART GOODING, aged 23, a postgraduate research student at the Royal Military College of Science, Shrivenham, died in a mysterious car crash while on holiday in Cyprus, at a time when personnel from that College were engaged in military exercises on that island. After the death, he was first described by the authorities as “a student”, later as “an undergraduate” and then, finally, as “a scientific officer”. His place of work was not mentioned at the inquest.

Coroner’s Verdict: ACCIDENT.

16. Car Crash. April 1987.

GEORGE KOUNTIS, an experienced systems analyst at Bristol Polytechnic, died on the same day as Shani Warren (Case 18). His drowned body was found in his upturned BMW car in the River Mersey at Liverpool.

Coroner’s Verdict: MISADVENTURE.

(After the inquiry, his sister called for a fresh inquest, saying: “*Things don’t add up!*”)

17. Mystery Leap. April 10, 1987.

DAVID GREENHALGH, a NATO Defence Contracts Manager at I.C.L. (International Computers Ltd.). On the very same day that Stuart Gooding (No. 15) died mysteriously in Cyprus, Greenhalgh was critically injured (though it seems not killed) in a strange 40-ft. fall, having apparently jumped from a bridge at Maidenhead, between his home and his place of work. He was reported to have no idea of how it had come about. The first description

given of him was that he was "a salesman". It is to be noted that ICL were working on the same defence project as David Sands (No. 14). Greenhalgh appears to have survived.

18. Drowned in 18 inches of water. April 17, 1987. MISS SHANI WARREN, a personal assistant in the firm of MICRO SCOPE, a digital communications and computer company, was found drowned in a lake in 18 inches of water. She had been gagged with a noose around her neck. Her feet were bound with rope, and her hands were tied behind her back. At first the Police said that there was "a 50/50 chance of suicide" (!). A pathologist from the Home Office in London also suggested suicide! Less than four weeks after her death, MICRO SCOPE was acquired by the G.E.C., which is the parent-company of MARCONI. *The spot where Shani Warren died was distant by only a few minutes from where David Greenhalgh (Case No. 17) had dwelt, and she died precisely one week after the cases of Greenhalgh and Gooding (Cases Nos. 17 and 15).*

Coroner's Verdict: OPEN. (She had, so the authorities said, "probably gagged herself, tied her feet with rope, tied her hands behind her back, and then hobbled, on her stiletto heels, to the lake!")

19. Car Crash. May 3, 1987. MICHAEL BAKER, aged 22, a digital communications expert on a defence-related project with the firm of PLESSEY, died when his BMW car crashed through a barrier near Poole, in Dorset. He was a part-time member of the Signals Corps of the S.A.S. (Special Air Service).
Coroner's Verdict: MISADVENTURE.

20. Heart Attack. June 1987. FRANK JENNINGS, aged 60. Electronic weapons engineer with firm of PLESSEY. Found dead of heart attack. *No inquest.*

21. Death Leap. January 1988. RUSSELL SMITH, aged 23, laboratory technician with the Atomic Energy Research Establishment, Harwell, Oxfordshire. Found dead halfway down a cliff at Boscastle, Cornwall.
Coroner's Verdict: SUICIDE.

22. Suffocated. March 25, 1988. TREVOR KNIGHT, aged 52, a computer engineer with MARCONI SPACE & DEFENCE SYSTEMS at Stanmore, N.W. London, was found slumped at the wheel of his car in his garage at Harpenden in Hertfordshire. According to the *News of the World* (March 27, 1988), a hosepipe was connected to the exhaust of the car. The Police treated the affair as a "routine suicide" until they discovered the hush-hush nature of Knight's work when they contacted the British Defence Authorities about the case. According to the report in the local newspaper *Herts Advertiser* (April 14, 1988) the inquest was held by the St. Albans Coroner, Dr. Arnold Mendoza, who said that Knight's colleague and woman friend, Miss Narmada Thanki (who also worked with Knight at MARCONI in Stanmore) had found three notes left by Knight which clearly showed his intention to take his own life. He had been off

work, sick, suffering from the 'whiplash' effects received in a car accident. His wife (estranged, but still on good terms with him) also said that she could see Knight had been depressed for some time, but she added that he had said nothing to her about suicide.

Miss Thanki, who said she had been involved emotionally with Knight for about eight years past, mentioned that she did know he disliked the work on which he was engaged, but she said she had not personally seen any signs of depression in him. She said, however, that he had suffered continuously, for a period of five years, as the result of several traffic accidents in which he had been involved, and he also suffered from migraine.

Coroner's Verdict: SUICIDE.

(Of our entire list, this might be thought to be the clearest case of genuine suicide.)

23. Electrocuted. August 22 or 23 1988. PETER FERRY, aged 60, a retired Army Brigadier, working as Assistant Marketing Director with MARCONI, was found, in the company flat where he lived, dead with electric leads into his mouth. He was unquestionably very depressed having had several serious car accidents, particularly one on August 2.
Coroner's Verdict: OPEN.

24. Electrocuted. Also in August 1988. ALISTAIR BECKHAM, aged 50, software engineer with PLESSEY DEFENCE SYSTEMS, was found in a garden shed with electric wires running to his body from the mains.
Coroner's Verdict: OPEN.

25. Suffocated. September 1988. ANDREW HALL, aged 33, engineering manager with BRITISH AEROSPACE, found dead in car with hosepipe connected to exhaust.
Coroner's Verdict: SUICIDE.

The last reference that we have seen to these alarming matters was a report in the newspaper *Sunday Express* of February 12, 1989:-

Bizarre Cases of 25 Dead Scientists

Defence Secretary George Younger has denied there was anything sinister about the deaths of 25 British scientists over the past seven years.

New evidence and fresh allegations of murder are revealed in a television programme, The Marconi Curse, to be shown in Australia today. (Italics by ED, FSR).

The programme, in the SIXTY MINUTES series, says nine of the defence scientists to die mysteriously were connected with the electronics firm of MARCONI. Relatives of the dead were all assured that their deaths were either accidental or suicide.

But SIXTY MINUTES asks: "Could they have been murdered?"

In his first public comment on the deaths, Mr Younger told the Australian programme: "If you've got thousands of people working on a project, quite a number of them are likely to die. I don't see anything sinister in that."

Asked if he felt the deaths represented too many coincidences, Mr Younger replied: "That is your interpretation and not necessarily mine. No doubt if you have been into particular instances, there are strange things that happen."

But the widows of the scientists disagree with Mr Younger.

Dorothea Whiteman, whose husband John** was found dead in his bath with an empty bottle of sleeping tablets and two empty whisky bottles by his side, claimed the autopsy showed no trace of drugs and only a very small amount of alcohol in his blood.

Death

Mrs Whiteman raised the possibility of a link between her husband's death and the project on which he had been working.

He worked at BRITISH AEROSPACE's military aircraft plant at Walton, Manchester. He was team-leader of the computer software unit designing the new *Euro Fighter* attack aircraft, which is costing Britain 16 billion dollars.

In another case, Keith Bowden, a mathematics professor, crashed when he was driving home alone after dinner with friends. *The Bowden family claim that his death involved foul play.*

An accident investigator hired by Mrs Bowden's solicitor said that someone had removed the new tyres on the car some time before the crash, and replaced them with worn-out re-treads.

Alastair Beckham, who worked for Plessey Naval Systems, south of London, was found electrocuted in his garden shed with a gag in his mouth. His widow Mary Beckham refused to accept the Police version that Alastair had been stressed and depressed. "He did not commit suicide. He was murdered", she said.

Professor Colin Pritchard, a psychiatrist at Southampton University, said: "Some of the suicides have involved very violent deaths. If you get violent deaths, you usually get severe mental illness like schizophrenia, and there are no reports that these deaths are associated with such behaviour."

GEC, the parent-company of MARCONI, said a second inquiry into the deaths had been completed.

COMMENTS AND NOTES BY EDITOR, FSR

* One word of French text omitted here from translation. (French people — alas — enjoy a fuller freedom in the use of their own language than the British do with theirs!)

** The name *John Whiteman* does not appear in any of the other reports that have come my way. But, if we are to include him, then our list runs not to 25 but 26. And, with the five Intelligence men at GCHQ, this gives us an overall total of 31. But — again — our total is taken to 32 if we also include the highly suspicious case of another man, *Dennis Skinner*, who worked for the British computer company ICL at its office in Moscow from 1968 to 1974, and thereafter continued to work there as the Moscow representative of the Midland Bank, until his death.

One day in June 1983, in Moscow, his broken, barefoot body was found lying hundreds of feet beneath the open windows of his apartment, with a tracksuit top over his head. Just two days earlier, he had sent a note to the British Embassy in Moscow saying that his life was in danger, and pleading to return home. And again, just three hours before he died, he had made an urgent telephone call to the Embassy saying that he was in imminent danger. Just before his death he had also telephoned to his Russian wife Lyudmilla, saying "We have a terrible enemy".

VERDICT OF THE JURY AT THE INQUIRY SUBSEQUENTLY HELD IN ENGLAND: "DEATH BY UNLAWFUL KILLING". Had it not been for the very brave stand taken by the courageous Coroner, Dr Mary McHugh (who almost lost her job over the case!) the British authorities would have succeeded in brainwashing the jury into accepting an "OPEN" verdict!

In conclusion, let me add that I had been collecting details of these strange deaths since 1985, some of it being based upon an article by Tony Collins (today the Executive Editor of *Computer Weekly*) in the *Computer News* of April 14, 1988. And it is interesting to note that Mr Collins has

just recently brought out a book on the subject: OPEN VERDICT:— AN ACCOUNT OF 25 MYSTERIOUS DEATHS IN THE DEFENCE INDUSTRY (Sphere Books, London, 1990. Price £4.99).

Mr Tony Collins has done a very thorough and careful job of research, meticulously accurate so far as I can see, as befits such a technical expert as he is — a leading writer on computing matters. *But (so far as one can judge) he most probably knows nothing whatsoever about "our" subject, so it is perfectly natural that he should be studying and viewing the deaths solely against the current backdrop of EW (Electronic Warfare), and what are called in the jargon "C3" (command, control, communications, which alone would hold the key to victory in any future new major war on this planet), and "C3i" (command-control-communications-plus intelligence).*

Mr Collins has therefore concluded, sensibly enough, that these deaths must almost certainly have been deliberate killings, AND MUST THEREFORE HAVE BEEN THE WORK OF EITHER THE SOVIET KGB OR OF OUR OWN CLOAK-AND-DAGGER SERVICES.

Those of us, however, who are aware of the far, far wider issue represented by the UFO Enigma may be forgiven if we express our doubts as to the adequacy of Mr Collins' conclusions.

Everything, of course, will depend upon whether any evidence comes to light that indicates that a similar wave of mysterious deaths has occurred in America. (And we have heard of none there so far.)

Even if no such evidence be forthcoming from the U.S.A., then we are still going to have to do some very painful thinking around one cardinal and vital fact — namely that all these mysterious deaths, as we have adequately demonstrated, have involved individuals who were engaged in top-secret activities closely connected with the U.S.A.'s "STAR WARS PROGRAMME" ("STRATEGIC DEFENCE INITIATIVE — S.D.I.").

Although we have not so far considered it timely or wise to discuss these particular questions in FSR, I have done a great deal of thinking since 1947 about mankind's so-called "SPACE EXPLORATION PROGRAMMES" of these past forty years, and I have assembled some startling and disconcerting material. In my view it is extremely improbable that we have ever been told the truth about the reasons for these very costly American and Russian "Space Programmes", and also extremely improbable that — GREAT AND GRAVE AS SOVIET — AMERICAN DIFFERENCES HAVE BEEN AND ARE — the U.S. "Star Wars Programme" *has ever been directed against the USSR or that the rulers of that "Evil Empire" (and they ARE evil) have ever believed that it WAS!*

In other words, we may have seen a lot of fine "shadow-boxing" and bluff, and one may ask oneself whether those against whom it is all REALLY directed have ever been "taken in by it" themselves? (One can only hope and pray that they have!)

Whatever the truth of all this may be, current signs do seem to indicate that time may be running out for us fast. (Possibly we may say more about these matters in a future issue.)

It would, of course, be immensely helpful if we had any evidence of similar "mystery deaths" of scientists in Russia. But, given the nature of the Soviet Police State, and despite all the current absurd "Gorbymania" and ballyhoo in the West about this fabulous new word "*perestroika*" (which simply means RECONSTRUCTION or REORGANIZATION of the Soviet and Marxist system) we would not be likely ever to learn about the occurrence of such deaths of scientists over there, however numerous they might be!

(As one of our Soviet Ufologist correspondents has just told me, in a letter dated April 14, 1990, the soil around every Russian city is crammed with the piles of the more than 15 million of their own people who were murdered by Stalin and the KGB — not to mention the entire officer corps of the Polish Army — 15,000 men and one Air Force woman colonel — who were butchered at Katyn and a number of other sites. *How right Solzhenitsyn was when he wrote that the Communists were even far worse than the Nazis!*)

In such a terrible situation, says our Russian correspondent, it would be useless to seek for the corpse of any individual for purposes of identification. Why, therefore, could we ever hope to learn whether scientists over there have lately also been dying mysteriously?.

Nevertheless, in a world of immense uncertainties, only

one thing seems clear — namely that all of us — Soviets and Westerners and others alike — are today cowering beneath a nasty “*Sword of Damocles*” which may mark the beginning of the end of the reign of this conceited and myopic creature *Homo Sap.*

POSTSCRIPT BY EDITOR, FSR

I wrote this article in the summer of 1990. Since then, I have not seen a single report about any more such deaths in any British newspaper! I therefore recently asked Mr Tony Collins what he thought about this, and it seems that he too knows of no new cases. But, since the only official “explanation” for such cases so far has been “STRESS”, the situation now becomes astounding. For there has been a continued severe deterioration in the British economic situation

over the past year, and consequently “STRESS” must now be far more prevalent here than ever! Mr Collins admitted that he had not thought of this, and found my suggestion startling.

If, then, “STRESS” has truly been the cause, we would then have to accept that, since the end of 1988, the British authorities have been censoring the situation so closely that not one single further report of the suicide of a British scientist has got into our newspapers!

But, is it conceivable that such a drastic censorship can be in force and can be sustained? Personally I doubt it very much. Therefore it looks as though the situation is even more mysterious than ever, and one is still left to wonder whether an alien influence is responsible? — G.C.

SPECIAL REPORT TO FSR (MAY 1991)

B.A. PILOTS REPORT UFOs OVER CONTINENT AND NORTH SEA. R.A.F. “TORNADO” TAKES EVASIVE ACTION AS UFOs “FORMATE” ON PLANES OVER THE NORTH SEA

By Paul Whitehead, FSR Director and Consultant

IT was dark, early evening (6.15 pm local time), on November 5th 1990, and a British Airways passenger aircraft was en route to London, flying over the Alps at 31,000 ft. The crew heard a nearby Lufthansa jet report and query “traffic ahead”. The BA captain peered intently ahead into the night sky. What he saw was hardly what he expected!

(At the time, the European press reported the incident, and the “official line” was given: the UFOs were in fact “space debris from an old satellite re-entering the atmosphere”.)

Well, *maybe!* But more details have now emerged. An airline pilot, well known to me and based in the UK, has spoken personally to the BA captain who logged the report, at the request of SIGAP (Surrey Investigation Group on Aerial Phenomena). SIGAP has agreed to the captain’s request not to make public his name, in order to protect him from publicity, and FSR respects that request. The airline pilot who spoke to the BA captain also wishes to remain anonymous.

What did the BA captain see? Here is his comment . . .

“I looked ahead and saw, somewhat to my surprise, ahead and to the right and higher than we were, a set of bright lights. One of the lights, the leading one, was brighter than the others, and appeared bigger, *almost disklike*. It was followed closely by another three that seemed to be in a V formation. As I watched, I heard another aircraft crew also reporting seeing lights!

“I watched the objects intently as they moved across my field of view, right to left, ahead and high. It was then, on hearing the report from the other aircraft, that I realised I was watching something much further away than I first thought. The other report came from France.”

Was it a satellite re-entry? The pilot stated: “It certainly didn’t look like that to me. I have seen a re-entry before and this was different.”

But it was the BA captain’s further comments that are causing amazement and intense interest. SIGAP

has released the information to UFO researcher and writer Tim Good, and we hope to have more comprehensive details this year.

That same night a colleague of the captain, in another BA aircraft, reported two “very bright mystifying lights” while flying over the North Sea. Two days later, an RAF Tornado pilot told the captain that on the same evening (5th November) his Tornado — while flying with another squadron aircraft, had been “approached by bright lights”. The lights, he reported, “formed on the Tornados”. (The expression “formate” is apparently used to indicate a deliberate intent.)

The accompanying Tornado pilot was so convinced that they were on collision course with the lights (*apparently nine of them were seen*) that he “broke away” and took “violent evasive action”. This same pilot later added that he thought he was heading directly for a *C.5 Galaxy*, a giant US transport plane. The formation of UFOs carried “straight on course and shot off ahead at speed — they were nearly supersonic. Some *C.5*”, he said, indicating that they were going faster than the speed a *C.5* can achieve. *Some C5!*

The pilot known to Paul Whitehead commented. “*This is all a good true story, and could do with an explanation. All the pilots are adamant that what they had seen was definitely not satellite debris — and they should know.*”

It is to be noted that the North Sea lies to the east of Britain and just north of Belgium, and the Belgian Air Force have recently pursued and filmed UFOs over land close to the North Sea, and possibly over the North Sea itself. (See Reports on “Huge Triangular Craft Over Belgium” in FSR 35/2 and 35/4. The attention of readers is also specially drawn to Omar Fowler’s report of an extremely similar case, “UFO SEEN FROM ‘TRIDENT’ NEAR LISBON” in July 1976, which was published in FSR 22/4 (1976).