

Of Ghosts And UFOs **By Scott Fowler**

The Question Is Posed

Captain Walters piloted his B-17 out of the clouds over northern France and sighed in relief. His plane, “Red, White and Blue”, and his crew had made it through another bombing run into Germany, made it through some of the thickest flack he had ever experienced, fought off some of the most experienced fighter pilots on the planet with little more than a scratch to show for it. Soon, the English coast would come into view and they will be home.

Walters felt more than heard his co-pilot suck in a quick shot of breath in alarm. He turned and asked what was wrong. The co-pilot only pointed out the window.

When he looked, Walters could see a shiny, bluish ball of light about the size of a basketball floating above their right wing. It flew along side them, almost as if in formation with them. Over his headset, he could hear his waist gunners reporting that they saw it too.

After a few minutes, the ball abruptly changed direction and flew over the fuselage, dove down and underneath the bomber. It popped up again on the other side near the tail. Now the tail gunner was reporting in that it was flying behind them.

Then it vanished completely. It faded away and left thin air behind the plane.

During World War II, the Allies felt the key to victory in Europe was a rigorous schedule of daily, daylight bombings of Axis targets. As a result, thousands upon thousands of aircrews went flying in enormous crafts with nicknames like “The Flying Fortress” and “The Stratofortress”. Toward the end of the war, flight crews (on both sides of the conflict) began to report encounters with strange lights and globular “crafts” they dubbed “Foo Fighters”.

Both Axis and Allied flyboys reported these early UFOs to their superiors with the opinion that they were new weapons developed by the enemy. It wasn't until after the war that examination of the documents involved convinced the Allies that “Foo Fighters” were not secret enemy surveillance crafts or experimental weapons but something totally unknown until that time.

The fictional piece above is typical of a “Foo Fighter” encounter.

Now, what if I was to add that during Captain Walters' bombing run, he had lost a crewman. Let's say the ball turret was hit by anti-aircraft fire and the ball turret gunner was killed. How would you interpret this encounter? Maybe, just maybe, instead of this being an encounter with other worldly technology perhaps you would interpret this as the

spirit of the dead gunner guiding his fellow crewmates to safety or saying goodbye to his wartime buddies.

As you can see, there is a fine line between what could be considered an Unidentified Flying Object encounter and a ghostly encounter. In some cases, they appear to be one in the same phenomena. In this article, I will compare the similarities between the ghost phenomenon and the UFO phenomenon. By comparing these two paranormal subjects, I suspect we will find some truth to a theory that both phenomena may be derived from the same events but interpreted differently.

In his book, *UFO: The Definitive Guide to Unidentified Flying Objects and Related Phenomena*, David Ritchie writes, “There are numerous similarities between reports of ghostly “hauntings” and close-encounter incidents involving alleged UFO occupants...The similarity between ghosts and ‘extraterrestrials’ leads some observers of the UFO phenomenon to conclude that ‘hauntings’ and UFOs represent two different aspects of the same phenomenon – a phenomenon that is more spiritual and psychological than physical in character.” (Ritchie 89)

You Can't Change The Laws Of Physics, Jim

As that great science fiction engineer, Montgomery Scott, is fond of saying, “You canna change the laws of physics.” Everyone knows that what goes up must come down. That every action has an equal and opposite reaction. That an object can not exist in the same space and time as another object. These are all common knowledge based on hundreds of years of observations by great thinkers like Pythagorus, Keppler, Newton, Galileo, and Einstein, even continuing today with people like Stephen Hawking. These physical laws are permanent and can not be changed.

Or can they?

Both ghosts and UFOs tend to violate basic elementary physics taught to all school children and accepted as known facts.

UFOs are seen traveling silently at obvious post-Mach speeds. Yet, everyone who lives near an U. S. Air Force base knows that no human made airplane can go at those speeds without causing a sonic explosion that is audible to all in the area. Yet UFOs do this regularly and cause no booming audible emissions.

UFOs, usually while they are at these incredible speeds, tend to perform maneuvers that would create G-forces that would kill any human pilot. Flipping and reversing on a dime would smash a pilot to smithereens against his own ship, not to mention how the ship itself is able to maintain coherence during such violent maneuvers. Yet they continue to move, apparently in an intelligent manner.

UFOs have been known to be present one moment and then disappear in the blink of an eye. Here is a similarity with ghosts. Apparitions have been known to do the same thing.

The figure, usually human looking, will appear to the observer and then blink away like a light bulb switched off. One of those laws of physics comes to mind here. The one about matter and energy can not simply disappear. So how are ghosts and UFOs able to do this?

Ghosts, in particular, seem to be able to pass through solid objects. A common occurrence in many ghost encounters is the movement of the spirit through walls and doors into the next room. Clearly, this is against a common physical law. During many UFO abduction cases, the observer will report that the abducting beings will pass through solid objects and float up to several feet off the ground. The floating is a ghostly characteristic as well. Orbs and mists tend to float in an area. Apparitions have been known to appear floating over beds during nighttime visits or drifting just off the floor as they move. Levitation is one of those powers banned by the laws of physics, except with the use of magnets.

Many would say that ghosts use a form of dimensional travel to pass from one existence to another. These we tend to capture on film as vortexes. The prevailing theory in UFO research is that UFOs have been able to travel the great distances they do by tapping into some form of dimensional travel. It has even been suggested that UFOs actually originate from a separate dimension from our own. The discussion of multi-dimensions and their physics continues to cause debate in the scientific community.

An effect that lends itself well to showing that both UFOs and ghosts are derived from the same material, if not from the same dimension, is the disruption of electrical activity in the presents of both phenomenon. These events are an indication that both UFOs and ghosts are producing vast amounts of electromagnetic energy. This similarity alone suggests a connection between the two. Suggesting they both are derived from the same power source.

All of these illustrate how both ghosts and UFOs violate known laws of physics. Some would argue that the laws that we know now may be flawed or outdated. That both the deceased spirits and alien travelers have special knowledge that is being used to circumvent the established laws. Who's to say their wrong? And how much of a stretch is that kind of thinking?

When Rover Barks, We Listen

Another similarity between UFOs and ghosts is the apparent indication that animals have a particular sensitivity to them. Pets like cats and dog to livestock like horses and cows tend to show great agitation to the presence of ghosts and UFOs. "Similarities have been noted between reports of animal behavior during UFO encounters and accounts of animals' reaction to other 'paranormal' phenomena. In both situations, animals may cower, flee, howl and injure or even kill themselves." (Ritchie 10)

In many cases, it is this drastic change in behavior of an animal that will alert others of a paranormal occurrence. Many times it is the dog barking at empty space that permits us to notice the presence of a spirit. There is a famous photograph, of which we can not

publish here due to copyright issues, that was taken in Gulf Breeze, Florida during the late eighties. It shows an unidentified craft floating above a swimming pool in the photographer's backyard. In the foreground is an obviously very agitated, very upset dog apparently barking at the object.

Animals, in both UFOs and ghosts, will also appear as apparitions. "In a small but significant number of UFO encounter reports, witnesses may report seeing a large black dog in the company of the alleged extraterrestrials. This element of UFO lore constitutes a close parallel with reports of such dogs in the literature of the supernatural." (Ritchie 30) Encounters with black dogs, like Black Shuck, are quite common among ghost encounters. Not to mention the multitude of "dead pet" encounters that people report.

I See Dead People...And Aliens

The curious thing about children is their apparent ability to see ghosts when adults can not. They will tend to hold conversations with the spirits, even maintain full relationships with the entities. Some have suggested that the "imaginary friends" phenomenon common in children may actually be spirits with which the child relates.

The same appears to be true with the UFO phenomenon. Children have been known to have a special connection with aliens. Some even reporting talking at great length with the classic gray aliens throughout their childhood. This appears to be in connection with the abduction phenomenon now prevalent in the UFO world. Some UFOologists have speculated that extraterrestrial beings track and observe the life of individuals much like biologists would tag and track animals in the wild.

Those Who Believe

UFOs share another similarity with ghosts. Those who believe in them are of a wide-ranging breed with just as wide ranging explanations. Many of these beliefs border on religions. Like ghosts, "many different belief systems have been formulated to accommodate the UFO phenomenon. These belief systems are subject to frequent change as more information on UFOs becomes available and as popular thinking about the phenomenon changes." (Ritchie 26)

There are UFO cults just as there are ghost cults. Early in the year 2002, a UFO cult even received national attention when it declared to have created the first cloned human, a declaration that has not been proved. As well as members of the Heaven's Gate cult who committed suicide because of their belief that a UFO following the Hale-Boop comet was going to pick them up and take them to another planet.

Both phenomenon, perhaps due to their very nature as unexplained, has cultivated a number of cults and religious thought.

There are even those in both fields that go as far as to believe that aliens and ghosts are not of a benevolent nature. "Although some students of UFOs interpret UFOs and their

communications as manifestations of divine power, skeptics may take the opposite view and interpret the UFO phenomenon as diabolical in character.” (Ritchie 26)

This has led to “numerous parallels [being] noted between UFO-related phenomena and alleged manifestations of demonic activity.” (Ritchie 56) As in the realm of ghosts, demons have part to play with UFOs as well. These parallels are especially present during the abduction phenomena where “‘extraterrestrials’ frequently are said to perform forced sexual acts with abductees in such cases. These acts are essentially identical with the reported behavior of incubi and succubi, evil spirits capable of having sexual intercourse with humans.” (Ritchie 56)

But for every “true believer” there is a con artist or a charlatan or just someone trying to attract attention to themselves who are looking to undermine the belief system of the believer. Thus, they create hoaxes. Both UFOs and ghosts have been plagued with hoaxers. So many in recent history that it becomes hard to determine what events to consider real and which to consider true phenomenon. That makes the investigator’s duty harder. And is another example of the similarity between ghosts and UFOs.

Journalist love a story, especially one that can’t be explained. Thus both UFOs and ghosts have attracted the media. Mostly starting out as skeptical, humorous fair, the media “have evolved toward increasingly tolerant and even sympathetic treatment” (Ritchie 135) of both phenomenon. Most of this media coverage is left for Halloween time or relegated to occult magazines like *Fate*, in specialty books or online websites devoted to the subject matter.

The Forms They Take

Like ghosts, UFOs come in many forms. Some of which can find an equated version in the ghostly realm.

Found in Japanese incidents, UFOs have been known to drop a substance called “angel hair.” No samples of this substance has ever been keep for scientific analysis but descriptions have it has a fine, fibrous material that is white or very light colored. It is a rare example of physical evidence being left behind even though it is questionable if this substance actually existed.

Similarly, spiritualists of the late nineteenth century, early twentieth century claimed to us a fiber type substance called ectoplasm to manifest their spiritual contacts. There is no sample of this substance available either and there is much question as to the reality of ectoplasm.

“Although apparitions generally are associated with ghosts and other phenomena traditionally considered supernatural, apparitions are essentially identical with many reported encounters involving UFO entities.” (Ritchie, 13) Yes, UFOs too have apparition entities similar to ghosts. “Apparitions share many characteristics with such encounters, including humanoid figures appearing to the witness; a perception of cold;

unusual (often unpleasant) odors; ‘psycokinetic’ movement of objects; the ability of apparitions to pass through material objects such as walls; and the communication of message, such as warnings and events to come.” (Ritchie 13) These similarities suggest a connection between UFO apparitions and ghost apparitions.

In some UFO cases, a cloud or vapor is reported around the witnessed UFO. This foggy substance sometimes will seem to form the UFO inside it. This is similar to ecto-mists reported in ghost cases and captured on film.

And then there are fireballs, ball lightning and Foo Fighters. Each of these is a spherical object that is lit up due to some internal lighting. In the case of fireballs and ball lightning, these are atmospheric events that are often mistaken for UFOs. In the case of Foo Fighters there appears to be a close similarity to the appearance and behavior of modern ghost orbs.

Ghost orbs is a fairly new phenomenon in the investigation of ghosts. Either we did not notice them in the past due to the misunderstanding of their nature or modern photography has advanced to the point where we are able to catch them better, either way the investigation of ghost orbs is in it’s infancy.

As Ritchie states, “Many UFOs, especially nocturnal lights, are described as spherical... Perhaps it is significant that classical descriptions of spirits also ascribe spherical forms to the spirits manifestations...The sphere is therefore one element linking UFOs with spiritual phenomena.” (Ritchie 194) The spherical form is the most energy efficient form to take. That is why a bubble naturally take that form. It appears that both ghosts and UFOs have discovered the advantages of this form and are using them regularly.

The rise of Foo Fighter incidents have gone up in recent years. There are famous video footage of Foo Fighter like objects tracking airborne planes. In the ghost investigation realm, photos and video of orbs have increased as well in recent years. Could there be a connection?

To Wrap Things Up

Perhaps the most striking similarity between ghosts and UFOs is the near impossibility it is to determine a “true” event from a false or mistaken one. Many times it only comes down to the word of a witness or two with little or no supporting evidence. This allusiveness is common in all paranormal events.

Some would say that due to this problem, investigating the paranormal isn’t scientific and therefore can not be studied correctly. But these events have and will continue to be studied using as much of the scientific method as possible. One important aspect of the scientific method is the development of a theory and the testing of that theory.

At the beginning of this article, I set forth a possible thesis. I suggested that perhaps UFOs and ghosts might be the same phenomena being interpreted differently. Have I

proved this theory? Admittedly, no I have not. However, I believed I have raised some pertinent questions connected to my theory. One should spend their own time studying the theory, testing it if possible and make their own decision.

Works Cited

UFO: The Definitive Guide to Unidentified Flying Objects And Related Phenomena,
Ritchie, David, MJF Books, New York, NY, 1994.