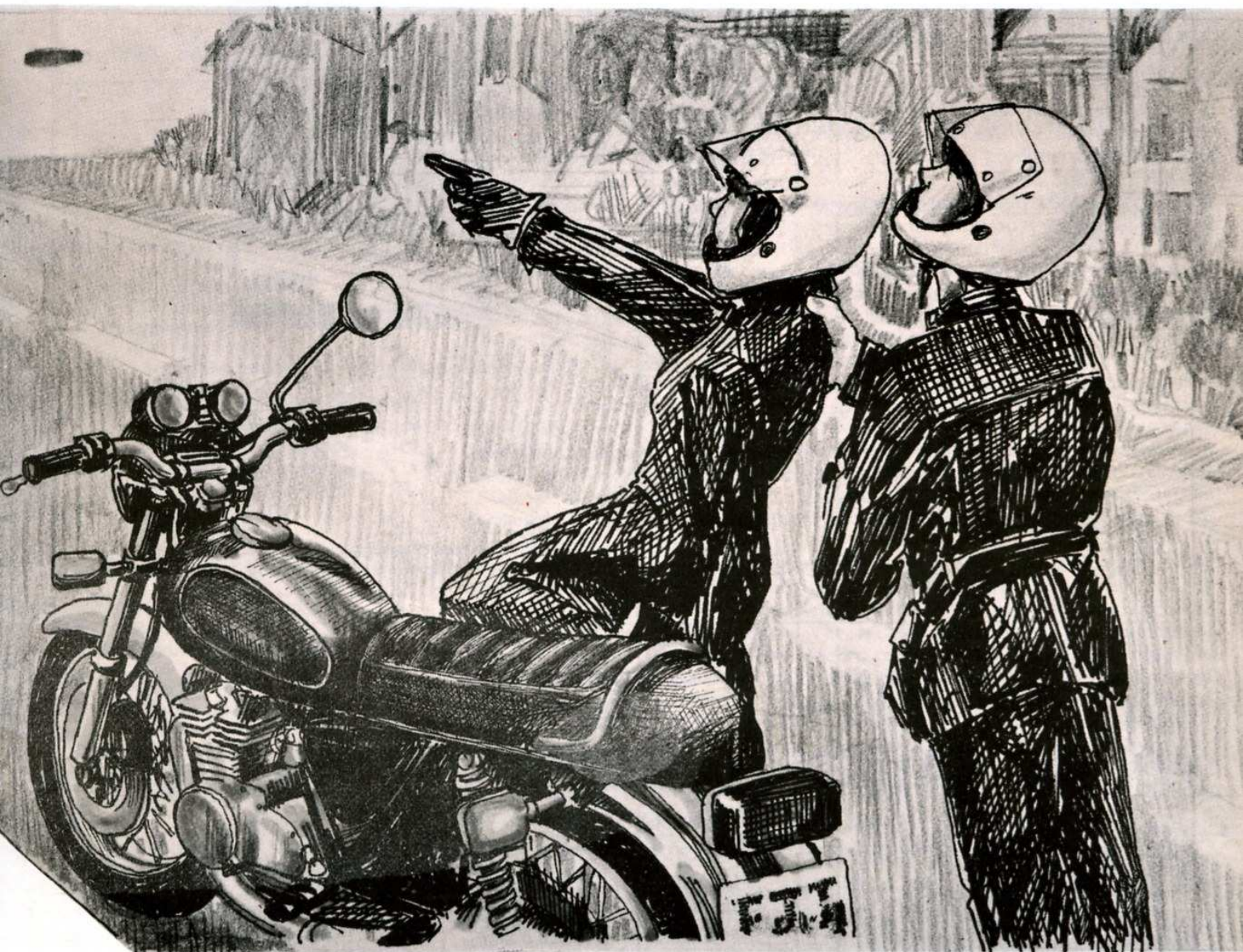


FLYING
SAUCER
REVIEW

FSI

Volume 24, No. 2 1978

70p



THE PERPLEXED MOTORCYCLISTS

See page 10

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An international journal devoted to the study of Unidentified Flying Objects

Vol. 24, No. 2
(published August 1978)

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page ii of cover

VEXED QUESTIONS

IN our last issue we recorded some thoughts on the "vexed question" of the use of hypnosis in investigating time-lapse contact cases with abduction and transportation or teleporation. These are the cases which Jenny Randles, Peter Warrington and others have categorised broadly as "Close Encounters of the Fourth Kind" (CEIV). It was felt that the use of the hypnosis technique in properly controlled conditions could be justified if a mental block in the sub-conscious memory could be pushed aside, so releasing, subsequently, a normal, conscious recall of events.

There are dangers inherent in this. For instance, the hypnotised subject will frequently "recall" things unwittingly suggested by the hypnotist; as many things, indeed, as he recalls that are of significance. The entranced subject may also ramble far along the paths of fantasy, and the investigator needs to guard against these possibilities.

Dr. Bernard Finch, in whose house the hypnosis sessions involving John Avis took place as part of the investigation of the Aveley abduction case (see FSR Vol. 23, No. 6 and Vol. 24, No. 1), says that he felt there were inconsistencies in the testimony of the witness. In a report sent to the Editor he says that the witness (John) was sometimes vague and that at times he appeared to be "filling-in" or romanticising; some of the evidence which emerged under hypnosis was "highly-coloured" by emotion.

Dr. Finch also warns that there is a possibility that a subject could be under stress, or tension due, say, to domestic problems, and that he may have had a fugue* — a transient period of unconsciousness when the brain carries on as in dreams, yet is still able to control automatic motions, or motions that have been taught, such as talking, moving limbs or stopping a moving car. To a bystander a person in a fugue would appear as if in a trance and talking incoherently, a state that could last a few minutes, or an hour, which could be the basis of a "time-lapse." After the fugue had passed, any dream could be very real to the subject who might believe the experiences he has dreamed are real — a belief that could spread to other people (*Folie à deux*). Such dreams could be recalled under hypnosis.

Another member of the FSR team who has met John and Elaine Avis is Jenny Randles — a meeting which took place after the report by Andy Collins had been completed and delivered to FSR. Miss Randles' report was dated 17 February 1978.

She had a long discussion with them and feels sure that they had a UFO contact; without knowledge of Dr. Finch's views, she states she is not sure what level of UFO encounter it could have been. Rather than "...an ordinary sighting with the rest hallucinated" she leans towards the feeling it could have been a CEIV — "a contact with subjective and un-real overtones." The couple believe that what happened to them is true "...and therefore to decide whether it is objectively true is not entirely necessary; they may well have constructed their own definitions of objective and real."

Miss Randles also questions the value of evidence obtained during hypnotic regression, for she cannot discount the possibility that in the "highly susceptible state created in them they were unconsciously fabricating the abduction details — with perhaps a little help from our 'friends'."

It is right that Miss Randles and Dr. Finch, a colleague and consultant for the twenty four years' span of *Flying Saucer Review* should warn of these possibilities (in the case of Dr. Finch, for example, that the brain of a witness could "flip" so that he thereafter imagines a UFO experience of a kind far removed from those anticipated in the euphoric days of the 1950s). Dr. Finch would prefer more "...concrete proof of abduction by aliens, with independent witnesses, material evidence of an alien technology, a sign or a token, not verbal evidence or hearsay or tales of sexual experiences."

Indeed, if we had not been aware of some remarkable coincidences FSR might have fought shy of this case. Of course it is always possible that Messrs. Collins and King, the investigators in the case, if not John Avis, could have known about the remarkable teleportation from Bahía Blanca to Salta, although it is unlikely. A businessman in Bahía Blanca entered his car, only to find it enveloped in a grey mist before he could drive off. He next recalled awaking at a roadside near Salta in the distant north western region of that vast country. Police enquiries showed that his car was still outside the hotel in Bahia Blanca with the engine idling, but nobody has disclosed what happened to the man during the time lapse. The account of that case was accompanied by a report from a motorist near Tokyo who saw a mist descend on a car in front of his, and when the mist went the car was missing. These cases appeared in FSR Vol. 11, No. 2, (March/April 1965) an issue which has been out-of-print since 1966.†

Among other cases there has been also the grey mist abduction and teleportation at Chascomus in Argentina, when the abducted persons were discovered in Mexico (see FSR Vol. 14, No. 5 long

since out-of-print) but again we have no indication of what happened during the time lapse period, for the witnesses were whisked away behind a security screen.

The Aveley witnesses and investigators would not have known about a case which a well-known investigator, after hearing the details, cast aside for fear, presumably, that those details were romantic fabrications on the part of the contactee. That was some seven or eight years ago, and the story — which seemed even more improbable because it was a "repeater" — was never published. Now that the investigator has read of the Aveley abduction he has written to the Editor of FSR to say he was "staggered" to find recorded details, many of which were identical to those to which he had listened in ultra-sceptical vein all those years ago... the grey-green mist was there, the driver being transported in his car and a subsequent time-lapse. We hope we will be able to persuade our reluctant friend to change his mind and publish details of the case.

If we accept the fact that these experiences may be real, we must ask ourselves: "Is this the UFO problem, or is it a decoy planned to instil certain ideas in the minds of chosen witnesses. Alternatively could it be a manifestation of the masked activity of beings who, having noted the interest of humans in the real, objective UFO reports, assume the role of false "ufonauts" in order to perpetrate a sort of John Keel-type Trojan Horse effect?

* For an example of this see "Berserk" by Dr. B.E. Schwarz in FSR Vol.20, No.1 (Jan-Feb, 1974). This article will also be found in *Encounter Cases from Flying Saucer Review*, Edited by Charles Bowen (see announcement on page ii of cover opposite).

† Now reprinted in *Encounter Cases from Flying Saucer Review* (Ed. Charles Bowen) under the chapter "Teleportations" by Gordon Creighton (see notice on page ii of cover). The Aveley case report was complete before this book was published.

UFOIN PROGRESS REPORT

SINCE March 1977 the UFO Investigators' Network has been busy investigating a number of reports of high-strangeness UFO activity in the British Isles. Several of these cases have been published by *Flying Saucer Review*.

The network has 43 members, and also has close links with investigators in respected local groups up and down the country. However, there are still some areas of the country where members are particularly required, although assistance in any area would be welcome. Sparsely covered at the moment are Northern Scotland, the Isle of Man, North and Mid Wales, Cumbria, North Yorkshire, Gloucestershire and Avon, Somerset and Suffolk. UFOIN is striving to achieve high standards of endeavour and expertise, and members are expected to produce detailed case studies, with maps, photographs and evaluations. If you think you fit the bill, write to the UFOIN Secretary:—

Miss Jenny Randles, 23 Sunningdale Drive, Irlam, Salford M30 6NJ, or telephone: 061-775 4749

Readers are asked to write to the same address should they learn of any high-strangeness encounter or sighting, or should they themselves undergo an experience. Any wish for confidentiality will be respected.

— JR

THE UFONAUT'S PLEA FOR WATER

REMARKABLE ENCOUNTER ALLEGED TO HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN SOUTH AFRICA IN 1951

Juan José Benítez

Translation from the Spanish by Gordon Creighton

THE case which I give below is about an engineer who was approached by a mysterious being asking for water. It is one of the most spectacular of the cases that I have investigated in recent months. It forms part of my series which I have entitled *On the Track of the UFOs*, and I am offering it exclusively to FSR. The story is one that it would indeed be difficult to believe were it not for one very simple but overriding fact: namely the professional and cultural standing of the witness and protagonist.

In the course of continual journeyings on the track of the UFOs I met a man in May 1977 with an incredible story. But it was only after a very great deal of effort on my part that I was able to persuade him to tell me about the experience he had had some years ago in South Africa.

In the presence of other witnesses, who were present with us throughout the whole time while I was making a tape recording of the interview, I had to give my word of honour to the engineer that I would not reveal his identity.

I shall call him "H.M." in this report. He is, as I have said above, an engineer, and he is British, and at the present date he is engaged on an important technological enterprise in one of the provincial capital cities of our part of Spain.

"H.M." has been working for the past twenty years as an engineer specializing in instrumentation. One of his specialities, for example, has been the development and construction of automatic pilots for aircraft. And, as I have said, he is at present working for one of the leading firms in advanced Spanish technology.

And now I will let Mr. "H.M.", the British engineer himself, tell us in his own words about what befell him that unforgettable night at a spot not far from Cape Town.

* * * * *

"I was working then for *Contactar*, a subsidiary of the British Rheostatic Company, and my wife and I were living in a small town named Paarl, near Cape Town. It is in fact some twenty miles outside of Cape Town.

"So far as I can recall, it was the spring of 1951. My wife had a little second-hand French car, very handy for getting into Cape Town.

"Well, to be brief, one day, after the car had been out of use for some weeks, we found that the battery was down. So, that evening, approximately from 7 o'clock to 11 o'clock, I spent my time giving the car an overhaul. I had got it all into good order, by which time it was of course already dark. So I packed

up and went in to wash my hands, thinking to myself that I would leave for another time the question of re-charging the battery.

"But then I changed my mind. Just near our house there was a quite steep slope. So I decided to 'bump start' the car down the slope and charge the battery by taking a run around the neighbourhood. Which is what I proceeded to do.

"I got into the little car and set off in the direction of a mountain called the *Draakensteen*, lying some ten or twelve kilometres distant. My idea was a simple one. It was just to go as far as a level area up near the top of this mountain and then come back. The run would be more than enough to top up the battery.

"And so, in fact, at about 11.15 p.m. I arrived up on this mountain. The traffic along the road at that time of the night was virtually nil.

"The area where I now was lay at an altitude of about 900 ft. above sea-level, and forms a sort of small table-land running right up to the foot of one of the great cliff-faces of the mountain."

"There was a moon that night, and I remember how the vast shadow of the mountain fell across a large part of the table-land, so that this area was plunged into what, by contrast, seemed to be an accentuated darkness.

"I was just about to start back for home when I saw a man waving his arm to me. He indicated that I should pull up, which I did. . .

Q (Benitez): "Where did the man come from?"

A ("H.M."): "From the area of table-land that lay in shadow. From the area, to be precise, at the foot of the cliff face of the mountain. I pulled up and asked him what was the matter. He came up to my window and said: 'Have you any water?' I replied that I hadn't, except for what was in the radiator. The man looked upset when I said this, and went on: *You see, we need water!*' I could see how keen he was to get this water, so I suggested that I take him to a stream that crosses beneath the road a little further down the hill. Then the man asked: 'Is it far to this stream?' I replied that it wasn't, that it was, maybe, half a kilometre or so, and that was a mountain stream. I told him that it was very good water too, because it came straight from the mountain above us. At that the man seemed to be satisfied."

Q: "In what language did the man speak to you?"

A: "In English. But he had a rather strange accent. . ."

Q: "What sort of accent?"

A: "I can't say exactly. In South Africa, as you know, there all sorts of people apart from the English and Afrikaans-speaking folk, there are Americans, Germans, Dutch, Indians, French, Malays, Chinese,

and so on. And pretty well everybody speaks English, each of them with a different sort of accent according to his nationality. But this man's accent was strange. . . Any way, I invited him to get into the car. Which he did. And we set off for the stream."

Q: "and what did you talk about?"

A: "Practically nothing. I asked him if he had any sort of receptacle to hold the water. And he said he had not. . . 'All right,' I said. 'I've got an oil-can with me which maybe will do.' My companions' manner was brief. 'That will be all right' he said.

"So we arrived at the stream, and the two of us set about washing out the can and filling it with water. When the operation was completed, we returned to the car and set off back to the place where I had met him.

The UFO

"I pulled up at a certain distance from the foot of the mountain, and the man pointed into the dark area formed by its shadow. 'There, please, there!' he said, meaning that I should drive nearer to the rock face. And, as we moved into the shadow and my eyes got used to the darkness, I perceived that there was a strange object there. . ."

Q: "Was it off the road?"

A: "Yes it was about a hundred metres or so from the road, and in the zone of shadow cast by the mountain."

Q: "What was the object like, and what was its diameter?"

A: "Well, it was quite big. Its diameter may have been between ten and fifteen metres or so. It wasn't very high. Maybe, from the feet up to the top it could have measured say four metres or so. In the under part I could see an opening which was lit up and some steps which, as I was able to ascertain shortly afterwards, led to the interior of the machine. I stood there dumbfounded (see figures 1 and 2).

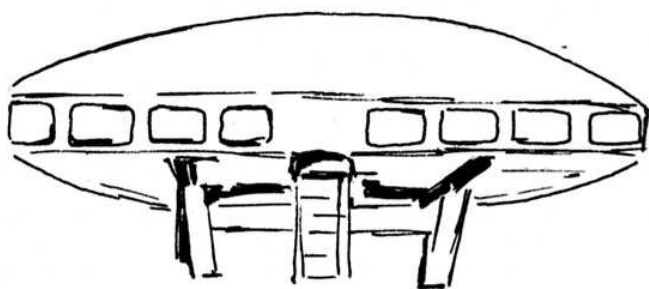


Figure 1: Sketch by the British engineer of his view of the craft

VIEW OF
UNDERSIDE
OF CRAFT



Figure 2

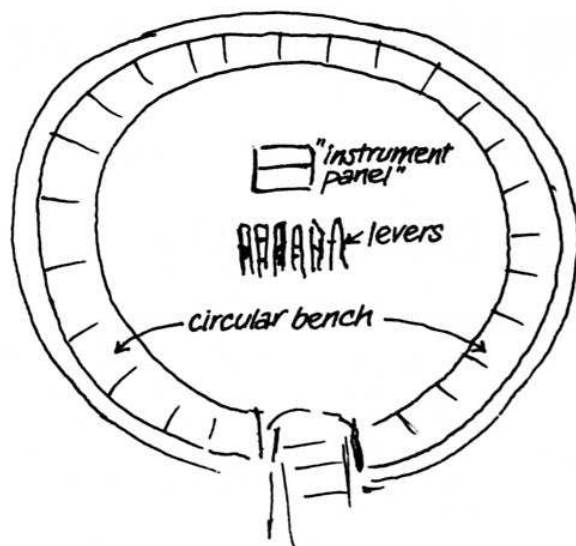


Figure 3: Engineer's sketch of interior of craft

Q: "Did you go into the craft?"

A: "Yes. The man invited me enter."

Q: "And what was your reaction to that?"

A: "Well, I won't deny that I felt afraid. So I just said nothing. Like someone who feels distrust. But the man insisted, and with a friendly gesture invited me to go with him into the machine. And I stepped inside ahead of him."

Q: "And what did you see?"

A: "Inside the object, which was completely circular, there were other men. A total of four more in fact. One of them was lying stretched out. Apparently, so my companion explained to me, they had had a slight accident, and the recumbent man had got burnt. Then I replied that I would like to get a bit closer so as to be able to see the wounded man. But my companion said no, that I must not move from the spot where I was. So there I stayed, just by the entrance."

Q: "What was the inside of the craft like?"

A: "It was a circular room. There were square windows all around it, and under these windows a sort of circular couch going all the way round."

Q: "How high was the room?"

A: "High enough for one to be able to walk about in it. The men were all shorter than I am. They were maybe 1.50 metres or 1.60 metres (about 4ft 11ins to 5ft 3ins). In the area where the windows were, the ceiling was somewhat curved. In the centre of the room there were some levers, like the ones used in railway signalling boxes. These levers were set in a small rectangular area and were about one metre in height. The top of each of these levers ended in a sort of 'fork,' like those on the hand-brakes in the older types of cars" (see figure 3).

Q: "How many of these levers were there?"

A: "I can't say for sure. Maybe there were eight, set in two rows. What I can say is that each lever emerged from the inside of the machine. I could see the rectangular slot quite clearly. And over on the other side of the room I saw a sort of table (see figure 4). But it wasn't a table...I thought it might possibly be an instrument-panel of some sort, but I could see no in-

struments on it. This is my own line of work, so I can assure you that I took a good look at it.

"Another detail that surprised me greatly was the lighting. . ."

Q: "Why?"

A: "Because I couldn't see any lights anywhere. It was just as though the light was coming from the walls or the ceiling or from everywhere, all at once."

Q: "What was the colour of the light?"

A: "Very white."

Q: "And what were the crew doing?"

A: "Well, the man who had accompanied me set down the can of water near where the other four were, and then came back to where I was standing."

Q: "Were they talking to each other?"

A: "I don't think so. One thing is certain, and that is that those other four did not even turn to look at me when I entered the craft. They seemed to be engaged in attending to the injured man who, as I have said, was stretched out on the circular couch running round the whole interior of the machine.

"When my companion returned to where I was, I asked him if they needed a doctor. But he said they did not. It was he who then asked me whether there were any matters on which I would like to ask questions and be given information. And I said: 'Yes, naturally.'"

Q: "And what were your questions?"

A: "I said that, being an instrumentation engineer I was puzzled to see no panels or navigation instruments. I also asked him how the machine worked. I asked: 'Where are the engines?' To which he replied: 'We don't have any engines.' So I asked: 'Then, how do you navigate?', and at this he pointed to the levers and said: 'We have a different system. We nullify gravity. That is how we rise.'"

Q: "But, did you go into the details of it?"

A: "Yes. I asked him how they overcame gravity, and he replied that they used a very heavy fluid, which circulated in a tube. And with this system they created a magnet. . . . That is to say, somewhat as we do with electromagnets, except that they, instead of using electricity, were using this fluid."

A: "I asked him about that too' and his answer was: 'It is a very heavy fluid.' So then I thought of mercury. . . . Meanwhile, the man continued his explanation to me. Apparently this fluid was subjected to a velocity similar to the velocity of light. That is to say, the velocity of electricity. But, I answered: 'That is impossible inside a tube. . . .'

"No', he replied. 'It is simple. When the fluid is leaving the tube, it is already entering at the other end. Thus, its relative speed is infinite. . . .'

"So it seems that, on the basis of this system plus a few 'magnets' of a kind which clearly do not exist on our planet, these beings had achieved enormous velocities and were able to conquer gravity."

Q: "Did you ask any further questions?"

A: "Yes, I asked where they came from. . . ."

Q: "And what was his answer?"

A: "He pointed towards the stars and said: 'From there.' I even insisted on wanting to know from which cardinal point in the sky they came, but he simply kept repeating: 'From there.' And then he rapidly changed the subject. It was obvious that he

did not want to say any more about that. So, after we had chatted about fifteen or twenty minutes, he pointed in a friendly but firm manner towards the door and invited me to leave. And I did. I went down out of the machine and departed."

Q: "How long do you estimate had elapsed since you first met the man?"

A: "About 45 minutes, more or less. And I can assure you that they were the strangest minutes of my whole life."

Q: "And did the machine remain there?"

A: "Yes. Next day, thinking it had all been a strange dream, I went back to the spot. And there were some very strange marks there. And, on top of that, there was the matter of my can, which we had to carry the water in, and which now was missing. . . ."

* * * * *

For "H.M." this experience (resembling as it does many others that have occurred in similar cases to other people) is something that it will never be possible to erase from his memory. As he explained to me: "Had it been a dream, I would have forgotten about it straight away. But this was something very different from a dream. And I remember it all still with absolute perfection, and in all its details. . . ."

When I enquired about the physical appearance of the five men, "H.M." replied: "They were all dressed in the same way. In a sort of laboratory overall, which fell to below the knees on all of them. And it was fastened with a belt. The clothing was of a sort of beige colour." (see figure 5.)

Q: "What might have been the age of the man who talked to you?"

A: "He was a bit older than the others. Maybe he might have been 40 plus."

Q: "And how was the rest of their clothing?"

A: "It did not strike my attention for the simple reason that it was not abnormal in any way. They were wearing trousers and shoes. I imagine that if these had been different from ours I would have noticed it."

Q: "And how were their faces?"

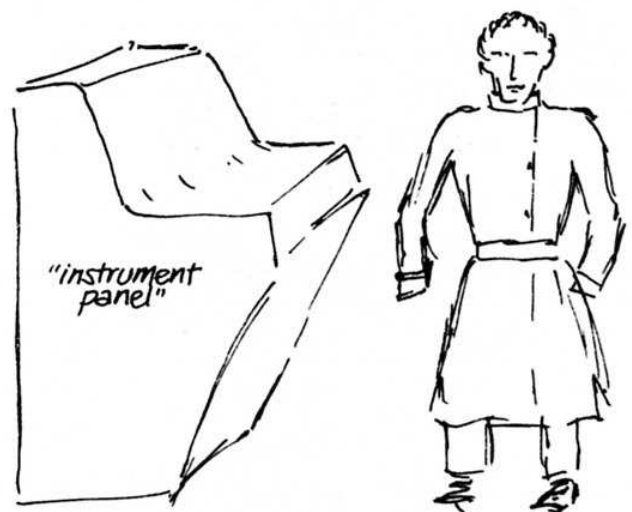


Figure 4 (left): The metallic device (instrument panel?)

Figure 5 (right): Engineer's sketch of the entity

A: "I noticed nothing strange about them. Maybe their foreheads were a bit more pronounced. . ."

Q: "And their hair?"

A: "Not very long. And the same on all of them. It wasn't black hair. Maybe chestnut coloured. As I said, it wasn't strange in any way."

Q: "Were they very muscular in their build?"

A: "No. Rather on the slim side. Their hands reminded me somewhat of the hands of women."

Q: "Did you notice if they had beards?"

A: "No. They had no beards at all. It is curious. It seemed as though they had never had any beard."

Q: "And were their movements normal?"

A: "Yes, completely. As I have already said, there was nothing about them that might have caught my attention."

Comment

Such then, in brief, is the amazing experience of this English engineer who had the great fortune to get inside a UFO. A story which, as I have already mentioned, the engineer has always been careful to keep secret until now.

As I have indicated above, the professional and academic status of this engineer lends an altogether unusual value to the case. For the time which he spent in the inside of the craft was long enough to enable him to be able to memorize clearly a whole rich gamut of details. And, what is more important, the UFO's propulsion system as described by him has been confirmed, years later, by various other similar cases. One likes to think that thanks to many of these cases, some of the Great Powers on our Earth may well be devoting large sums of money to the task of discovering such a system of navigation as has been described somewhat basically, herein.

PARKSTONE UFO & OCCUPANTS

CLOSE ENCOUNTER REPORTED WITH POSSIBLE PHYSICAL EFFECTS

Leslie Harris

An account specially prepared for Flying Saucer Review and UFOIN

THIS interesting case came to my attention as the result of a promotion organized by the manager of the local Gaumont to publicise the opening in Bournemouth of the famed movie, *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*. The idea was to invite a number of local people, who had experienced UFO phenomena, to be guests at the film's opening night. To this end, the local newspaper published an appeal for witnesses to send written reports of their sightings to me, my job being to sort the wheat from the chaff and put forward the names of the most worthy applicants.

Among the reports I received was this one, which I felt was sufficiently strange to warrant proper investigation. I therefore visited the witness on Wednesday 22nd March, taping our conversation, and paid her a further visit on Thursday 6th April to tidy up some points and take photographs.

The local reporter, who had written the original appeal, contacted me for details of any interesting cases which might have come to light, and I mentioned this case. The result was a back page splash in the local paper, followed by nationwide coverage in the London dailies, a situation which the witness had not wanted. Before writing to me she had reported her sightings to no-one.

The witness

The lone witness of this event is Mrs. Ethel May Field, 62, a housewife of Sea View Road, Parkstone, Poole, Dorset. Her husband, Maurice, 68, and daughter, Teresa, 24, were indoors watching television when the sighting occurred and noticed nothing unusual.

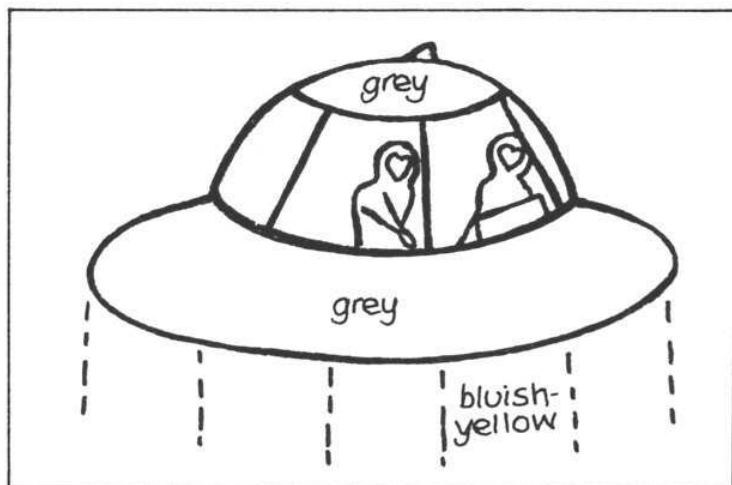
The event

The exact date of the sighting is not known, but Mrs. Field does recall that it occurred during the latter part of September, 1977, at about 11 p.m. She had gone out to the back garden to take in washing from the clothes-line, when she heard a humming sound which prompted her to look at the sky, which was clear.

Approaching from a SSW direction was a round object with a dome on top. There could have been "something on the dome", but owing to the swiftness of events, Mrs. Field could say no more on this point. The object was emitting light of a brilliant intensity — the object itself glowing with a "greyish" colour, whilst from around the perimeter of the disc, light of a much more brilliant "bluey-yellow" colour beamed downward, giving the overall impression of an umbrella shape. This light did not illuminate anything on the ground, and Mrs. Field did not notice how far down it extended. Beneath the object, Mrs. Field thought she saw a "patterned" effect, but was unsure on this point and unable to elaborate.

The object's size was difficult to determine, but Mrs. Field eventually decided that it must have been the width of her garden (22 ft.). The altitude was another problem, but Mrs. Field agreed that the object could not have been very high up, as she was able to observe *occupants within the dome*.

This dome had two "windows," which did not occupy the full area of the structure, but extended to about two-thirds its height and one quarter its circumference. Standing at these windows were two



humanoid occupants, one at each window.

As the UFO reached a point immediately above the far end of the garden, it hovered for a moment, and Mrs. Field put up her hands, palms outwards, to shade her eyes from the brilliant light. At this point she felt a slight sensation of heat on her hands and a trembling or vibration of the ground which lasted just a second or two. Alarmed, she wondered whether there was about to be an earth-quake, and expected people to come running from their houses, but no-one else seemed to notice it.

The two figures inside the object were of normal proportions and were wearing silver suits with head wear of the same colour which covered all but the face. This headwear appeared not to be part of the suit; Mrs. Field thought she detected a collar. She did not notice any buttons or fasteners, but was definite that the headwear came to a point at the forehead. The faces of the entities appeared to possess slender features, and Mrs. Field had the

impression that both were male. As she could see almost to the waist, the arms were visible, also of normal appearance. The hands appeared to match the colour of the suit, suggesting that gloves were being worn, but Mrs. Field was not absolutely certain about this. The cabin was lit by apparently "normal" lighting, the colour of our own domestic lighting.

The entity on the right-hand side, as Mrs. Field looked at them, appeared to be operating controls. Mrs. Field did not actually see any controls, but as the figure was looking downwards with his hands engaged in some activity immediately below the window, she assumed this to be the case. The other entity, however, was looking directly at Mrs. Field. He moved over slightly and made a down-pointing gesture with his right hand which Mrs. Field interpreted as an intention to land. Being alone, and now alarmed, she turned and ran back towards the house, pausing for a moment at the door to glance back just in time to see the object speeding away in a NW direction. The total duration of the sighting could have been no more than 20 or 30 seconds.

Mrs. Field rushed indoors where her husband and daughter were watching television. (No interference with their reception had occurred.) She tried to tell them of her experience, but they just laughed at her. When Mrs. Field said she would phone the local paper about her sighting, her daughter dissuaded her, as she felt people would ridicule them. The story was, therefore, reported to no-one until Mrs. Field wrote to me.

Possible physical effects

When I first arrived at Mrs. Field's home, she apologised for being unable to shake hands with me as she had a skin infection. At the end of our inter-



In Mrs. Field's back garden. The superimposed figure gives an indication of Mrs. Field's estimate of the size of the object



The witness, Mrs. Field, shows her bandaged hand

view she told me that this trouble had begun the week following her sighting with a spot in the palm of her left hand. This had spread and worsened until both hands were raw and very painful. Her doctor diagnosed dermatitis, and treated her for this. I examined her hands and found them to be very dry with the skin peeling.

At no time did Mrs. Field claim that this condition had been caused by her UFO experience. She mentioned it only as an afterthought and said she was "keeping an open mind" about the cause. However, bearing in mind that (a) during her sighting Mrs. Field shielded her eyes from the intense light of the object WITH PALMS FACING OUTWARDS: (b) she felt a slight sensation of HEAT ON HER HANDS whilst doing this; (c) the trouble developed the week following her sighting and she had never before suffered from a condition of this kind, and (d) my dictionary definition of dermatitis is "inflammation of the skin by localised irritation, eg., external burning by the sun, X-rays, etc." I felt it worth presenting this as tentative evidence of a possible UFO-related physical after-effect.

Press coverage

Newspaper reports of the case contained inaccuracies, exaggerations and downright fabrications.

One report said that "a saucer swooped on her" — a totally inaccurate and misleading statement.

Reports of "burns" were gross exaggerations of the actual condition of her hands.

But the worst example of press distortion was the widely publicised statement that "coastguards saw it too." This was *just not true*. It arose when a reporter from Radio Solent visited Mrs. Field and happened to mention that his father, an auxiliary coastguard, once saw a UFO. This case had been widely reported at the time, and even appeared in FSR (Vol.19, No.4, Page 30). That such a chance remark could be so grossly distorted is, to me, incredible.

Conclusions

I have no reason to believe that the story told by Mrs. Field is other than the complete truth. She wanted no publicity, her family laughed at her, and she made no play at all of the condition of her hands, a point she could easily have used as direct evidence in her favour. She co-operated willingly with me, but now wishes to see no more reporters or investigators.

If her story seems a little lacking in precise detail, it must be borne in mind that she was suddenly confronted with a phenomenon totally outside her experience, that she was alarmed, and only observed it for a brief period of time before running to the house.

My view is that here we have a very normal 62-year-old housewife, of limited vocabulary, attempting to describe an event which was *real to her*.

And that is surely what matters.

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A NEW MEDICARE?

Gordon Creighton

SEÑOR SEBASTIAN ROBIU LAMARCHE of Puerto Rico reported in October 1977 that he had four more cases under investigation in which the witnesses claimed to have observed small beings on the Island of Puerto Rico. (For the last case which he reported to us, see *Another Humanoid From Puerto Rico*, in Vol. 23, No. 6.

Sr. Lamarche has now sent me a clipping from the newspaper *El Vocero de Puerto Rico* (September 19, 1977) about a new case which is alleged to have happened at 3.30 p.m. on Sunday, September 4, 1977, at Barrio Abra Centro, near Corozal.

The percipient, 74-year-old Luis Sandoval, a farmer, lives with his wife and son in a little house on the fertile slopes of a hill. His extraordinary experience left him very shaken, and a couple of weeks passed before he could pull himself together and go down into San Juan, the Capital, and there tell his story to someone on Channel 4 of the TV and Radio Station. At the same time, the reporter from the newspaper heard about him and, with a photographer, went off up the hill to interview him. The rest of this article is the reporter's story, which is as follows:—

"The old farmer, Luis Sandoval had plenty to tell me: 'It was about 3.30 p.m., and I was lying in my hammock. Then I felt an impulse to get up out of the hammock and come and sit over here. (He leads the reporter to the spot.) I was sitting here, just enjoying the view, and looking towards the north, when I heard a noise to my right ... a noise something like the fireworks rockets which people like to let off on Saints' Days and Holy Days. And what I saw — well, I couldn't believe my eyes ... it was like a flash of lightning, like a blue candle, long, like a cigar. I was stupefied, and I could hear the noise of it growing louder and louder as it approached me. The sound was just like the sound of one of these aeroplanes that we get passing overhead here, but far louder. And I just sat there pretty well without moving and watched this thing coming down from the top of the mountain until it passed me and then dropped down right beside me.

" 'I had no idea whether I was seeing right or not. But the flash had turned into a little dwarf man about three feet high. I just sat there, hardly daring to blink an eyelid, and this little dwarf chap came and stopped in front of me and, in a husky, deliberate sort of voice, told me to have courage. I saw he had something hanging from his neck, like the thing doctors use when they examine you. He bent down, and started to examine me. First my feet, then my knees, then my chest, back, ears, temples, and my head. He opened my mouth and looked at me carefully. When he had finished, he told me that he was an extraterrestrial and stepped back about two feet

from me and started looking about him. And this went on for about five minutes. And then he spoke to me again, and said "*How nice Puerto Rico is!*"

The creature

"Then suddenly he stepped away again from me, about another two feet or so, and turned into a blue flame just as he had been before he appeared to me. Then, making the same noise as the first blue flame had done, he shot up into the air like a flash of lightning and away between the branches of an avocado pear tree and was gone."

"When he had finished telling us about it, using the expressions of a typical Puerto Rico farmer, it was our turn to question him.

"I began my asking: 'Don Luis, what was this creature like, physically?'

"He replied: 'As I said before, he was about three feet tall and his ears were long and pointed. His face was round and ugly and his nose was not shaped like ours, because the nostrils were big, like you see on big apes.'*

" 'Was he wearing any sort of clothing?'

" 'Yes, he had a sort of jacket and a little tie. His face was sort of muddy coloured and I had a good view of his hands.'

" 'Were you scared?' I asked.

" 'No, not a bit.'

" 'What was his mouth like?' I asked.

" 'He had a little mouth, and his lips were much bigger than ours.'

The damaged tree

"We went with Don Luis to look at the avocado pear tree and we saw the branches of it which he said had been shrivelled and withered by it. And we were able to see for ourselves that there was one whole branch which looked as though it had been subjected to very great heat.

"Being interested myself in these kinds of phenomena, I tried to find all sorts of different angles from which to discuss the case, but I was unable to catch old Don Luis out in any contradictions. Despite his 74 years he was self-possessed and precise in his speech. He seemed very sincere to us, and, as his wife said to us later, what reason could he have for telling untruths?

"This case comes as the culmination so far of a whole wave of sightings and of reports from people who say they have encountered the dwarves. To my mind there was no doubt whatsoever that a strange event had occurred up there on the hills at Barrio Abra. The first case reported in Puerto Rico of an 'extraterrestrial' carrying out a physical examination of a human! We do not know precisely what it was that happened, but of one thing we can assure you, and that is that old Don Luis Sandoval has had an experience that he will never forget."

* The Spanish word for a monkey or ape is *mono*. The text of the newspaper article actually says *moño*, and my dictionary tells me that this means a *tuft*, *top-knot*, or *chignon*. It seems to me therefore that what we have here is a misprint.—G.C.

THE PERPLEXED MOTORCYCLISTS

John Bracewell

MAY I take this opportunity of writing to tell you of an extraordinary experience which happened to my wife and myself on June 21, 1977. It was a Friday and, with my wife at the controls, we were riding our motorcycle along the A56 trunk road out of Manchester where we had stayed the previous night with friends.

We were travelling through Salford when my attention was drawn to a light in the sky which I thought was a reflection of the sun on my helmet visor, so I ignored it. Let me explain that we both wear the full-facial type crash-helmets with plastic visors that can be raised or lowered over the face. My wife hadn't noticed anything at that point, and I had no reason to speak to her; better to let her concentrate on the road, which was very busy.

Then, when we were on our way through Whitefield, I noticed the light in the sky again, and then I concluded it was some sort of aircraft; it was away to our left and was travelling at the same speed as we were — about 35 mph. I wasn't particularly interested in it because I thought it was just another aeroplane — hundreds fly over the city every day — so I went back to watching the road over wife's shoulder.

We rode on through Bury and, apart from having to avoid the usual quote of "road hog" car drivers with their vehicles wandering all over the road and turning without signalling, and so on, nothing untoward happened. Then, when we were about a quarter of a mile off the boundary of the town (Bury) I noticed the aircraft again still off to our left. This time, my curiosity aroused, I watched it closely. Incredibly it was still travelling at exactly the same speed as we were, slowing down when we slowed down, speeding up when we increased speed, always keeping at exactly the same angle in its position relative to us. It was as if it was locked to us by an invisible beam which kept our movements synchronised. I thought to myself that it was travelling very slowly for an aeroplane, and that it was flying very low (at about only three times the height of a three-storey house) for the safety of its crew.

I lifted my visor and had a fresh look at it, and saw that it was a cigar-shaped object between about 20 and 40 feet in length. Its colour was bright silver and it had a darker patch in the middle.

Now quite excited, I shook my wife by the shoulder and pointed the thing out to her, and immediately she pulled to the side of the road. At that same instant I watched it stop and then hover for a few seconds before moving off in reverse to its

original direction and flight path. It went behind some trees and a house, at which I ran to the other side of the house to watch it but it had gone — vanished.

We were absolutely astonished because neither of us had ever before seen anything like that which could glide along effortlessly in complete silence, and leaving no smoke or vapour trail — something which seemed to defy all known laws of motion.

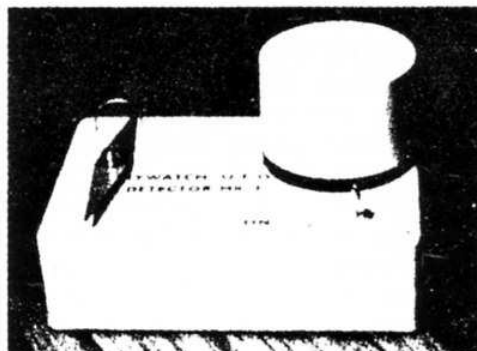
By now my wife was becoming frightened, so we started the motorcycle and headed for home at a good speed. We never saw the UFO, or whatever it was, again.

We are just ordinary people living ordinary lives, and it is only in our choice of motorcycles instead of cars as a form of transport that we differ from the many. I am 31 and my occupation is a quality control inspector; my wife isn't giving her age, but she works as a checkout operator in a supermarket. So why should a UFO follow us, or more to the point, *escort* us part of the way on our journey from Manchester to Nelson and, when we stopped to watch it, give the appearance of watching us..... Why?

One last thing before I sign off. I have forgotten to mention that when my wife stopped the bike we were on an incline and the machine rolled back a few inches; would you believe it, I was still watching the object and it too moved back a short distance!

Maybe this all sounds like the ramblings of a madman, but I can assure you it is perfectly true and my wife will back me up on this. Maybe you (FSR) can throw some light on the matter because we are completely baffled. At least I hope it will be of interest: who knows, it may happen to any one of you one day.

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THE LUKE AIR FORCE BASE

UFO SIGHTING

Barry J. Greenwood

ON July 12, 1976, the records of the U.S. Air Force's Project Bluebook were made public for the first time. After 29 years, researchers could examine in detail the case histories of UFO sightings that have been long buried under secrecy stamps and red tape. The National Archives in Washington, D.C., which is responsible for the safekeeping of the Bluebook files have produced a series of microfilm copies of the entire file amounting to about 94 reels or some 140,000 pages of data. Also included in the collection are numerous photographs, slides, movie films and sound recordings from Bluebook's past investigations.

I have acquired many of these microfilm reels (at considerable expense) to satisfy my curiosity about the history of Bluebook and to examine first hand reports from the tremendously voluminous case files. In going through the reels for 1953, one incident in particular stood out and it is upon this case that I will focus attention in this report. It is certainly one of the most interesting photographic sequences in the Air Force's study.

The Luke AFB sighting is not totally unknown to students of the UFO subject. Captain Edward Ruppelt related some of the details in his book *The Report on Unidentified Flying Objects*, page 229. A summary of the case also appeared in Project Bluebook's "Status Report No. 11" published May 31, 1953. Both accounts were lacking on many points, including the availability of the photographic evidence for the past 24 years. Although the file on this case is not as comprehensive as we would like it to be, it contains considerably more than the average Bluebook case file, with telegrams, letters and evaluations. It is unfortunate that it has been withheld so long since much more study could have been performed than is on hand.

The sighting

On March 3, 1953 at about 13.25 Mountain Standard Time (20.25 GMT), Captain Roderick D. Thompson, 3600th Fighter Training Group, Luke Air Force Base, Glendale, Arizona, led a flight of three F-84 type aircraft on a simulated combat strike. With him were student pilots Lt. Jack E. Brasher and Lt. Thomas W. Nale 3rd.

The following statement is the signed testimony of Captain Thompson dated March 5, 1953:

"On 3 March, 1953 while leading a flight of three F-84 aircraft on a simulated combat strike to Nellis AFB convoy No. 8, I observed a high altitude condensation pattern of an aircraft or object of peculiar and unfamiliar shape and size.

"At the time of observation we were cruising at

An interesting look back at an early US Air Force photo case taken from the Bluebook files. This case is particularly fascinating when one compares it with, for example, the ATV camera crew's film taken in 1971.
EDITOR

25,000 feet altitude at 500 mph true air speed and on heading of 305° magnetic course. My position was approximately EJGE 4525 on the GEOEF grid and the pattern first appeared at 10 o'clock high and was estimated to be approximately over EJFE 5520 at 35,000-45,000 feet.

"My first view was at about 3/4 plan view and I estimated it to be about 300 feet in diameter. However, size and distance were difficult to determine since there were no known dimensions or references. I called the object to the attention of my flight but no one was able to identify it. The main peculiarity, other than size, was that the object making the pattern remained invisible, but the pattern began with a smooth knife-like leading edge and developed back into a 3/4 perfect crescent shape, very thin in depth and with an irregular trailing edge. At this time there was no condensation trail of the familiar type often made by jet or conventional aircraft when flying at altitude, but rather it appeared as if an entire wing surface or high sweep-back or circular design was producing a thin condensation from the leading edge back.

"I turned toward the object and began a climbing chase at full power. The object made a slight dipping turn toward the NW and began climbing at about 20 degrees of climb. At this time I was at about right angles and the pattern appeared as a sharp-nosed and very thin object with an irregular, wispy trailing edge, and about 300-500 feet long. Immediately thereafter a heavy condensation trail began to form behind it and extended for perhaps a thousand feet or so back, at which point it separated and a double trail extended for perhaps another thousand feet and then ended abruptly. The contrail stayed with the object and did not extend back across the sky as exhaust contrails generally do.

"I attained 30,000 feet and about 560 mph true air speed and chased him for about 50-60 miles. I was carrying a full armament and fuel load, however, I was closing fairly well. I estimated his speed at about 400 mph true. I fired about 30 feet of gun camera film and at this time was over the river just north of Parker Dam. I figured it would take quite a long chase to catch him and that it was probably some craft out of Murco AFB, so I broke off the chase and continued to Nellis AFB.

"The object was first observed at about 13.25 (MST) hours and I chased him for about seven minutes before breaking off. I was unable to get into position for a picture of the plan view, but did get some excellent pictures of the side view.

"Neither I nor any member of the flight was able to identify or to actually see the object itself. This statement is submitted only as an incident report of aerial phenomena observed in flight."

Signed

Roderick D. Thompson
Captain, Instructor Pilot

The two student pilots did not accompany Capt. Thompson on his chase but they did view the object when it first appeared and confirmed the basic details.

Weather data at the time of the sighting was as follows:

—Clear visibility — 45 miles, Temperature — 48 degrees F, Dew point — 26, Winds aloft — 30,000 ft. from 300 degrees at 35 knots, 45,000 ft. from 270 degrees at 50 knots.

When Capt. Thompson landed, the film was immediately taken for examination by Air Force Intelligence.

Investigation

Air Force Intelligence at Luke sent a report on March 6 to ATIC in Dayton, Ohio giving all available information for Project Bluebook's use. Bluebook sent a list of questions eleven days later as a follow-up to Luke's report and a response was received from Major William D. Barnes, Intelligence Officer at Luke. The exchange went as follows:

Bluebook: Although the object on the film does not appear to be a vapour trail, is the pilot of the F-84 completely convinced that it was not a vapour trail?

Barnes: Pilot stated in original statement that it was a vapour pattern. He is positive it was not a vapour condensation formed behind a conventional or jet engine. The vapour pattern covered the entire surface of the object. The three pilots or the camera never saw the actual object.

Bluebook: To the pilot, was the object as dark as it appears on the film?

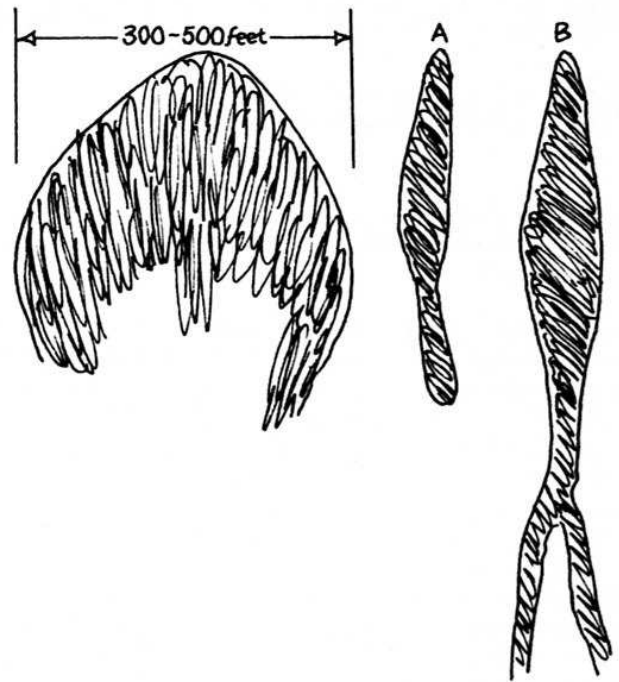
Barnes: Film is negative. If film were reversed to positive print, it would show as it actually was, i.e. a white vapour trail or condensation pattern.

Bluebook: How close did the pilot estimate he got to the object?

Barnes: Without one known dimension, size and distance is extremely difficult to estimate. Rough estimate would be 5-10 miles.

Bluebook: Check local air traffic to determine if possible vapour trail could be cause of the sighting.

Barnes: Local flying training was being conducted during time sighting was made. However, sighting was made outside of local flying area and above local flying altitude. The pilot who made the observation



Left: Front of object as seen and drawn by Capt. Thompson

A: Capt. Thompson's first view and,

B: Subsequent close-up view

states that it could not have been any of the jet models in general use but that it might have been an experimental model from Muroc Lake.

Bluebook: ATIC feels that a long thin cloud may have caused the sighting. Were there any cirrus cloud formations in the area? What altitude was the cloud deck below the aircraft?

Barnes: Sky was absolutely clear at time of sighting at all altitudes in the visible area. Approximately 100 miles SE of area, broken fog bank layer had tops at 6000-7000 feet. There were no higher clouds in the area. Pilot states it positively was not a cloud. The pattern he photographed was forming at the time of observation. It had direction and motion at the rate of approximately 400 mph true air speed.

A check for other aircraft in the area was made by ATIC with only one possibility. An inquiry to Edwards AFB in California brought this reply:

"Only poss. AC was B-36 CMA (9464) took off 0800 hrs 3 Mar. 53 for 8 hr. flight. No way to establish if AC was in that area."

Examination of the film by ATIC analysts dismissed this possibility as the contrail was not at all like that of a B-36 aircraft's vapour condensation.

In a memo dated June 24, 1953, it was stated that Bluebook personnel discussed the possibility that a guided missile could have been the cause of the sighting. Members of the Guided Missiles Section of ATIC stated that chances are slim for a missile being in the vicinity of Luke. It was standard practice for planes

standing by to shoot down any missile that got away from the testing grounds. It was also agreed that a missile would not make the contrail shown at the reported altitude. The analysts expressed the opinion that the contrail was formed by two aircraft at high altitude and then the discussion ended.

ATIC finally determined that the object shown on the film was not identifiable and the film was to be forwarded to its Photo Reconnaissance Laboratory. A report on the film is given here:

Analysis of 16 millimetre motion picture film of unidentifiable object producing unusual vapour trail:*

Summary. The 16 millimetre negative motion picture film of an unknown flying object was submitted by the ATIC for examination by the Photo Reconnaissance Laboratory, Directorate of Laboratories, WADC. It was found that the film contains several motion picture sequences of a dark streak in the sky, which would appear as a white cloud or vapour trail in a positive print. The photography is clearly discontinuous or in sequences, as indicated by breaks in the trails' position and altitude. In the final sequence the streak shows a division or fork, but it is not apparent during motion projection whether the streak changes size or shows other evidence of being a vapour trail from a moving object.

Paper prints from this film clarify the nature of the trail, but fail to show any object at the point where the trail is being generated. In the final sequence, the point of generation is definitely receding from the point of division of the trail, supporting the belief that the trail is indeed a vapour trail from a rapidly moving object. It was found from trail that no measurements of velocity or distance from the camera position can be made with any reliability because of insufficient reference information in the frames.

The trail itself appears to be a combination of two effects. One is a long dual trail, as though from a twin exhaust propulsion unit. The fork in the trail would then appear to be the result of a steep banking turn, with respect to the camera position, followed by a quick return to nearly level flight. The other trail effect is of shorter duration, a broader trail apparently generated by broad lifting surfaces. As this short trail component dissipates, a dark streak can be seen between it and the exhaust trail, suggesting that the lifting surface is inclined slightly with respect to the camera position.

Near the end of the film, both the length and thickness of the broad trail component increase to roughly twice their size in the earlier frames of the film, suggesting that the photographic plane may have come closer to the object. However, this assumption holds only if the object has not accelerated and is not generating a heavier trail in the later frames. The pilot's report indicates some acceleration, making this assumption somewhat doubtful.

Analytical Procedures — Motion Picture Projection of the Negative Film. This was tried first, using a Bell & Howell D-1B projector to see what overall impress-

ion could be gained from the sequences. At no time was an object visible that could be located at the source of the trail. Appreciable changes of direction in the approach path taken by the plane are indicated by rotation in the attitude of the trail. However, no motions within the trail itself can be observed during projection. In the last sequence, the division in the trail appears as the complete trail projects outside the picture frame. At no time in the sequence is the end of this trail visible, so that its durability and rate of vanishing are not shown.

Description of Camera Used — The F-84 aircraft is equipped with the type N-9 general purpose 16 millimetre gun camera which can be set to operate at 16, 32, or 64 frames per second, with corresponding shutter speeds of 1/40, 1/60, and 1/160 seconds. It is also provided with an overrun system, which continues to take pictures for 1, 2, or 3 seconds after the trigger switch is released. This provides for photography of strikes made by the guns.

When the trigger switch is released, a black bar appears in the upper left corner of the picture as the camera continues to operate, indicating the point in the sequence where the gunfire ceased. At the end of the overrun period, the camera shows one or more overexposed frames and the bar is not visible when the next sequence is triggered. However, the next sequence may be triggered before the overrun period has elapsed, in which case the bar disappears and the camera continues to operate without interruption.

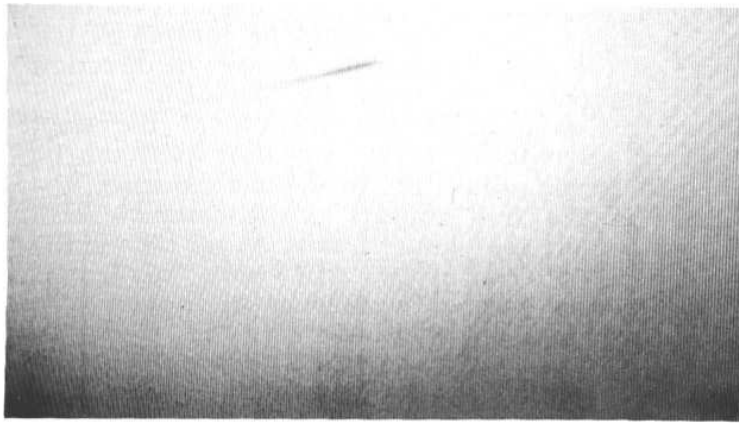
Information from 10 Diameter Paper Enlargements — Five enlargements to 10 diameters were made at points along the film to see if further information could be obtained. The white vapour trail is clearly outlined in these photographs, but the object producing the trail remains invisible. The start of the trail is sharp, however, confirming the pilot's impression of a leading knife edge.

These enlargements definitely show a two component structure in the vapour trail. The long part of the trail appears sharp, and is itself a double trail, as from a dual exhaust propulsion unit of some sort. At several points along its length, faint dark traces of clear sky can be seen between the two trails, in addition to the clear division in the trails near the edge of the field of view. This double trail impression is weak, however, because of the grainy structure of the photography at this enlargement.

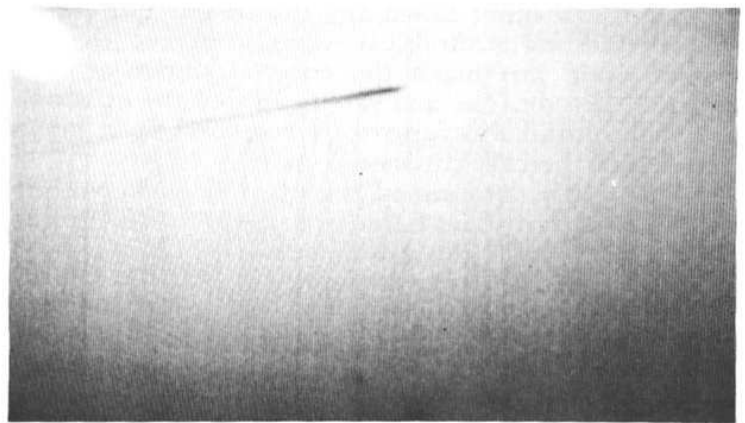
The other component of the trail is shorter and also broader, as though from a wing or similar lifting surface. This component dissipates rapidly and is separated from the exhaust component by a perceptible black streak on one side. The short trail appears to be centrally located with respect to the exhaust trail, roughly the same amount being visible both above and below the exhaust trail.

Measurements on the successive photographs show perceptible motion of the object position away from the fork in the exhaust trail. This seems to verify that the streak is indeed a trail issuing from a rapidly moving object. The dimensions of the broad trail cannot be measured with any precision, but there is an indication that the photographic plane was able to approach the object. It is estimated that the

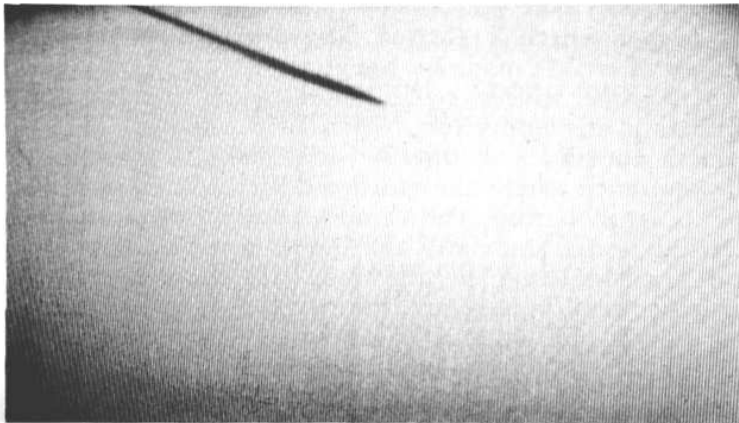
* (Analysis report slightly edited for clarity—BJG).



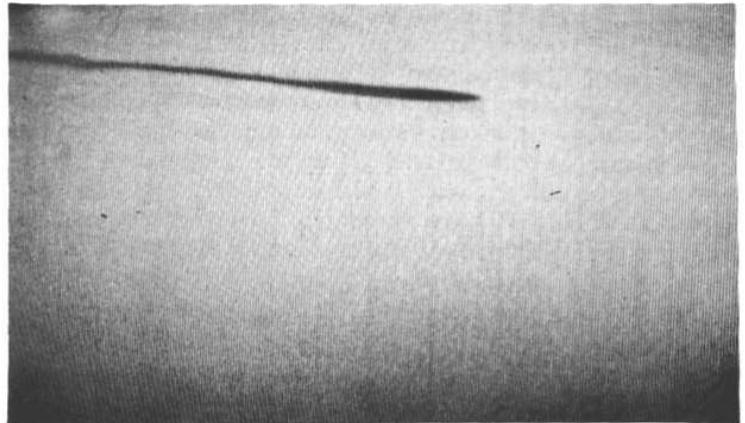
No. 1: Object when first filmed



No. 2: Pilot draws closer. White bar of gun camera mechanism visible in upper left



No. 3: Object now much closer. The plane's banking turn changes apparent angle of object



No. 4: Object now at its closest. Fork in trail is now evident — just

broad trail in the final pictures is almost twice its size in the single print, No. 1, taken near the start of the film. This may (probably) indicate that the photographic plane approached to (about) half the original distance from the object, but the angle between flight paths is not known, and relative velocities cannot be determined with any useful precision.

An attempt was made to determine the range of a portion of the vapour trail and the fork. Detailed examination of the film showed an apparent pattern of puffs and variations that repeated from one frame to the next. It was proposed to measure the change in apparent dimension of part of this trail that could be identified and from this to calculate the range, knowing the approximate time elapsed and the speed of the photographic plane. However, the error that had to be allowed in these measurements exceeded 100 percent in the final range estimation. This amount of uncertainty, coupled with the unknown flight path angles, prevents any useful estimate of the object's speed.

The following camera cycling intervals were observed on the film during the last sequence:

- a) 19 frames triggered.
- b) 45 frames of overrun.
- c) 41 frames triggered.
- d) 46 frames of overrun to end of film.

Conclusions

- 1) The white streak photographed is probably a

vapour trail from a rapidly moving object of unknown velocity. The object itself is invisible in the photographs.

2) The exhaust vapour trail, apparently from a twin propulsion unit, is more pronounced at the end of the film than at the start, as though the object were accelerating in response to pursuit. The configurations in the trail appear to be due to manoeuvres performed by the object.

3) An additional vapour trail, thought to be due to lifting surfaces, is also in evidence, but it dissipates rapidly. This additional vapour trail appears to be centered around the exhaust trail.

4) Within the period of time represented by the film, the photographic plane may be reduced the distance between the object and itself. However, the flight paths are not parallel by a considerable angle so that the object's distance and velocity with respect to the plane cannot be determined with useful precision.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Aircraft Laboratory be consulted for further analysis of vapour trail shown in the film.

* * * * *

The Aircraft Laboratory was consulted and a final statement was issued on June 11. It said that the negative gun camera film and the positive prints from

the film strips were examined and the A.C. Laboratory concluded that they were unable to identify the object forming the traces shown in the photographs. They made the suggestion that two aircraft rather than one may have formed the traces and that the distance may have been sufficiently great to prevent visual detection or to register on the film.

Discussion

Relatively few movie films have been taken of unusual aerial phenomena and only a fraction of these have been made available in their entirety for detailed examination. Since I am not an expert on photography, I will not pretend to render any authoritative commentary on the technical aspects of the film. This has already been done by the Air Force as stated in this article. The National Archives holds the original film and copies may be obtained from them. I would like to make a number of observations which I feel place this sighting in an "unidentified" category.

First let us summarize the sighting in brief with additional data from Ruppelt's book to help clarify technical data regarding the location of the incident.

Capt. Thompson's position was about 130 miles west of Luke. At 23,000 feet he saw the vapour trail but no aircraft. Climbing to 35,000 feet, Capt. Thompson still could not see what caused the trail even though he had closed to within three miles of it. Thompson shot about thirty feet of gun camera film and then broke off pursuit 70 miles north of where he had first seen the trail.

A number of possible explanations come to mind when reading the report. The meteor theory was considered by Bluebook for a short time during the investigation. Indeed, a cursory glance at the object may look like the image of a streaking meteor but we must return to the testimony of Capt. Thompson. Seven minutes had elapsed between the first sighting of the trail and the final break-off. The pilot chased and was able to close ground on the unidentified object which he estimated had travelled at 400 mph. This is completely verified as the object appears a good deal larger near the end of the film than at the beginning. There is simply no way we can suspect a meteor as being the culprit. Meteoric velocities lie anywhere between 25,000 and 160,000 mph, wholly too fast for Capt. Thompson's observation.

A lenticular cloud was rejected absolutely by

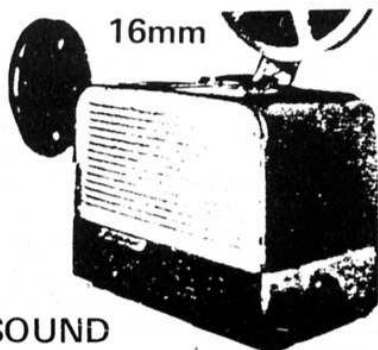
Thompson and the Air Force analysts. The object had motion and direction and weather conditions on that day were clear and cloudless.

There is no reason to suspect a hoax. The sighting was confirmed by the witnesses, all of them U.S. Air Force pilots who had nothing to gain by falsifying the report. As is well known, cinematic evidence is very difficult to fake without sophisticated equipment and observation of this film would leave no doubt as to its authenticity.

The only other explanation left is that which the Air Force settled upon in its final conclusion: "Pattern was formed by vapour trail of 'two unknown aircraft' (my emphasis) at high altitude." The Air Force's evaluation of "two unknown aircraft" is a good example of the post-Robertson Panel explanatory techniques. A double vapour trail was seen — therefore: two aircraft! No detailed proof to support this appears in the file and it seems to be merely an opinion by an unnamed Air Force officer. There is no other evidence on the film to suggest two aircraft except a form well back of the head of the trail. How may two aircraft present an image of a single, sharp, leading edge through continuous changes in perspective as Capt. Thompson's plane approached? Additionally, in the clear air of the upper troposphere-lower stratosphere an aircraft should have been easily visible from the distance of three miles — yet there is no sign of wings, tail section, or anything else. Radar detected nothing. No airbase had any planes in the air that could be identified with the object and the only planes that could have flown at the reported altitude were experimental models which were all accounted for during the investigation. Of course such things were ignored when it came down to a final conclusion. The Luke case was probably among the first group of UFO reports to be subjected to the official debunking policy as recommended by the Robertson Committee, i.e. "to strip the Unidentified Flying Objects of the special status they have been given."

Perhaps foreign aircraft? It is quite unlikely that another nation would be willing to test advanced aircraft over the United States at the risk of being shot down or of being involved in an accident. The political and military consequences are simply too great.

It is evident, based on the information in the Bluebook files, that the object seen over Arizona on March 3, 1953 must be regarded as a genuine UFO pending any further data to the contrary.



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ENTITY ENCOUNTER AT RISLEY

Jenny Randles and Paul Wetnall

This detailed UFOIN investigation of what appears to be a close encounter of the fourth kind was undertaken following initial enquiries by the Manchester UFO Research Association. Special thanks to members Peter Warrington and Peter Hough must be given.

March 17, 1978, Risley, Cheshire CE4 (EM, Physio, Psycho)*

READERS will recall that late on the night of January 2, 1978, four young men returning from a night out encountered a strange humanoid figure on a lonely coach road near Rainford, Merseyside. Indeed the early part of 1978 seems to have produced a spate of close encounters in the Merseyside and Cheshire county regions. This particular incident is one more in the series of puzzling observations of apparently UFO-related figures seen without the presence of a UFO. However, in this instance the case proves of much greater interest because of the associative effects. These effects, it is added, came out almost accidentally during the course of the investigations. It was obvious that the witness himself placed no importance on several of them, and quite probably failed to mention them to the other ufologists who descended on him in eager hordes. To our minds this is an interesting point, because it begs the question: "How many other seemingly innocuous sightings might in fact turn out to be of much greater significance if the right questions are asked of the witnesses?"

On Monday March 13, 1978, the feature film *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* had a royal premiere in London. For weeks around about this time Britain had been gripped by UFO mania. It was unfortunate for service engineer Ken Edwards that he was the first person after this to experience an apparently genuine close encounter of this type and to have this story made public.

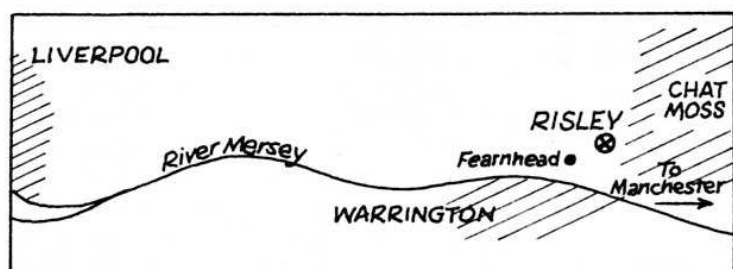
Ken had his encounter late on Friday, March 17 and by the evening of the next day it was being broadcast on all local radio stations, and it appeared in the local press. The next day, Sunday March 19, the national press got hold of the story and carried headlines such as "Close Encounter as Ken meets a monster" (*Sunday People*), "Silvery giant beams light fantastic" (*Sunday Post*) and the ludicrous "Ken and a flasher from outer space" (*News of the World*). This resulted in ufologists, the men from media and plain sightseers swarming around the modest semi-detached home of Ken and Barbara who hardly knew what had hit them! As the fates would have it a conference of the pseudo religious Aetherius Society was scheduled for nearby Warrington some days afterwards and neighbours tell a frightening tale of practically the whole bunch of delegates appearing outside the house in search of the un-

fortunate couple. By this time they had in fact gone into retreat, their plans for a holiday already severely disrupted by this invasion of their privacy.

This aspect of the episode is of importance because it has caused some people to gain a false impression of the witness. In fact it was the police who had told the media of the encounter, informing the local Warrington *Guardian* on the Saturday morning. Ken Edwards recalls giving them permission to do this as they said that the local newspaper often rang for stories of immediate interest such as this. In view of the pressure he was under following his experience this was natural, and Ken insists that he told the police that it was alright to do this "...provided it went no further." Obviously both the police and the witness has misread the current situation (again very understandable as the big movie had not arrived in the north of England at that time, and Ken had no more than an ordinary passing interest in UFOs). The local paper sensing the opportunity for a big story on their doorstep had released details to the agencies and everyone became interested. Ken and Barbara were swept away, although it must be said that they never made a penny out of the publicity that resulted. It was accepted by them, but they did not revel in it. Indeed, Ken is the sort of person who would accommodate anyone, and did not like to say no to anybody who asked to hear his story. The only time he became annoyed was when representatives of the Aetherius Society arrived to tell him that he had been "chosen by God." Whilst not being an over-religious person, he regarded such talk as not only nonsensical but somewhat contemptible — but even then sat out the discomfort and allowed the society to say its piece and then leave.

This, and the impact of the many UFO investigators, each of whom thought they had a right to his time, was the harrowing situation Ken Edwards had been confronted with when we approached him for a complete investigation three weeks following the encounter. This was deliberate policy to allow him time to breathe. We had already established a rapport with him to the extent that we knew the outline of what had happened. In this instance the press are to be congratulated on getting their facts reasonably

* See "Publishing of UFO Data" on page 22.



Location of Risley

correct. The only lamentable thing is the extent of what they left out!

The encounter

Ken Edwards, aged 39, is a service engineer who lives at Fearnhead, Warrington, Cheshire. The area is on the edge of the Warrington New Town development with several light industry estates (mostly distributive and electrical) and a lot of new housing (much of it not yet occupied). It is pleasantly suburban, and within a mile or so of rural land to the east. Between Warrington and Manchester there stretches about ten miles of peat bog mossland known as Chat Moss. On the fringes of this lies Risley, where apart from a large remand centre, there is an atomic energy research plant attached to Manchester University.

On the Friday night Ken had gone in his van to attend a union meeting. This was at Sale in Greater Manchester, some fifteen miles distant. It was a regular occurrence to attend such meetings, and the route that he took home was a very familiar one, along the newly-built M62 motorway that runs across Chat Moss from East to West. Turning off here about a mile and a half from home he would travel along Dayton Road, passing the new AA Relay site, the fire station, the reactor and other buildings of the Atomic Energy plant. This last section of the journey is even more familiar to Ken, being a daily route on coming home from work.

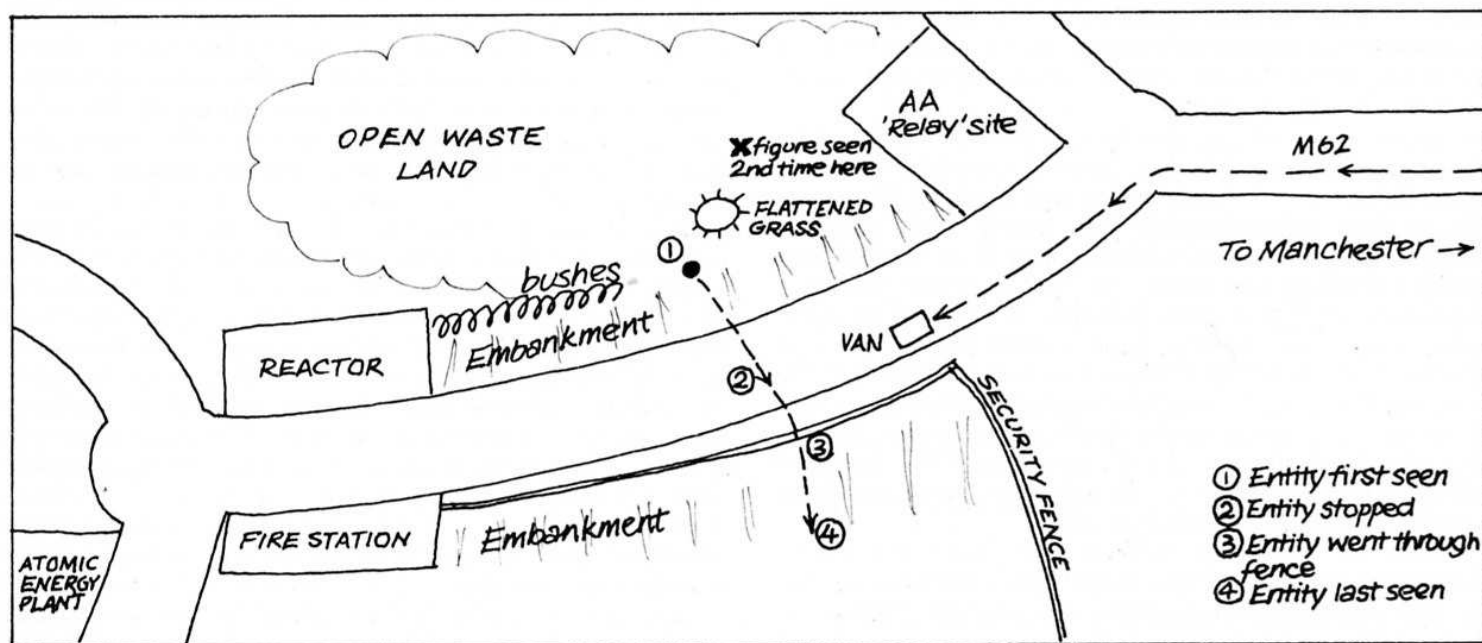
Ken had left Sale at approximately 11.00 p.m. and

was at the Risley turn off at approaching 11.30. He passed traffic on the motorway as he turned off, but met nothing after this until he drove off home after his experience, at a time he consciously recalled details would indicate was about 12.25 a.m. or later. Apparently it is not necessarily significant that no traffic passed by as there is a local effort to keep traffic away from this road while the site is still under development. This is done principally by not sign-posting the directions, so that only local inhabitants are liable to use it as a short cut.

After being off the motorway for a minute or so Ken had accelerated to only about 30 mph. He had passed the AA site on his right and was approaching the fire station on his left (¼ mile ahead) and the reactor on his right (also ¼-mile). On the right was an embankment, about ten feet high, topped by a flat piece of wasteland. A few bushes lined this here and there. On his left was a 10 ft.-high security fence running parallel to the road as far as the fire station (see diagram). The foot of this fence is buried deep into the ground, and is surmounted by barbed wire.

The van's headlights were on full beam, and about 100 yards ahead on the right at the top of the embankment Ken caught sight of a strange figure. At first he thought it was only someone climbing down, unusual as it was at that time of night. However, when he observed the method of "climbing down" and the peculiar garb of the figure he became puzzled, and slowed the van down. During the next ten seconds or so the figure descended to the bottom of the embankment. As it stood there on a verge of grass which flanked the roadside, Ken decided to stop. He pulled into the side about 50 yards from the figure, intrigued but not unduly frightened.

The strangest thing about "it" — as Ken refers to the entity — was that it walked in a stooped fashion. This it did with arms stretched forward, unlike a human who would inevitably have to balance backwards to some extent to prevent toppling over. We have tried this method of walking down an embankment which is steep and by no means easy to



clamber down in any way. There was no way that the entity, as described — if human — could have *walked down* in the manner stated. Ken remains very puzzled by this, but was even more puzzled by the appearance of the figure itself.

The creature was tall (about seven feet) with a broad body and arms that stretched up directly out of the chest and not from the shoulders. The body was stiff, and it seemed to walk from the hips as if it had no knee joints. No markings were noticed on the body, which shone a kind of dull silver as if encompassed totally in a boiler suit type of garment. The only part of the figure that was not silver was the head, and this was dark. It was also very round and gave the impression of being enclosed in a balaclava type helmet. No protruberances were seen such as ears, nose or mouth, but there were two small round eyes. There seemed to be no hair line.

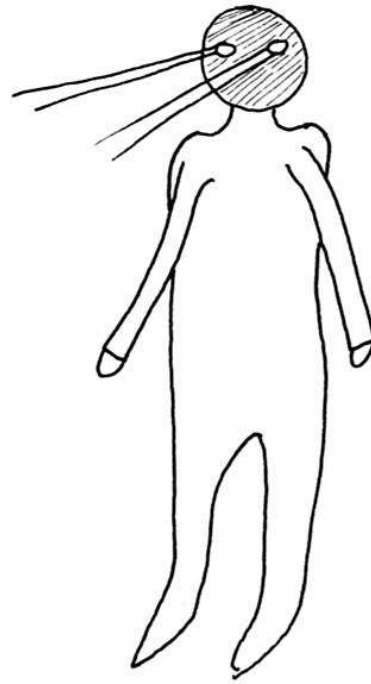
This weird apparition proceeded to cross the road ahead of the witness, moving at an angle across his field of view. It proceeded at a leisurely pace and took perhaps half a minute to walk from the verge to the centre of the road, where it stopped some thirty feet in front of the van. Ken was now aware that this was something very bizarre and he became progressively more frightened.

The figure stood in the centre of the road for about a minute. During this time it turned its head towards the van and two pencil-slim shafts or light were projected from the eyes and struck the witness. Ken Edwards is certain that these were not simply caused by headlight reflection from the eyes, but appeared to be a function of the eyes themselves. These beams of light diverged slightly, but each were still only about six inches wide when they reached the van. They remained in view all the time that the entity looked towards him.

After a minute of this 'staring match' the entity continued to walk along the line that it had originally taken, and passed within fifteen feet of the van. It then approached the security fence just ahead of the van. At no point did the witness have a full frontal view of the entity due to the route it took across the road. Instead, he had a side view — it turned its head to project the beams of light — and a partial view of the back; no differences were observed in the "suit" worn by the figure.

Upon approaching the security fence the entity raised its arms so that the fingers appeared to point towards the fence. (Ken could not see any fingers so this is pure supposition.) The entity then stopped momentarily, lowered its arms, and walked forwards straight through the fence: At no point did he notice the fence or figure turn transparent or lose its solid appearance. The creature just walked through it as if it were not there, and then was seen at the far side with the fence still completely intact. There is no sign at all of any damage to the fencing, and no manner in which optical illusion could have caused the reported effect. There appears to be no rational explanation for this aspect of the story at all.

Once at the other side of the fence the figure continued walking at the same speed and clambered up the embankment (which was slightly higher on that side) and disappeared over the top. Total



The entity, based on Ken Edward's sketch

duration of this sequence of events (including approximately one minute when the figure was stopped in the middle of the road) can have been no more than three or four minutes.

Subjective aspects of the encounter

So far the encounter sounds very straightforward, and typical of other similar incidents. However, clues as to something further were forthcoming when the witness described having the feeling that the incident had lasted much longer than it obviously could have done. He said that he knew it could not have lasted more than three or four minutes, but subjectively it was as if it had lasted at least fifteen minutes. When we probed into the time aspect Ken's wife attested to the fact that he had arrived home at about 12.30 am (one hour after first encountering the entity). The drive from this spot to his home (which Ken says he did much faster than usual once he got going) takes less than five minutes. In other words we have a large inconsistency here, with something like three quarters of an hour remaining to be accounted for.

Ken is aware of this discrepancy. However, he does not consider there is anything sinister behind it. His opinion is that he was so terrified after the encounter that he sat in a state of great fear for this length of time before being able to drive away. His comment was; "Twenty minutes seems a long time I know, but I was petrified and I do not want to go through that again." Regardless of the fact that this is a probable after-reaction, it does seem most unlikely that he would remain in the one spot for so long, then drive off at great speed. His mind is blank as to anything that might have happened, and the time discrepancy remains.

When the entity looked towards Ken and shone the beams of light at him he says he felt weird. His

head began to swim with strange thoughts, hundreds of them seemingly rushing through his mind at once. Of these he can only recall one. Prior to this experience he had no views on the UFO phenomenon one way or another, but the dominant thought during the "staring match" was ". . . is this something from outer space and what does it want with me?"

Also during this phase of the experience the witness felt a curious sensation. He describes it as being like ". . . someone with two enormous hands pressing down on me from the top. The pressure was tremendous." This force, or whatever it was, seems to have paralysed him, and it remained for some minutes after the figure had disappeared. He recalls trying to bring his hands off the steering wheel to move away, but for an unknown period of time he could not do so. Nor could he move any muscles of the body, except the eyes, which had followed the course of the entity around to the side of the van.

Ken does not know whether there were any effects on the engine or lights. He does not recall any, and also does not recall switching the engine off or back on again. If it ran for the duration of the experience there were no subsequent noticeable effects on the performance of the van or the amount of petrol used by it. It is also interesting to note that the only traffic to pass him during the experience came along just as he moved away to drive home (this would be at about 12.25 am or almost fifty minutes after the entity had supposedly vanished). He considered stopping the other vehicles but decided against it. He thought the driver would think him mad.

Objective after-effects

When her husband reached home Barbara Edwards immediately noticed something was wrong. Ken was white and shaking and poured himself a whisky to calm his nerves. He said to her, "I've seen a silver man." After recovering his composure he started to get ready for bed and partook of a night beverage. Then suddenly he got fully dressed again and said; "I think I had better go to the police. Will you take me?"

Barbara drove him to the police station at Padgate, a mile or so away. They took his story very seriously and made out a complete report. Once satisfied that he was sober, genuine, and still very frightened, they went with him to the scene. There was nothing to be found and no indications of anything having passed through a perfectly intact fence. They then went to the Atomic Energy plant and related the story. They took a full report and promised to look into it.

It was well after 4.00 am when Ken finally returned home. He was unable to sleep and was up very early, feeling "very rough." He did not feel ill, physically, but for the next few nights he did not sleep properly. The experience had obviously had a deep effect on him, and his wife attests to this. "He had been very badly shaken," she said, "and I don't know what to make of it. I would have to see it myself to really believe it. But he saw something very strange, I know." The first unusual thing Ken Edwards noticed the next day was that his watch had

stopped at 11.45. Presumably this was at some stage of the encounter, and most likely at the conclusion of it. He took the watch off and tried to get it to work, but without success. It was an old manual watch and seemed to have a fairly standard fault. However, he decided that he had best not try to get it repaired in case it was important. Several people later tried unsuccessfully to get it to work. Jenny Randles handled it but it did not function, then at one point during the interview Paul Whetnall picked it up idly and then put it down again. When it was checked some minutes later it was found to be working normally. On checking two weeks after this interview it was working absolutely normally, and once more keeping perfect time.

The second unusual thing that Ken noticed was the appearance during this first weekend of three dark marks on the inside of three fingers. There were the little finger, and the two adjacent fingers on the right hand, and the mark extended along the length of the fingers. It was just like a deep sunburn, and faded slowly over the course of the next three weeks. At interview this was only just detectable. The witness had placed no real significance on these marks, although he is certain that they developed immediately following the encounter. He has not suffered any skin ailments in the past.

Of prime importance, however, seem to be the effects on the expensive radio transmitter and receiver incorporated into the van. Being a service engineer, this is in regular use, and is vital to Ken's work. It had last been used to transmit on the Thursday, but was receiving normally on the Friday before the encounter. It was next to be used on the Monday when Ken returned to work, and it was immediately apparent that it was not functioning. Being the property of the company for which he worked it was returned, and it was only a day or so prior to our interview that the radio set, and the service department's conclusions, were returned. Apparently there had been a massive power surge through the set which had burnt out the whole of the transmitting diode circuit, and most of the capacitors. The damage was so extensive (in excess of £200 to repair) that it was cheaper to obtain a new set than to repair this one. The speculation was that the surge had been picked up through the aerial. No other parts of the electrical system of the van were affected.

One other thing that may or may not be of significance: a few days after the encounter a dead rabbit was found by the witness on the roadside verge at the spot where the entity had first appeared. It had no markings on it to indicate why it was dead, and it had gone when we reached the scene. Rabbits are not uncommon in the region.

The area itself showed no obvious signs of anything having landed. There was one oval patch of flattened grass immediately atop the embankment, which most probably was not significant.

Other experiences for the witness

Ken Edwards had never seen a UFO, nor has he had any psychic experiences prior to this incident.

However, following the encounter he has had three strange experiences. On Thursday March 23, 1978, six days after the initial encounter he had been interviewed by a freelance UFO investigator from Leeds. Having been kept late, he took the man to the scene of the incident around midnight. At the spot he suddenly felt a return of the strange sensation that he had felt during the "staring match." complete with the pressure on the head. He got out of the car and walked with the investigator towards the embankment which they climbed. On top the investigator left him and walked away, and it was then, in the distance, that he saw the figure again, atop the waste land and walking away from him. It was in view just a few seconds and, in fear, he left the embankment and returned home.

At 2.00am on April 2 he was returning by van from a day out in Yorkshire. With him was his wife. Coming off the M62 motorway they followed the same road and he was again subjected to the strange feeling. For some reason he stopped by the roadside and got out. He stood in the middle of the road and the sensation grew stronger. For an instant his vision blacked out completely. When he recovered he got back into the car and drove home at speed. Since that time he has driven a long way round purposely to avoid the area and at the time of writing (April 25) has had no recurrences of the strange feeling. Nor has he had any odd dreams.

At 3.00am on the morning of April 12 he was awakened by a strange noise. It was like a deep humming sound that seemed to fill the house. He got out of bed to see if he could find out what it was (believing something electrical had been left on). He did not awaken his wife, but found nothing. He then opened the window and looked outside. The noise was louder, but he saw nothing. Then it just stopped suddenly and he returned to bed. It was later discovered that two men on a site at Risley had heard the noise and, looking up, had seen a red oval object pass across the sky.

UFO activity around the date in question

While the encounter itself is fascinating there is no apparent direct involvement of the UFO phenomenon. However, it is interesting to note that there are a large number of independent reports for a period of 24 hours on either side of the encounter which indicate that UFO activity was prominent during this period (whatever *that* might mean).

Conclusions

It is the opinion of the investigators that Ken Edwards had a genuine experience which relates closely to other similar incidents in the past where there is undoubted correlation with the UFO phenomenon. Once more this case exemplifies the overlap between UFOs and other paranormal phenomena, with the intensely subjective overtones, the repeatability, and the similarities between the behaviour of the entity and that of a ghost.

The possibility exists that something else transpired — possibly a contact experience — during the time lapse period. It may be that such an

unremembered experience took place after the entity had gone (in other words, normal shock amnesia) or it may have been induced amnesia during the period when the beams of light were shone at the witness. Either way the possibility of using regression hypnosis to uncover this missing period is being explored. However, much evidence (were it to be forthcoming) would be on a different level of objectivity, and may indeed not be relevant or even valid. Consequently. It has been decided to present the objective evidence *per se* and provide any further testimony, if indeed it ever materialises, in a subsequent article.

We believe that whatever the stimulus for this incident, and it may be entirely psychological, it provides us with interesting insights into the nature of the UFO experience. All efforts to find a rational explanation have failed. It had been ascertained that it was definitely NOT someone from the Risley plant on any mysterious mission. The police are baffled. Indeed there is an amusing little postscript.

On the Monday following the encounter the police called to see Mr Edwards and asked him to accompany them in a patrol car. They took him to the site and then went on to the fire station. Without warning, as they turned the corner, a fireman in a special protective suit stepped out from behind a building. The suit was like a silver apron.

"Is that what you saw?" said the policeman turning to Ken Edwards.

"No chance. Nothing like it." said the witness unperturbed.

The policemen scratched their heads at his obvious conviction and went back to the drawing board. They have still not come up with a satisfactory answer and have now written it off as "just one of those odd incidents that happen from time to time."

From our point of view, of course, it is more interesting. Ken Edwards shows typical symptoms of an early stage contactee, and if necessary the investigation will continue.

LOOKING FORWARD . . .

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE NEXT ISSUE OF FSR

ARE THERE UFOs THAT MIMIC? *Ann Druffel*

A YUGOSLAVIAN LANDING *Milos Krmelj*

MAUREEN PUDDY'S THIRD ENCOUNTER
Judith Magee

UFO WAVE OVER RUSSIA
from our Correspondent

THE KETTERING, TASMANIA, LANDING
K. Roberts & Dr. G. Stevens

A CASE OF RABBIT SNATCHING
Janet & Colin Bord

OBSERVATIONS ON THE RAINFORD
ENCOUNTER *Dr. Robert Morrell*

ON A NORTHUMBRIAN SHORE

Alan & Trisha Price

This husband and wife team are newcomers to the UFO Investigators' Network (UFOIN), but not to ufology. This is their account of one of the many interesting incidents which were initially reported in the national newspaper *The Sun* and handed on to network co-ordinator Jenny Randles.

THIS incident occurred one evening towards the end of July, 1977 at Lyne Sands on the north-east coast of England, about one mile to the north of the small coastal town of Newbiggin-by-the-sea, and about 16 miles from Newcastle upon Tyne.

It coincides in time with what turned out to be an unusually active period for UFO sightings in the north of England including the northernmost counties of Cumbria, Northumberland, Durham and Tyne and Wear. This report was handed to UFOIN in late February 1978 and the site investigation took place on March 19th.

The witness to this sighting, Mr. Ernest Longstaff aged 45, lives about half a mile from the sighting area. He is a builder by trade but like many others in this region is presently unemployed through no fault of his own.

On the evening in question Mr. Longstaff had taken his dog for a walk along the beach. This is a regular habit as he collects sea coal from the waters' edge, and large quantities are frequently washed ashore here.

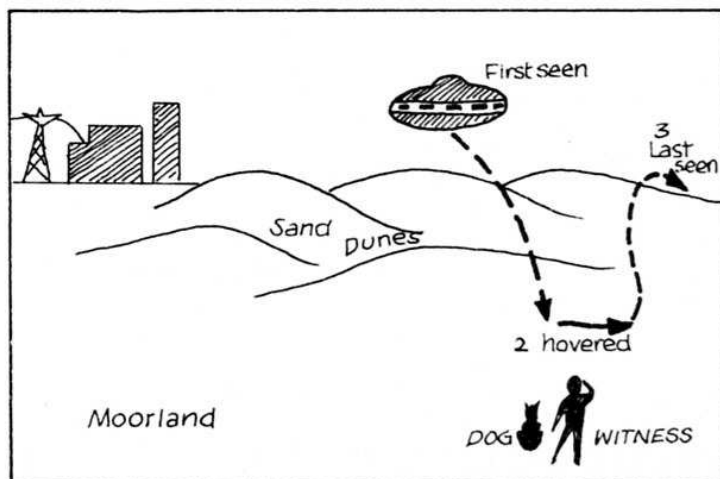
It was about 9.30 p.m. and the sun was just setting in a cloudless sky as Mr. Longstaff left the beach and walked inland over some sand dunes. He had not gone far when he looked back to call his dog which was lagging behind investigating some scent or other. What he then saw stopped him dead in his tracks.

He found himself looking at a classic flying saucer shaped like two plates stuck together with a slight dome on the top one. Around the middle was a band of square "portholes" which was revolving around the rim from left to right. They were emitting red-smokeless-flames. A curious feature was that the "portholes" did not rotate around the side of the craft and the witness is certain that they actually passed *into* the saucer at the right hand edge!

The object was a dull grey in colour — rather like lead. It was about 25 feet wide and 15 feet high. Mr. Longstaff feels reasonably certain of these dimensions as this — to him — weird object was hovering very close — say about a hundred yards away — and some 60 — 70 feet above the shore.

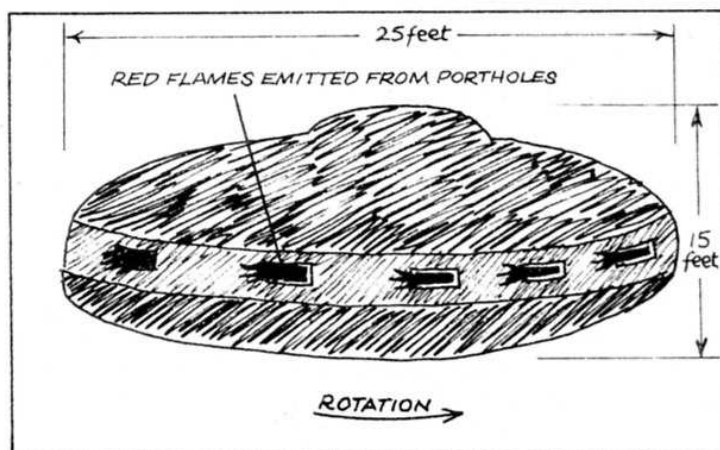
The witness suddenly discovered that he was very frightened. His heart was pounding and he was trembling. The dog had also seen the object and was sitting wide eyed and with ears pricked as though listening to something. If there was a sound, however, it must have been beyond the threshold of human hearing for to Mr. Longstaff the craft was eerily silent.

Both man and dog stood rooted to the spot as the



First sighting of the UFO

object began to move. It approached them slowly, at a speed estimated at no more than 10 miles per hour and slowly descended until it was very close to the ground and about 30 yards away. No disturbance of the sandy surface was seen. It remained stationary for a few moments and then still keeping the same face towards the witness it moved slowly to the right and then back towards the shore. At first it maintained the same low elevation but then it descended even further, skimming over the dunes and giving Mr. Longstaff the impression that it was about to land on the beach. He did not wait to find out! Hurrying away from the scene Mr. Longstaff found his fear intensified as he had to make a detour round a wire fence cutting off his most direct escape route. He kept glancing back over his shoulder — frantically almost — but the object did not reappear. So far as



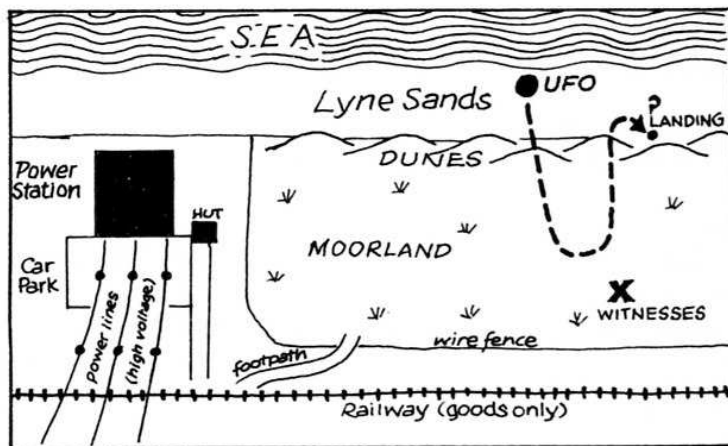
The object, based on Mr. Longstaff's sketch

he could see there was no-one else around who might have seen the object and could back up his story.

To the witness the experience seemed to have lasted for about five minutes all told — certainly it made a deep impression on him, and his wife attests to the fact that he was in a state of extreme agitation when he got home. He kept looking out of the window and had great difficulty in sleeping that night, but luckily does not seem to have suffered any other ill effects.

Two days passed before he ventured back to the beach and by then any traces of a landing which might have been left had been obliterated.

The investigators found Mr. Longstaff to be a trustworthy, friendly and honest person. They have no doubt about his truthfulness which is in their opinion reinforced by his lack of self-publicity. Perhaps the most interesting feature of this case and one which does not seem to have been noted until the UFOIN investigation is that the sighting area is only about a quarter of a mile along the beach from a coal-fired electricity power station delivering 24,000 volts to the nearby Alcan Lynemouth Aluminium plant. Once again therefore we have the



coincidence of a UFO sighting in close proximity to large electricity installations. The fact that the "portholes" were emitting flames is unusual for this type of domed disc-type UFO and one might be tempted to speculate that it could be in some way an imitation of the coal fired power station! Pure fantasy? Or is something or someone somewhere having yet another good laugh at our expense?

PUBLISHING OF UFO DATA

Jenny Randles

MAGAZINES such as FSR carry much UFO data, all of which is of interest to ufologists in general. However, there is a growing tendency for researchers to specialise as the subject becomes more and more complex. Naturally, one needs to be able to select quite rapidly anything relevant to a particular field from the wealth of information that confronts one.

I would like to make a few suggestions as to how FSR, and hopefully other publications in the field, could overcome these problems.

UFOIN (the team of investigators who work on cases in Britain for FSR) have a basic premise that they should only be involved in high strangeness cases. This calls for the utilisation of a classification system by which one can readily isolate acceptable cases for in-depth study. The system we use has been developed by Peter Warrington and I for our forthcoming book, "UFOs: A British Viewpoint."* It is based on that of Dr. J. Allen Hynek, although we feel that it overcomes some of the difficulties of his system, and provides a more logical progression of importance throughout.

Principally the system involves

division into the following categories:—

Low definition (Low)

Cases involving basically a light with brightness, motion and colour but no clear shape.

Medium definition (Med)

Cases as above with a clear shape but no associated effects.

Instrumentally detected (ID: hyphen P for photograph; F for movie film; R radar). Objects detected by some instrumental means.

Close Encounters of the First Kind (CE 1). Encounters where there are associated effects on either the witness or on the environment, or on both, detectable only to the witness to the UFO event — i.e. transient effects.

Close Encounters of the Second Kind (CE 2). Encounters with associated effects on witness, environment, or both, detectable by others not present at the UFO event — as with ground traces, — i.e. semi-permanent effects.

Close Encounters of the Third Kind (CE 3). Encounters which involve the sighting of entities with apparent association with the phenomenon; CE 3a Entity only (no contact) CE 3b Entity plus contact.

Close Encounters of the Fourth Kind (CE 4). Encounters which involve contact leading to time distortion and reality displacement, such as psychic contactees, abductions, and so on.

For the close encounter categories (which could include ID cases also) letters to designate associated effect

could be used — for example we use the following:

EM (electromagnetic effects), An (animal disturbance), Physio (physiological effects), T (ground traces).

The aim is to provide rapid indication of the data contained in a case. For example 'Encounter at Aveley' would tell little to a researcher as a title. If subtitled CE 4 (EM Physio) it immediately shows the researcher whether or not the story contains information that may be of value to his personal work.

This system has been utilised by members of a team from two British groups; CONTACT (UK) and NUFON, who are working on an extensive series of catalogues for the United Kingdom. These comprise fully referenced and indexed data from ancient times to the modern day, collated from all available sources, and split into regional catalogues of UFO cases. The first series, covering Northern England from AD 91 onwards, is almost complete.

An additional feature for this series, devised by Bernard Delair of CONTACT and myself may also be of great value if regularly published in UFO periodicals. It gives what we term an investigation level — an indication of the degree of investigation conducted into a case, providing some guidelines to the amount of value that

* *UFOs: A British Viewpoint*, an up-to-date appraisal of ufology in Britain by Jenny Randles and Peter Warrington is to be published in the Autumn of 1978 by Robert Hale Ltd., London.

A STRANGE OLD "CONTACTEE" CASE FROM SPAIN

Miguel Peyro Garcia

Translation from the Spanish by Gordon Creighton

IT has not been possible for us to interview directly either of the two people involved in this case, inasmuch as one of them is now dead, and the other is advanced in years and we felt that we could not importune her by asking her to recall the details of so vexatious a business, since she had never spoken any more about it since the death of her sister.

The Individuals Involved

These were two sisters, whose names we refrain from divulging for the sake of their reputations, and because in any case we never received any authorization from either of them on the subject. They were of a well-to-do family, and both received a good education and were of a sound, solid intellectual and cultural level. The lady who is still living now once held the post of secretary to the Director of a department of the State administration having its office in Seville (I refrain likewise from specifying it so as to preserve her anonymity).

These two sisters, who were spinsters, lived together in the house where they claimed to have undergone the experience now to be related.

The peak period of the various statements made by these two possible "contactees" could be established as round about the beginning of the 1950s. (Note the proximity in time to two big UFO Waves, those of 1950 and 1954.)

The Facts

One day these two ladies started telling all their friends that they were in serious difficulties because of the "Martians" or the "Extraterrestrials." (Note the strangeness of this asseveration, so precise, regarding the entities, at a period when Spanish Ufology was still, as one might put it, in its "prehistorical" stage.)

As may well be imagined, these alleged entities were at first taken by everybody to be a joke, but when the two ladies continued to insist and persist with their story, then of course folk began to have doubts about their sanity, and were wont to say, when out of earshot, that their solitary way of life had

evidently caused them to become hysterical. But neither of the sisters had ever previously shown any indications of mental disturbance; on the contrary, they had displayed excellent judgement which had won for them a consistently high moral and intellectual reputation.

However, despite all the conventions, the two ladies persisted in declaring that the extraterrestrials were watching them and carrying out experiments on them. (The one who talked about most of these matters was the one who is now dead.) To escape from the alleged mysterious beings, the sisters took refuge in their house in Seville, though, according to their own admission, this was no use at all since the extraterrestrials were observing them through the walls with their devices, and even entering the house and connecting apparatus to the heads of both women, causing them great pain and suffering. The atmosphere of terror in the house at night was great. The ladies, cowering under their bedsheets, averred that they could hear the footsteps of the beings as they moved about the house and the noises they were making. (As regards the physical appearance of the alleged beings, so far as can be recalled the ladies never gave any concrete information about it.)

One day, at the end of their tether, the two ladies went to the Police to report the matter. At the Police Station they were laughed at and told that "the best thing to do with the Martians is to hide yourself from them at night under a black cloth" — which, it seems, the two ladies proceeded to do.

But the "Extraterrestrials" did not cease their molestations, especially by means of an alleged "ray machine," the working and effects of which were as follows: the malevolent beings installed themselves in a house near or adjacent to that of the victims on whom they planned to experiment, and set up an unknown and mysterious "ray machine," the invisible emanations from which were then directed against the house of the two "guinea pigs." As a result of the continued bombardment of the house with these radiations the health of both victims would deteriorate until death occurred. The description of the apparatus puts us in mind of an x-ray machine.

PUBLISHING OF UFO DATA (Continued from page 22)

can be placed on a story. The levels can be summarised as follows:—

Level A: In-depth investigation on site by experienced observers.

Level B: Interviews with witnesses conducted by investigators,

under proper conditions.

Level C: Standard report forms have been completed by witnesses.

Level D: A letter or written statement

from witness is all that is available.

Level E: Report based entirely on a newspaper account, or magazine account not second hand.

A few years after these "ufological" statements by the two ladies, one of them died of lung cancer. After her death the surviving sister never referred to the "extraterrestrials" again, for which reason it was assumed that the one who had just died had been a neurasthenic and that she had exercised a harmful influence upon the other.

I recall one story about an occasion when the two ladies, who, as I have said above, had an excellent reputation, were visiting in the home of my grandparents. As they were taking their leave, the two ladies walked straight up to my aunt and told her how sorry they were, because they had "felt" that my grandparents' house was being bombarded from somewhere with extraterrestrial rays identical with those that were being directed on to their own home. Neither my aunt nor my grandmother experienced any falling-off in health, but such was not the case with my grandfather, who, only twenty years after that date, also died of a pulmonary cancer. In the opinion of the doctors this cancer had been developing for a long time past. (The orthodoxy of the prejudices which we hold and our sense of responsibility forbid that we should launch into any discussion here as to the possibility of affirming anything about the cause of these two deaths.)

Conclusions

We have not set all the dubious declarations of these two ladies in inverted commas, first because it would have meant putting the whole article in inverted commas, and secondly because this report of mine does not in any case claim to affirm or to deny anything, but simply to present a record of certain circumstances which have come to my knowledge.

My personal opinion is that a high proportion of the contents of the case was the product of the obsessed minds of the two ladies. The "weight" of this case, on a scale of say one to ten, would be ONE (1). The case may therefore be visualized as to a certain degree **NEGATIVE**, and if I have written about it here, this is simply as much for the purpose of "putting it on record" as for the purpose of contributing some grain of sand towards a study which might one day be made, in retrospect, of the influence of the UFO Phenomenon upon present-day society. Such a study would have to be conducted with the aid of all the latest and most modern social and psychological methods.

x x x x x

COMMENT BY GORDON CREIGHTON: Lung cancer is unfortunately all too prevalent for anyone in his right mind to be able to claim to deduce too much from this story, and, as the author himself admits, it is seemingly all pretty light-weight. However, we should all also be mindful, on all occasions, of Aimé Michel's injunction that we are to *examine everything and believe nothing*.

The plain fact of the matter is that we know precious little about ourselves or about our Earth or the Universe around us. There unquestionably may still remain many powers and forces and even entities, right here and all around us, of which at present most

of us know nothing. It is easy enough to say that the two old ladies of Seville display classic symptoms that are all too familiar to the psychiatrist. I myself remember the case of one of my colleagues in the Foreign Office who-at precisely the same period in the early 1950s — was pronounced to be insane (schizophrenic) because he "heard voices" and because he insisted that certain people (not "extraterrestrials" in his case, but the "British Government") were installed in a nearby room (which he insisted on inspecting, in my company) from where, so he said, they were using a machine to bombard him with rays.

On the other hand I also bear in mind that, personally, I have known more than just one or two very highly qualified doctors who would admit to me in private (certainly not publicly) that certain categories of mental trouble might well be due to external agencies of some parasitical type—such as, for example, "poltergeists", whatever "poltergeists" may be (and we who study UFOs are well aware of the heavy evidence of a link between UFOs and "poltergeists"). FSR prides itself on being the forum for discussion, and I think it essential that we do not fail from time to time to print these odd-ball cases which do not at present carry much weight but-who knows? — may one day, when more information is available, prove to be veritable goldmines.

So level-headed a man as William James went on record as saying that, in his view, *the theory of possession might well have an innings again before long*. As I have indicated, there are qualified medical men today who admit privately that this may well be true; one such doctor — and I can mention his name here because he has written plenty of books and given plenty of lectures on this theme — is Dr Arthur Guirdham, MA, DM, BSc (Oxford), DPM (London), formerly director of an important psychiatric institution at Bath. Among his books special mention may be made of *A Theory of Disease*; *A Foot in Both Worlds*; and *Obsession*, all published by Neville Spearman, London. He is also the author of *Man: Divine or Social* (Vicent Stuart, London) and of three remarkable books about the extermination of the Cathars (Albigensians) by the authorities in 13th-century France and giving remarkable evidence for *reincarnation* and for the existence in our midst today of individuals who were martyred in those far-off days and still have full or partial recall of the events.

(Incidentally, the idea of somebody being able to injure your health by means of noxious "rays" from a nearby building does not look quite so, stupid or far-fetched now that the American Government have found it necessary in 1976 to protest forcibly to the Government of the USSR about the microwave bombardment of their Embassy in Moscow and the damage already inflicted upon the health of the staff, including, so it has been suggested, the United States Ambassador himself.)

UFO PHYSICS - PART 2 (a)

Jan Heering

AFTER further thought about the nature of non-reflecting light I have become somewhat less certain of the anomalous character of the light itself.

2. Emission of non-reflecting light — continued

As pointed out in part I it resembles normal light in all respects except that it is either not at all reflected, or reflected much less than normal light. There may be other differences, of course, but they are not obvious. (From some of the case histories one gets the impression that it looks different, but this is rather vague.)

An alternative explanation is that the UFO affects surrounding matter in such a way that this no longer reflects light. How this is managed I do not know, but in some non-reflecting light cases electromagnetic effects have been noted (201, 211*, 213). At Malataverne (203)* the witness was unable to move while the 'cask' was close to him. At Tarbes (209) two people experienced complex sensations while a light slipped over their car like a snail.

The influence causing these effects may also be responsible for the change in reflectivity of the surrounding matter, but the fact that in other cases no electromagnetic effects have been reported does not make this seem very likely.

In any event, in principle there is a method to decide which of the two possible explanations of non-reflecting light is the right one. If the second explanation is valid, objects close to the UFO not only will not reflect the light emitted by the UFO itself which, in this case, is assumed to be normal light, but will also fail to reflect the light from any other source. This means that they must become exceptionally dark.

I'll call this the 'dark zone

effect.' This would be especially striking during daytime independently of any light emission of the UFO and would manifest itself as a zone in which objects are colourless and dark, while the air in it looks normal. At night such a zone would be difficult to distinguish from the surrounding darkness, but, if the range of the field causing it is shorter than the effective range of the light emitted by the UFO, the zone would be much more conspicuous because the area beyond it would be illuminated normally.

On the other hand, if the light itself has a special character, (i.e., if it is true non-reflecting light), there would be no 'dark zone effect'. At Shuttlewood (215) a dark zone was observed around a UFO while within the zone everything except the UFO itself was invisible. The witness, who was at times quite close to the object, did not experience any paralyzing influence but felt his hair standing on end when it came within a few metres of him. Whether this was caused by fear or by an influence exerted by the object has not been put on record and more evidence is needed before a definitive choice can be made. On the other hand this case seems to indicate that the second explanation may be the right one and that contrary to my original idea the lack of reflection is not an inherent property of the light itself. On the other hand daytime sightings of the 'dark zone effect' seem extremely rare or even non-existent which would indicate that my original idea may be correct and the observation at Shuttlewood was something of a freak case.

3. Use of light for purposes of observation and communication

UFOs are profuse light emitters and changes in colour and/or

intensity of the light emitted by a UFO have frequently been reported to occur simultaneously with a change in either its speed or direction of travel. (301) is a nice example and has given rise to the theory, that the light is in some way related to the propulsion system. This possibility and its implications are discussed in 302, 303 & 304).

UFOs also seem to use light for purposes of observation and communication and probably as a direct consequence, they are interested in and react to light changes in their environment. In paragraph 1 the use of "solid light" beams for observational and other purposes has been discussed but this need not necessarily be visual observation, as one is almost automatically inclined to think. Certainly on reading case (305) one gets the distinct impression that the "solid light" beam emitted by the mini-UFO was being used as some kind of feeler since after twice touching the radio it crept towards the tape recorder and touched that as well.

Javier Bosque, the witness, compared the beam with the antenna of a snail. The precision with which the beam was directed at the two electronic devices in the room seems to indicate that possibly by sensing the weak, relatively low frequency electromagnetic radiation coming from them — both were switched on and operating — the UFO must have been aware of their existence and position.

It is difficult to say whether such feelerlike behaviour is standard when 'solid light' beams are used for observational purposes since sometimes the beam stops short of the supposed target without actually touching it.

Most light beams coming from UFOs behave in a more conventional way. They are used to scan

the environment, obviously as an aid to visual observation and in this they resemble our search lights. Often a UFO emits only a single beam, but multiple beams are not at all uncommon. See (306, 307) for a few examples. (306) is an extremely rare case in which a UFO emitting about twenty orange beams, turning night into day, terrified a farmer and his wife, who were milking their cows.

Searchlight-type cases are very common and the reader will have no difficulty in finding many more of them himself but observations of UFOs exchanging light signals are much rarer. I have not been able to find more than four examples (308, 309, 310, 327) which would seem to indicate that UFOs sometimes communicate by changing colours or directing flashes of light at each other. Such communication could be relatively simple, comparable to flag signals used aboard ships, or the flashes could, for instance, consist of a sequence of very short light pulses following each other too rapidly for the human eye to distinguish and making up an encoded message of arbitrary meaning and complexity. Case (327) gives evidence of very complex behaviour accompanied by many colour changes and is one of the most impressive observations on record anywhere, with a significance going far beyond the context of this paragraph. I urge the reader to study it closely.

Many people tend to think of UFOs as sophisticated extra-terrestrial hardware. But (327) shows unmistakably that, for some UFOs at least, this is about the same as believing that a dog is a sophisticated steam engine.

Optical communication cases form a subclass of the highly interesting category of observations where several UFOs are seen co-operating on some task. A thorough, comparative study of such observations has, as far as I know, not been made, although it undoubtedly is a promising line of investigation.

(311) is a prototype case while (312) is another intriguing example. Here the least interesting

aspect — although the one concerning us here — is that the bright light emitted by the main object went out when the witnesses shone their spotlight at it. There are many other cases illustrating responses to this kind of "signalling". The UFO in one or more of the following ways: — directs a powerful beam of light at the signal source, as if to take a good look at it (313, 314, 315, 325).

— It echoes the signals, as if in acknowledgement, by alternately switching its light or one of its lights on and off (310, 318, 319, 320, 321, 325).

— It extinguishes its light (312), changes colour (310), flares up brilliantly (316) or exhibits the 'zoom effect', i.e. it increases in size as if moving very fast in a straight line towards the observer (317) (see part III, 6). Generally it returns to its original state within a few tens of seconds. — It starts moving, either towards the signal source or away from it (322, 323, 325, 326). If often returns to its original position after the signalling has stopped.

Finally, I want to draw attention to two curious cases. On May 18, 1974 a wine farmer at Alzonne (France) was confronted by a single globe exhibiting light phenomena as if to attract his attention (328) and five days later, on May 23, 1974, a woman in Los Angeles made a somewhat similar observation from her balcony (329). My earlier remarks in connection with (327) clearly apply here as well. All three cases (327, 328, 329) belong to the category of "structured lights" which will be discussed later. (to be continued.)

* These references will be found in Part 1, published in FSR Vol.22, No.5 of 1976.

* * * * *

References

(References 11–19 and 122–127 relate to Part 1 published in FSR Vol.22, No.5).

11. Richard H. Hall (Ed.), *The UFO Evidence*, NICAP, 1964.
12. Ted Phillips, "Physical Traces Associated with UFO Sightings," CUFOS, 1975.

13. J. Allen Hynek, *The UFO Experience*, Ballantine, New York, 1974.
14. Jacques Vallée, *Anatomy of a Phenomenon: UFOs in Space*, Ballantine, New York, 1974.
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16. Jennie Zeidman, *The Lumberton Report*, CUFOS, 1976.
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18. Raymond E. Fowler, *UFOs: Interplanetary Visitors*, Exposition Press, Jericho, N.Y., 1974.
19. Symposium on Unidentified Flying Objects, Hearings before the Committee on Science and Astronautics, U.S. House of Representatives, July 29, 1968. Available from National Technical Information Service, 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, Virginia, 22161, publication no. PB179541.

Additional 'solid light' cases (see part 1):

122. Ernst Berger, "The 'snails' are still around (II)", FSR, Vol.22, 2. A number of interesting observations are reported in (120, 122), among them a couple of 'solid light' cases.
123. "Huble au nord de Valparaiso", in (5), pp. 83–85. Also in LDLN, No. 111. Three humanoids leave their craft by means of a solid looking light beam.
124. At Trancas (102) two UFOs connected by a "solid light" beam were seen. Compare this with the sighting near Saintes in (7), p. 193.
125. Jacques Lob and Robert Gigi, O.V.N.I., Dimension Autre, Dargaud, Neuilly-sur-Seine, 1975. A large part of this fascinating comic book (last volume of a series of three) is devoted to the "solid light" phenomenon.
126. J.-A. Bouchet, e.a., "Observation près du sol à Pleuville", LDLN, No. 157. Possible "solid light" case.
127. Ramond Jordon, "1975 UFO wave in Arizona", observation by the Beardsly family at Sedona on May 15, 1975, The APRO Bulletin, Vol. 24, No. 10, p. 6.

Additional cases of non-reflecting light (Section 2):

213. J.-M. Bavay, e.a., "Un facteur surpris par un M.O.C.", LDLN, No. 123.
214. Jean Knauf, "Thiaucourt-Regneville", LDLN, No. 157.
215. Ananda Sirisena, "The light at Shuttlewood", FSR, Vol. 20, No.5. See especially the postscript on p. 28.

References: Section 3:

301. "Objet avec satellite compaignon", in (5), pp. 30-32. Case of repeated extreme acceleration and simultaneous light flash, but also noteworthy because of a strange kind of interference between the light of the UFO and the light of a street lamp. And see also paragraph 7.
302. See (11), Ch. XII, C(1), "Study of colour changes related to motion."
303. Ch. 3 of (1).
304. James M. McCampbell, "Horses under the hood", in Proc. of the AIAA Symposium on hypotheses concerning the origin of UFOs, AIAA, Los Angeles, 1975 (available from CUFOS or UFORI).
305. See (103).
306. J.-M. Bigorne, "Limont-Fontaine", LDLN, No. 134.
307. Observation at Lot-et-Garonne.

- See: Gordon Creighton, "UFOs with multiple beams of light", FSR, Vol.18, No.3. Originally published in *Phenomenes Spatiaux*, No.30. See also "L'ovni qui aimant les tracteurs" in (9), pp. 37-40.
308. 1953 Bismarck, North Dakota, sighting, in (17), pp. 52-53.
 309. Case 466, in (10).
 310. Larry Spiegel, "UFO flap reported in New Hampshire", Skylook, No. 82.
 311. See (105).
 312. Case NL-9, in (13), pp. 49-50.
 313. See (104).
 314. See (114).
 315. Case RV-6, in (13), pp. 94-95.
 316. "Observations a Franois (Doubs)", in (5), pp. 32-43. Also in LDLN, No.99.
 317. J.-M. Bigorne, "Observations a Maubeuge", LDLN, No. 138.
 318. Observation at San Bernardino, in (11), p. 41.
 319. "Object emits three discs", The

- APRO Bulletin, Vol.25, No.2.
320. See (16), pp. 14-17.
 321. Case 67-44A, in (18), pp. 152-153.
 322. Observation from train, in (11), p. 9.
 323. Observation at Origny, in (7), pp. 38-39.
 324. Adolf Schneider, Ernst Berger, e.a., "UFOs invade the Bavarian Alps", FSR, Vol.21, Nos. 1 & 2. Also: "UFO reacts to signal flares", Skylook, No. 87.
 325. Tapani Kuningas, "The 'super-human' light balls", FSR, Vol.20, No. 4.
 326. Observation at Medellin, Spain. FSR, Vol.20, No.3, pp. 6-7. Skylook, No. 82, pp. 14-15.
 327. J. Tyrode, "L'approche d'un mystere", LDLN, No. 127.
 328. T. Revel, "Enquête à Alzonne (Aude)", LDLN, No. 140.
 329. Ann Druffel, "Close-in lighted globe reported", Skylook, No. 86.

[To be completed as soon as possible in part 2(b)]

HUMANOID IN LONDON EC2?

Barry M. King

Investigations for UFOIN and *Flying Saucer Review* by Barry King, Andy Collins & Graham Phillips of a report which originated from the *Daily Express* "bureau".

THIS report from January 1977 concerns two youngsters who are genuinely puzzled by the events. It is in itself interesting that an identified object was seen on two separate occasions in the same location, and that, coupled with the second sighting, was a report of a small humanoid. It is not known whether this figure was directly connected with the aerial object.

REPORT ONE

One wintry evening in January 1977 Richard Luxford and his friend Tony De Rosa were returning home from a trip to the large estate at the Barbican in London. Richard was on his bike, Tony had his skateboard. After a while Richard hitched Tony's skateboard to the back of his bike and towed him along, a straightforward and innocent enough thing for a couple of East-Enders to do.

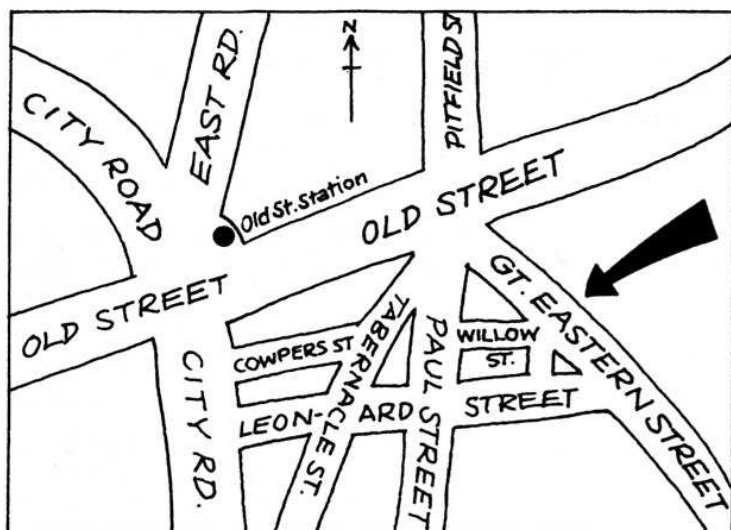
The time was between 6.00 and 7.00p.m. but neither of them had a watch, and neither cared very much.

Richard was the first to see the object and alerted Tony to its presence. At this point they were standing about half way along Willow Street, a typical street of the eastern part of the city of London, with old buildings, mostly flats, on either side, which were in the process of being demolished. The two lads found themselves alone in the small dark road.

They stood as if transfixed, looking up at the object, trying to decide what they were watching. It was a smallish object, just above the rooftops to their left. It seemed like a balloon with a string attached, but when they had taken in more detail they knew it wasn't much like a balloon at all. Spherical, it was a red-orange in colour, and it had a thin column of grey-black smoke, like string, issuing vertically from its top surface. Wavering slightly this 'string' or 'smoke' reached up quite a long way, and remained constant in length and width. They could not see where it terminated as it blended in with the sky.

For some reason the boys did not think the object, whatever it was, was solid. They could perceive a shimmering or scintillation of its surface, but it was not terribly bright, maybe no more so than the moon. A crackling noise was discernible but this was very slight. The UFO couldn't have been very high, for it was casting light on nearby rooftops, albeit faintly.

The witnesses had stood there, watching and trying to work out what it was, for about 20 seconds when it moved away. They are now unsure how it disappeared from view. Richard ran to the end of Willow street to catch another glimpse of it, but it had gone. Tony thinks it may have dipped and gone out of view, but cannot say for certain. It was estimated that the object measured at arm's length appeared about two inches long; they said that when



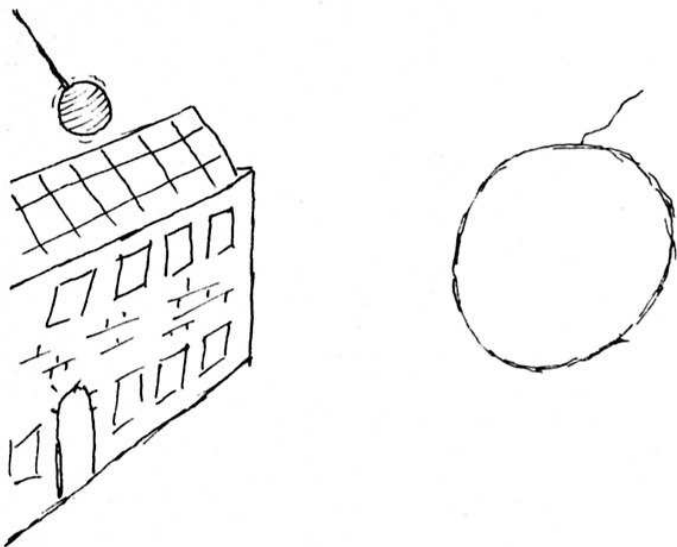
The location of Willow Street in the Eastern part of the City of London

they first saw it, it was at about 60ft altitude and approximately 110ft away from them.

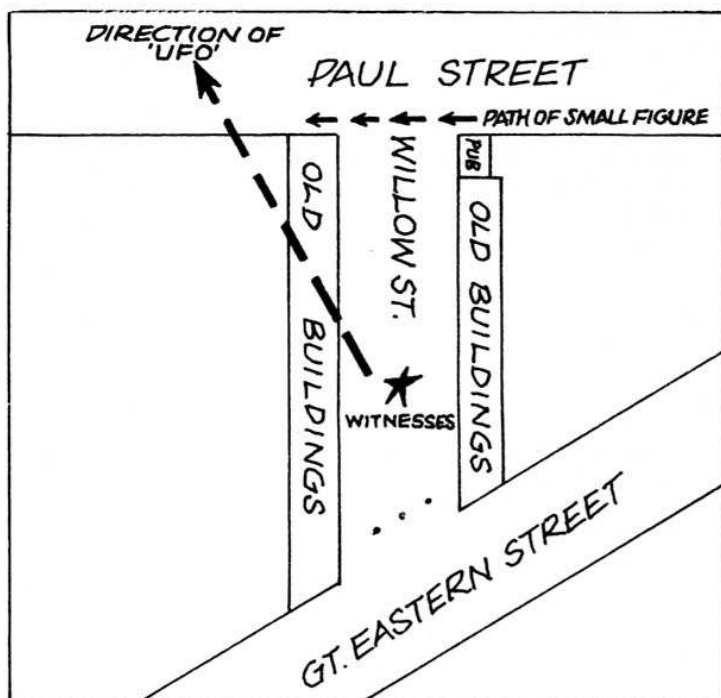
The lads then made for home. There had been no smell at all during the sighting, as one would expect say from ball lightning, taking into consideration the faint crackling sound heard during the sighting. Richard remembers he had a headache afterwards, something from which he rarely suffers. Tony says he experienced the same, but less markedly.

REPORT TWO

Two weeks after the first sighting, one Friday evening in January at about 6.00p.m. Richard was again in Willow Street. He had been visiting a friend who lives in Old street, and was on his way home. He was close to the western end of Willow Street when something caught his eye: did he imagine it or was it really there? What appeared to be the same sphere was hanging in the sky at the same spot as two weeks previously. Richard stood watching it for maybe 10-15 seconds, before it 'blinked' and disappeared. It



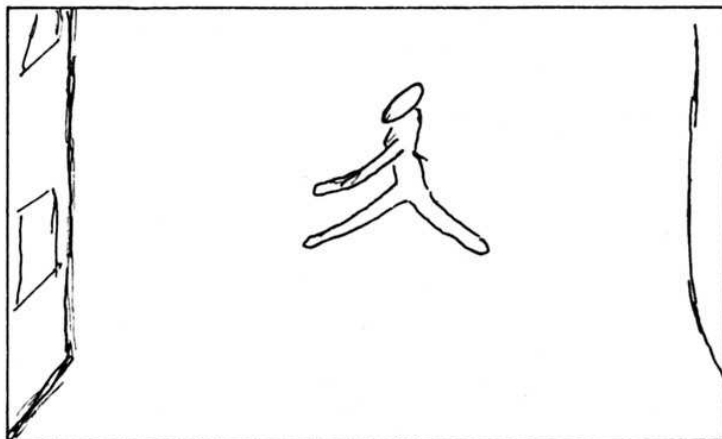
Witnesses' sketches of the object sighted on the first occasion: left, Tony Defosa, right, Richard Luxford



The sightings

was exactly the same as before, but appeared somewhat smaller to the eye as it remained stationary above the rooftops. It was less bright than before, and did not cast any light on surrounding buildings.

The object appeared to be only half as big as previously, the 'string,' or 'smoke,' was not seen on this second occasion but there was the same shimmering effect, and the low volume 'crackling' sound. Richard says he began to walk towards it, that is towards the end of Willow Street, but whilst doing so the object 'blinded' and disappeared from view. It had been visible for something like 20 seconds in all. The object had gone, and Richard was some 50 to



Richard's sketch of the entity

60ft from the end of Willow Street when a most remarkable sight caught his eye. Crossing his path from right to left was a little 'man,' who came from behind the public house on the corner of Willow and Paul Streets, and disappeared behind the old building to Richard's left.

This strange 'yellow man' was about 3ft tall, and appeared to be 'leaping' across the opening, although



Looking West along Willow Street towards the junction with Paul Street, photograph taken at dusk by Barry King

his limbs did not move, remaining in the same position while the creature was in view. It gave the appearance of 'gliding' across the opening. Its feet did not touch the ground, giving the impression that they were some few inches off the ground. Richard's estimate is that they were around 8 or 9 inches above the roadway.

This curious figure had very thin arms and legs, and its head was likened in shape to that of a peanut. As it crossed from right to left its right leg was in the forward position and left leg was to the rear as if it were in fact 'leaping' across the space. Its left arm was extended to the front and the right was behind. Richard could not clearly discern its hands or feet — if indeed it had any — but the limbs certainly seemed thick or 'stubby' where these would normally be.



A close view of the Western end of Willow Street



Richard Luxford stands at the corner of Willow and Paul Streets, where the entity is said to have crossed

The body was thin, maybe only 12 inches across, while the whole of the figure was yellow in colour or, rather, was surrounded by a golden yellow glow which gave that effect. Richard could perceive that the man was a dark colour, with tinges of yellow around the extreme edges, beyond which was the yellow glow, all around him, extending perhaps a couple of inches from the body. No facial features



Looking South along Paul Street, the direction stated to have been taken by the entity

were seen, and there were no accompanying sounds or smells whilst the entity was visible. Altogether the 6 or 7 seconds the man was in view was long enough for Richard to obtain some detail. Obviously one or two things may have been missed, but basically the description and witness sketches which we obtained were fairly accurate.

When the entity had gone Richard just stood there for a few seconds before running to the end of Willow Street to see where it had gone; there was nothing to be seen. The glow from the small figure did not appear to have been reflected by the ground or the walls of buildings. As the figure 'leaped' across the road his height level did not change at all.

Richard, a little unnerved, made for home quickly, and informed his parents upon arrival. There was some banter and chiding at first, but this subsided, and they said eventually that they believed him. Likewise he told Tony of the incident, but kept it from various friends who had been told of the sighting of the object two weeks before.

Possible confirmation of first sighting

Sixteen-year-old Miss Leslie Coopland of Rochford

Walk was in the London Fields area at the time of the first incident, and she stated that at about 7.00p.m. that evening she observed a small orange-coloured sphere in the sky for several seconds before it just disappeared on the spot, the two lads did not know of this until the day following the sighting.

At the time of the sighting Richard was 12 years of age and Tony was 13.

* * * * *

During the several interviews we have had with the lads we found no real contradictions in their stories, only those one would expect after a lapse of 15 months, and pertaining to dates and times. They appear straightforward, honest and sincere, and they seem truthful and not prone to exaggeration. They come from typical East End families, no-nonsense and down to earth. There is no reason to assume that these events did not take place as reported, and in that respect it appears that these two youngsters were witness to some form of the UFO phenomenon. Richard was also witness to a small 'man' or 'humanoid' a few weeks later, which may or may not have been connected with the UFO phenomenon.

BUFORA STAGE THEIR THIRD NATIONAL CONFERENCE

ON April 15 and 16, 1978 the British UFO Research Association held their third conference in the city of Nottingham. This followed successful events in Stoke-on-Trent in 1975 and Birmingham in 1976.

Guest speaker this year was Dr. Richard Haines from the Center for UFO Studies, who gave an extremely interesting talk on aspects of his work into the psychology of UFO shapes. Dr. Haines has produced some revealing research work which has helped to illuminate some of the problems inherent in the great divergence of shapes reported for UFO phenomena. He has in fact produced what he terms an identi-kit for such shapes, which is comprehensive and detailed. With it is a set of directions on its use without "leading" the witness.

This work seems a great step forward, and serious researchers should do Dr. Haines the compliment of studying this methodology. BUFORA in fact are offering copies of his paper for a minimal charge. If interested

you are asked to get in touch with them at Newchapel Observatory, Newchapel, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs.

Other papers during the weekend were presented by faces more familiar to BUFORA members and British ufologists, such as Tony Pace (BUFORA Research Director) who provided a paper on the South Wales Humanoids flap of 1977 produced in collaboration with UFOIN representative Randall Jones Pugh. The BUFORA Traces section, steered by Stephen Gamble and Robert Digby, produced talks on various aspects of physical trace evidence and there was international involvement from the Scandinavian SUFOI with a feature on time-law analysis research. On the opposite end of the spectrum John Hind, UFOIN's Northern Ireland representative produced some provocative thoughts on the interlinking of the UFO myth and psychology.

All in all this conference seems to have been a further success to be added to BUFORA's past achievements

with such events. If I were to find a fault it would have to be the somewhat irrelevant associations with the extra-terrestrial hypothesis that some of the lectures provided. I found it hard to equate, for example, a lecture on the nature of possible future starships and their propulsion systems, or the nature of alleged or possible inhabitants of a planet circling the star Zeta Reticuli (the home of the UFO entities seen by Betty and Barney Hill according to some — so far unconfirmed — research) with the current state of UFO research. However, that is a personal grumble, perhaps not shared by the less active members of the audience who would still no doubt consider UFO research and extraterrestrial studies as being one and the same thing.

I should also like to add that BUFORA have just published the proceedings of the 1976 conference, price £2. Well recommended.

JENNY RANGLES

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MAIL BAG

Correspondence is invited from our readers, but they are asked to keep their letters short. Unless letters give the sender's full name and address (not necessarily for publication) they cannot be considered. The Editor would like to remind correspondents that it is not always possible to acknowledge every letter personally, so he takes this opportunity of thanking all who write to him.

Not in our article

Dear Sir, — I was interested to read about the Stack Rocks sighting as my home is in Pembroke Dock and I have been there. I had already read about it in *Woman's World* (this month's issue) but in that article there was no mention of Mrs. Coombe's mother being with her when she saw the UFO go into the sliding door, unless of course there was more than one occasion.

A thing that puzzles me: have the Broad Haven Police examined the Rock where the UFO entered. I feel sure that these people are sincere.

In the *Woman's World* article the two men who arrived in a huge silver car had high foreheads and large eyes!

A friend of mine Terry Smith, 15 Bush Lane, Treckleton, Lancs told me in reply to my question as to what the space people looked like — that they had high foreheads and round eyes. He is a remarkable psychic who claims to have been in touch with space people for many years. He has tape recordings of space beings allegedly speaking through him. One mentioned they were going to appear over Stonehenge Christmas 1977!

May I say how much I enjoy reading FSR. The abduction case reminded me of the Barney and Betty Hill one.

Yours sincerely,

Elizabeth Cole,

9 Ray Lea Close, Maidenhead, Berks.
May 30, 1978.

That movie: a protest

Dear Sir, I had been looking forward to your true opinion of the new movie CE IIIK, or Close Encounters, etc. However, I wasn't expecting a review which was not a review... I am now awaiting your report *after* you have seen it.

As for me, who have been a UFO believer for many years (ever since I saw two of them in 1961), I was very disappointed, chagrined, and disgusted with the movie.

In the first place, there was not one UFO shown which in any way resembles those which people see and report all the time! What would have been wrong with showing UFOs as they are... simple, elliptical, shining, metallic objects? Do you suppose people would have liked them less, or been less afraid and excited?

And what was the idea of jazzing up the sightings, with toys running wild all over the floor, icebox doors closing and opening, stoves turning on and off and lights jumping like Christmas trees on a jag! Surely, Doctor Allen Hynek could not have OK'd this type of over-stating? I was truly amazed in the end when he stands there, as the ship comes down, apparently in close agreement with all of the film's ploys! I had hoped that for once things would be truly depicted because he lent his name to it... Not so. It is a gimmick to get box office attraction... and it will, but not from

real UFO buffs...like me. They will laugh and tell people not to bother to go to see it. Save your money, friends...if you subscribe to *this* magazine you will be disappointed and probably angry, as I am.

Yours truly,

Helen Frank,
223 Idfe Wild Road, Macon,
Georgia 31210
April 4, 1978

The perils of over-exposure

Dear Sir,—I followed the gradual emergence of *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* as a commercial film (FSR Vol.22/3 and 23/4) and how you saw its likely effect on ufology in general. I too was hopeful that something beneficial would emerge (e.g. Dr. Hynek as received some 7000 extra letters since its release) but recently in Scotland we have seen an upsurge in UFO reports in press and on television. The popular press has had a field day with the alleged "orange balls" over Ayrshire (May 1978) until various hoaxers were discovered. They were maliciously setting off flares. I mention this and conclude with my reservations about increased coverage of UFOs and sightings:

1. Over exposure on the part of the medias may lead to a position of even more atrocious ridicule.
2. More hoaxes/practical jokers.

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£0.30 (\$0.65) per line or part, i.e. £1.20 (\$2.60) for 4 lines, and so on.

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE NORTHERN KIND: 16-page booklet on the UFO phenomenon and the north of England. Includes cases, research notes, official attitudes, address and bibliography. A complete picture of ufology in the region. Available 40p (post inclusive) from: Jenny Randles, 23 Sunningdale Drive, Irlam, Salford M30 6NJ.

WANTED: Information on MIBs, Garudas and related phenomena for official study projects. Tauranga UFO investigation Group: 48 Humber Crescent, Gate PA, Tauranga NEW ZEALAND.

UFO INVESTIGATORS' NETWORK (UFOIN): would-be investigators, capable of conducting (or willing to learn how to conduct) serious in-depth investigations of reports of high-strangeness UFO activity (reasonable investigating

expenses met) should write to the UFOIN Secretary, Miss Jenny Randles, 23 Sunningdale Drive, Irlam, Salford, M30 6NJ.

UFO NETWORK — A comprehensive information service on UFOs. See for details to: UFO Network, 2 St. Ivian Court, Colney Hatch Lane, London N10. England.

A NEW — AND SERIOUS — BOOK. *La mémoire des OVNI* (The UFOs' Memory), by Jean Bastide. Obtainable from Mercure de France, 26 rue de Conde, 75006 Paris, France, price £8.00.

THE BRITISH UFO RESEARCH ASSOCIATION (f. 1962) continues to publish a lively Journal six times a year, investigate UK reports, hold monthly lectures in London and sponsor a national research conference. Please send (9"x5") S.A.E. for details of membership, meetings and publications to: Miss Betty Wood, 6 Cairn Avenue, London W5 5HX.

BRITISH UFO SOCIETY Membership £4.00. Includes T-shirt, card, photos, information. 47, Belsize Square, London NW3.

3. It may become "fashionable" to see a UFO?

4. More "UFO" clubs...like our two famous hilltop watchers, Pete and Dud, as portrayed on BBC Television. Yours faithfully,
Paul D. Murray, M.A.
53 Dimsdale Road, Wishaw,
Lanarkshire ML2 8DP.
May 19, 1978.

UFOs and the Bible

Dear Editor,—If you don't mind my saying so, the question raised by J. Wadkin (Vol.23, No.5) about UFOs and the Bible deserved a better answer than the one given. The fact is that only a very vivid imagination could interpret the passage in question (II Thess.2:10-11) as "some kind of deliberate campaign of apparent happenings with an otherworldly flavour." Throughout scripture terms like "deception" and "delusion" refer always to blasphemy and idolatry, not pseudo-scientific illusions, which is presumably

how J. Wadkin's friends regard UFOs. This is reinforced by the preceding verses, which cover a motif common in pre-Christian Judaism — the personification of persecution and blasphemy. However, St. John makes it clear that this refers to ordinary human beings only (1 John 2:18-22; 4:3). Whatever else UFOs might be, they are not covered by any Biblical prophecy, and occultist speculations will only serve to bring both Christianity and ufology into disrepute.

Yours sincerely,
Malcolm Smith,
Brighton, Brisbane, Queensland,
Australia 4017.
May 21, 1978.

Ionisation?

Dear Sir,—About your book *Encounter Cases from Flying Saucer Review* and with regard to Robert A. Schmidt's item *Callery UFO and Occupants*."

I wish to draw your attention to

an interesting scrap of information. On page 82, para 2, line 1, Schmidt writes: "according to Marion the air smelled sweet and clean much as it does after rain." Now that makes me think that negative ions were an effect of this craft.

Jacques Vallee in *Anatomy of a Phenomenon* page 68, para 1: "In addition, the witnesses reported seeing white smoke coming out of the top of the cylinder, while filaments fell to the ground in large amounts. These fibres, sometimes called "angel hair" in UFO terminology, dissolve spontaneously upon touching the ground, as if formed by ionized particles in an unstable state."

I think that it might prove interesting to ask, during an investigation: "Did you at any time notice that the air smelled different?"

truly,
Robert A. Goodson,
7784 Burton Avenue, Rohnert Park,
California 94928 U.S.A.
May 16, 1978.

BOOK REVIEWS

NEW BOOKS FROM AMERICA

UFOs — GOD'S CHARIOTS? by Ted Peters:

£7.95

John Knox Press, 341 Ponce de Leon Avenue N.E.,
Atlanta, Georgia 30308.

THE author is a minister of the Christian religion and a UFO investigator. In "an attempt to understand how we understand UFOs" he examines many contact cases and he, also, reports on the background and claims of well-known contactees and promoters of the idea that earth's inhabitants are, or have been, in communication with other intelligent beings from outside this planet. The approach is not doctrinal and Peters makes no attempt to offer Bible passages as authority for the existence of flying saucers; rather does he conclude that the UFO theologians recognize the need for a saviour but have not found any other than ourselves: they do not teach the Christian gospel. If UFOs have anything at all to do with religion, it would seem to be with pre-Christian paganism rather than with the kingdom of heaven that is within us; however, could one blame visitors from space for being looked to for salvation by natives who worship natural features or practise the Cargo Cult?

Some of the contact cases are new to readers of FSR and they add to the astonishing and inexplicable variety of those already known to us. It is as much a strain on belief that UFOs are a common noun for associated phenomena as it is that traffic lanes of space are filled with vehicles from different sources and that we co-habit earth with transit passengers of so many colours, shapes and sizes. No wonder

UFO investigators flounder and grasp the spectators for support; as in the well-known tobacco advertisement, the question remains whether the players are real people or a packet of dreams.

THE UFO QUESTION (NOT YET ANSWERED)

by P.J. Willcox: £7.95

Libra Publishers Inc., 391 Willets Road, Roslyn Heights, N.Y. 11577.

THE author is described as an aerospace scientist with degrees in Physics and Mathematics, having been actively engaged in radar and optical data analysis for over a decade. Earlier military service included missile testing and, later, as a civilian he served a tour of duty as a DEWline Station Chief. The book has an index and a bibliography of references, but it does not report individual cases.

Students of the subject are examined and Dr. Condon is shown to have delivered a report which did not reflect the conclusions of his group's study, inadequate as that itself was. Dr. Hynek earns praise for courage and objectivity and the author makes a plea for an unbiased scientific study of what the unexplained UFOs really are. He does not draw attention to the possibility that there may have been a conspiracy of silence since the early years of publicity for the subject and that the powers that be might have decided for sound reasons that the public had better not know what it does not need to know.

An interesting reference is to the author Paris Flammonde, who for several years produced the

John M. Lade

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Artwork: Pauline Bowen

"Long John Nebel Show" which featured flying saucers and was often quoted in early issues of FSR. Flammonde, in *The Age of Flying Saucers* (Hawthorne Books Inc., 1971) defined the term flying saucers as referring to space ships under apparent intelligent control and probably of extraterrestrial origin; unidentified flying objects being any celestial phenomena of nature unknown and unresolved.

He credited Captain Edward Ruppelt with originating the phrase Unidentified Flying Objects.

Mr. Willcox hopes that the "invisible college" will make its presence known; he recommends a course of reading and Dr. Hynek's Center for UFO Studies as "an association of scientists and professionals involved in the study of the UFO problem".

CLOUD-LIKE OBJECT WITH ANGEL HAIR EFFECT

Jenny Randles

A UFOIN report from the Secretary of the network

LARRY HALL is 17, and lives with his parents in the rural area of Apperley Dene, Northumbria. Surrounding the house are some very tall pine trees and these were destined to play a part in a most unusual affair on the afternoon of July 3, 1977.

At around 3.00 p.m. Barry was in the garden with his mother and father, Mr. John Hall, who suddenly pointed to a disturbance above some low trees at the back end of the garden. It was a few seconds before the other two were able to see what he was pointing at, and consequently they missed the initial stages of the event. Mr. Hall says that this involved a black oval shape rising from behind the trees (a few feet in diameter and no more) and bringing the disturbance up with it in a vortex it seemed to be creating.

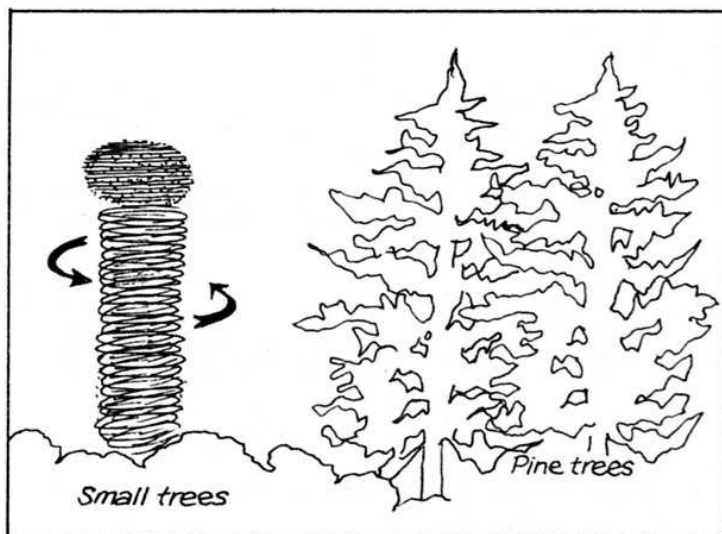
Very quickly the oval shape was lost in the overall confusion of the disturbance. This consisted of a mass of material swirling around inside the vortex and the whole thing rising slowly *en masse*. It rose to about the height of the pine trees (some 40 to 50 feet) and then stopped for a few seconds.

During this period of hovering Barry Hall was able to walk about halfway along the garden towards the object before it started to move slowly towards him and the house.

The most peculiar thing noticed was that none of the material picked up was falling to the ground as one would expect were it grass or something similar. It seemed to be dissolving or continuously kept in motion.

The vortex now floated directly over Barry's head and he was able to get a good look at it. As it passed by overhead he observed the black hairlike substance within. It was unlike anything he had ever seen before, and was completely different from grass or straw. It covered an area of about twenty square feet and as it passed into the distance over some trees it appeared almost like a swarm of insects (though it was not this, for when it was overhead it had appeared very different). As it moved away it seemed to be thinning out, but still none of the material was falling to the ground. It was later found that nothing at all was to be seen on the ground in the area over which this mysterious disturbance had passed.

There was only a small breeze, and the weather conditions do not seem to have been conducive to the formation of whirlwinds. It is also of interest



that the material did not move about with the breeze it simply floated as if in a controlled manner, and gave every indication of being magnetically attracted to the black oval which Mr. Hall had witnessed and which was presumably hidden somewhere in the swirling winds.

During the experience the witnesses noted a gust of wind of very strong proportions but are unable to recall how long this lasted owing to the obvious visual distraction at the time. However, the neighbours of the witnesses recall a hurricane-like blast which appeared suddenly that afternoon for no apparent reason, but although they did not see anything it seems reasonable to conclude that it was connected.

The area behind the house consists of a field of barley or green corn. There were no signs of disturbance immediately after the event and no piles of straw or grass lying around which could have been icked up by a freak whirlwind.

It seems probable that the vortex was due to winds (i.e. a whirlwind) but the cause of it remains in doubt. If it was connected with the oval-shaped object seen rising upwards, then this case falls into the "angel hair" category since the material was apparently disappearing, without trace, in the manner so often reported in angel hair cases in the past.

FLYING SAUCER TIE

John M. Lade, Secretary of FSR Publications Ltd., writes:—

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"The design is the same as before and shows a pattern of small, silvery saucers on a dark blue background. The necktie, in 100% polyester reppe weave, is available from us at £2.50 each (\$5.50 U.S. or Can.), post free by surface mail."

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[Vol. 21, Nos. 3/4 — Double Issue — £1.40 (\$3.00)]