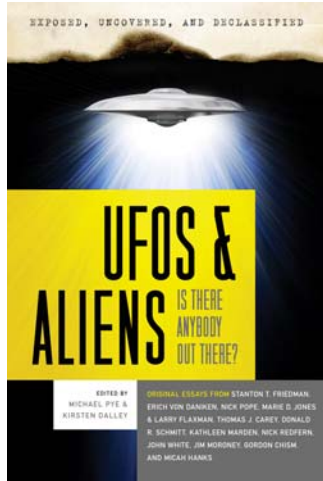


UFOs & ALIENS

by Nick Pope

CHAPTER SUMMARY



The United Kingdom's Ministry of Defense and the National Archives is midway through a four-year program to declassify and release the Ministry of Defense's (MoD) entire archive of UFO files. This is the biggest UFO-related story in the UK and arguably one of the biggest such stories in the world, in view of the international media coverage. Pope worked on these files (and indeed wrote much of the material therein) while investigating UFOs for the MoD and has also been involved in the release program.

Pope's intent is to delve beyond the usual brief treatment this subject gets in the media and tell the full story:

- Why the files are being released
- What's in them (and what isn't)
- What the reaction has been
- What the wider implications are

He picks out specific stories; some explained, some unexplained and some of the more light-hearted material that will be of particular interest. In this way, he tells the complete story of the file release, from his insider's perspective, getting all the facts in, and adding a bit of color and analysis too.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Nick Pope



Author, journalist and TV personality Nick Pope worked for the British government for 21 years, at the Ministry of Defense. In the course of his career, he served in a number of different posts, but is best known for work that he did between 1991 and 1994, when he was posted to a division where his duties included investigating reports of UFOs. The purpose of these investigations was to see whether anything reported might pose any threat to the defense of the UK, or suggest the existence of anything that might be of more general defense interest. Most sightings turned out to be misidentifications of ordinary objects or phenomena, but a small percentage remained unexplained. Contrary to popular belief, there was no definitive evidence that any of these sightings were extraterrestrial in origin. However, the Ministry of Defense remained open-minded about the possibilities and took no position on the existence of extraterrestrial life.

Nick Pope was initially skeptical about UFOs, but his official research and investigation convinced him that whatever the nature of the sightings that remained unexplained, the UFO phenomenon raised important defense, national security and air safety issues. He was particularly interested in cases where the witnesses were pilots, or where UFOs were tracked on radar.

More recently, Nick Pope has been involved in the program to declassify and release the MoD's UFO files and send them to the National Archives. This involved selecting some cases that would be of interest to the media, making a film to promote the release and giving newspaper, TV and radio interviews to publicize the story.

Nick Pope left the Ministry of Defense in 2006. He now works as a freelance journalist and media commentator, writing and broadcasting on a wide range of subjects, including UFOs, the unexplained, conspiracy theories, fringe science, defense, intelligence, space and science fiction.

Nick Pope works with a wide range of film companies, TV networks and production companies, helping develop ideas for new films, TV shows and documentaries. He contributes regularly to various news programs, chat shows and documentaries.

Nick Pope works with various PR, marketing and advertising agencies, promoting sci-fi films and advertising campaigns themed around the unexplained. He has worked for clients that include Microsoft, 20th Century Fox and Sony Pictures and has been involved in promoting *The X-Files: I Want To Believe* and the remake of *The Day The Earth Stood Still*.

Nick Pope lectures all around the world and this has included addressing the Oxford Union and the Cambridge Union Society, as well as speaking at the Science Museum, the Royal Albert Hall and Global Competitiveness Forum 2011.

Nick Pope has written four books, all of which have been published by Simon & Schuster. His non-fiction books are *Open Skies Closed Minds*, about UFOs, and *The Uninvited*, about the alien abduction mystery. Both books made the Top Ten in the Sunday Times list of hardback non-fiction books, with *Open Skies Closed Minds* reaching number three and staying in the Top Ten for ten weeks. These books have been translated into various foreign languages. Nick Pope has also written two science fiction novels about an alien invasion, *Operation Thunder Child* and *Operation Lightning Strike*. There have been discussions about producing a film or a TV miniseries based on these books.

Nick Pope lives in London.

INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

UFOs & Aliens

By Nick Pope

- Can you update us on the Ministry of Defense's program to declassify and release its UFO files? How much material has been released and when will the process be complete?
- What's your involvement in this?
- Can you tell us about some of the more interesting things in the files?
- What can you tell us about the story that Churchill and Eisenhower conspired to suppress the truth about UFOs?
- What material from the MoD's UFO files hasn't been released?
- In December 2009 the MoD terminated its UFO project. What happened?
- Can you tell me about recent developments in the UK, in terms of numbers of sightings, interesting cases, etc?
- How does the UK media treat this subject?
- You made some controversial comments about military jets engaging UFOs. What did you mean?
- 2010 saw the 30th anniversary of the Bentwaters case - what happened and how was the anniversary marked?
- UK Prime Minister David Cameron made some very interesting comments on UFOs. What happened?
- In 2010 you attended two Royal Society discussion meetings about extraterrestrial life. What was said?
- In January 2011 you spoke at the Global Competitiveness Forum in Riyadh, discussing the search for extraterrestrial life in front of various political and business leaders. What can you tell us about this event?
- What are the differences between ufology in the US and the UK?
- What do you see as being the future of ufology?
- What are you working on right now?