

The Halt Perspective

Book Review, followed by 'Deconstructing Commentary,' by Emil Venere

The "Rendlesham Forest incident" looms large in the annals of UFO lore.

It was December 1980 when UFOs invaded the twin U.S. Air Force bases of RAF Bentwaters and RAF Woodbridge in the UK county of Suffolk. Because the central figure is unarguably Colonel Charles Halt, Deputy Base Commander, his newly published book marks an important chapter in ufology.

However, the Halt Perspective, co-written by UFO investigator John Hanson, is not a compelling read. It's a 770-page mishmash of UFO history that attempts to focus on the mysterious encounters at Rendlesham Forest. A scrapbook of factoids, letters, reports, transcriptions, old news articles, photos and illustrations, but nonetheless a worthwhile reference book for those of us who are obsessed with the confounding, latter-day saga of unexplained aerial phenomena that began roughly 70 years ago.

In the book's forward, the UK's Fox Mulder, Nick Pope, informs the reader that Halt is "probably the highest ranking U.S. military officer ever to see and report a UFO while on duty."

"The Halt Perspective is an extraordinarily important book," says Pope, who used to investigate UFOs for the UK's Ministry of Defence and has written his own best-selling book about Rendlesham Forest.

Halt begins his tome with an official one-page report he filed shortly after the startling events that unfolded in the early morning hours of Dec. 26, 1980

Patrol officers, having seen strange lights near the facility, went out to investigate. Later that night Halt and his men were stalked by a menacing red light that resembled a winking human eye, prowling the forest and dripping what looked like molten metal as Halt documented the whole thing with his trusty pocket tape recorder. The roving eye suddenly burst into five white objects and vanished into the night like a silent fireworks display. Then three star-like objects appeared in the sky. They were elliptical with red, green and blue lights, maneuvering in sharp angular movements as though completing a grid search. One of them stopped directly over the

men and emitted a pencil-thin beam of light that illuminated the ground 10 feet from where they stood.

The next day officers found deep impressions in the frozen soil possibly made by a small triangular craft. Radiation readings taken with a Geiger counter registered seven times higher than normal background levels. The officers noticed an opening in the trees directly above the apparent landing site and freshly broken pine branches on the ground below. Something obviously had come down from above.

Unfortunately, the book often strays from its purpose, perusing Col. Halt's happy, if financially strained, childhood in Pittsburgh; his long military career and various biographical details about Halt and ufologist Hanson. A lengthy swath of pages is dedicated to various seemingly unrelated UFO encounters going back to the 1950s, including John Lennon's famous sighting in New York City, as well as potentially relevant but sketchy hearsay about angelic-looking aliens near the base, a yellow fog and silvery beings allegedly seen by police dog handlers.

But it's worth sifting through this jumble of raw content to discover meaningful and fascinating tidbits. For example, two radar operators tracked one of the UFOs, which covered 120 miles in 8 seconds; inexplicably, neither the Americans nor the Brits seemed the least bit interested in investigating the events, despite dozens of witnesses and the fact that unknown entities had apparently penetrated a military facility of major strategic significance during the Cold War; radar evidence was squelched, suggesting a cover-up; Halt filed a terse yet rather sensational report with the MoD, yet there was no reaction from military and government officials.

One of the most important revelations concerns the bizarre testimony of Sgt. James Penniston, who purports to have seen, and even touched, a triangular object that supposedly landed in the forest. Penniston claims that he saw enigmatic geometric symbols on the craft and that he has received weird telepathic messages in binary code. However, other sources quoted in the book say Penniston originally told them he never even got close to any objects on the ground. It was only after hypnosis in 1994 that the other, fantastic details emerged.

I will explain in the deconstructing commentary below why this Penniston business is crucial to unraveling the riddle of Rendlesham Forest.

Deconstructing Commentary

The events at Rendlesham Forest fit into a pattern going back to the Washington, D.C., saucers of 1952: The objects appear over sensitive sites or populated areas, easily penetrating defenses and outperforming any military aircraft they encounter. It's the same m.o., which I believe is evidence for a non-ET origin: the testing of above-top-secret U.S. aeronautical platforms based on a different type of propulsion technology, an electric-field or electromagnetic drive system, derived not from ET but the

same human ingenuity that has spawned the integrated circuit, nuclear energy, the laser, fiber optics, medical imaging, etc.

The living laboratory of real-world testing would provide the ideal data for such a system. After all, if the technology is capable of thwarting U.S. defenses, it would be just as capable of overwhelming those of potential adversaries.

Now, let's examine some of the most salient details of the Rendlesham Forest encounters.

- 1) The very strange human-like winking eyeball that burst into five white objects is obviously a 3-D holographic projection. Such projections are now being commercially developed, and we've seen many examples in the past of high-tech military hardware being decades ahead of the commercial marketplace. I am suggesting this was psyops, deployed to distract personnel and to study their reactions.
- 2) Penniston's over-the-top descriptions fit perfectly into a long history of disinformation, deliberately concocted and expertly executed to confuse the media and public alike. Once you start introducing telepathic messaging, space alien hieroglyphics, and warm-to-the-touch spacecraft, you are spoiling any credibility the story might have had. The media will look the other way, and Joe Sixpack will assume it's all a bunch of nonsense. We know Penniston's story changed radically. Somewhere along the way, I suspect, he was recruited by the authorities to promote his fantastic account. Why? Money. This would most certainly be a paid assignment.
- 3) Now, based on testimony from Halt and many other witnesses, we can identify some common elements that characterize the whole crazy affair: flying objects that maneuver in abrupt right-angle turns, the pencil-thin beam of light, and the holographic projection, all of which could have terrestrial origins if you accept the possibility of an above-top-secret propulsion system and other sophisticated technologies developed by the military.
- 4) The fact that neither the Americans nor the Brits see the events as a threat to national security is another clue. If the UFOs are simply ours, they naturally wouldn't be a threat.
- 5) A ridiculous explanation proposed by the authorities, that the lights came from a nearby lighthouse beacon, smacks of the usual BS we've seen over and over: It was the planet Venus, meteorological phenomena, swamp gas. Why? Isn't it obvious?
- 6) The MoD has repeatedly delayed the release of some 18 UFO-related reports, some bearing on Rendlesham Forest. They were supposed to be released about two years ago, but there is always some sort of hitch. But why? If there were nothing to it, why not just release the reports? After all, these military bases have been closed for years, and the Cold War is over.
Answer: The reports provide evidence of a super-secret U.S. technology and cannot be easily sanitized. This requires careful subterfuge!