

The Mysterious Templeton Photograph

By Gordon W. Creighton

THE land^{ing} of a large UFO on 26th April 1964 at Socorro in New Mexico, at a spot only a few miles from the scene of the first A-Bomb Test, was proof enough that our visitors are still interested in our dabbings in realms that would no doubt be better left alone. During the following month (May) we had the strange episode of Mr. Jim Templeton's photograph. Perhaps the two episodes are not unrelated?

The published facts of the Templeton case seem to be as follows (see *Daily Express* and *Daily Mirror* of 13th June last): Mr. James P. Templeton, a Carlisle fireman, living at 201 Newtown Road, Carlisle, was, on a day in May, with his wife and two daughters on Burgh Marsh, on the lonely banks of the Solway Firth. He was taking a series of colour photographs of his five-year old daughter Elizabeth. His wife and his other daughter were behind him. There was not a tree and not another person in sight. In the distance, on the other side of the Solway Firth, lay the Chapel Cross Atomic Station and a NATO radar-tracking base.

The weather was excellent. There was nothing strange or unusual to be seen, although Mr. Templeton has since said that it did strike him as rather odd at the time that all the cattle and sheep that usually graze on the Burgh Marsh were "huddled together some distance away, as though a storm was brewing".

The series of pictures taken of the little girl were sent off to Kodak Ltd. for processing, and when they came back there was a note with them remarking that it was a pity that the best of the lot was "spoiled by a man in the background".

And a man there is, without doubt, despite Jim Templeton's emphatic statement that except for his little girl in front of him there was not a soul in sight.

The Kodak Company assured him that there could not possibly be any question of a flaw in the film or the camera. He took the picture to the Carlisle police, and their experts studied it. At first, said Detective Chief Superintendent Tom Oldcorn, they thought it was a double exposure. But soon they decided it was not.

The photograph, which is reproduced on page 12, shows a man in a white garb which looks extraordinarily like a padded space-suit. And on his head is a helmet, apparently transparent. The figure is standing with its back to Mr. Templeton

and a few feet behind the little girl and in fact seems to be looking across the Solway Firth towards the Chapel Cross Atomic Plant. The figure appears to be that of a big man. "At least seven feet in height", so the Carlisle fireman and policeman felt, as they studied the picture.

"Very puzzling", concluded Chief Superintendent Tom Oldcorn, "but we're not taking it seriously. It must be some sort of freak picture."

The next report was a ten-line piece in the *Daily Express* of 27th July, from which we learnt that Mr. Templeton was sending his camera and film to the Ministry of Defence to assist the Security men in an investigation which they were making of the affair.

In the meantime, the *Yorkshire Post* (24th July) was reporting that there was a local eccentric who often ran about naked on Burgh Marsh, and had been seen by numerous residents of the nearby village of Burgh-by-Sands. The police, it seemed, were now quite satisfied that he was the man in the picture. But not Mr. Templeton, who said: "I have seen this man running about. When I saw him he was wearing a pair of shorts. I refuse to believe he is the figure in the photo. I am firmly convinced that he wasn't in sight when I took it. I haven't an explanation of my own but I refuse to accept this one".

The next item to come our way was even more interesting. The *Yorkshire Post* of 3rd September carried a report, from its Carlisle correspondent, to the effect that Mr. Templeton had now revealed that he had been closely questioned by two mystery men who arrived in a Jaguar, flashed Security cards, and referred to each other only by number. (No. 9 and No. 11). The rendezvous was arranged by telephone, and took place out on Burgh Marsh. The two very well-dressed and well-spoken gentlemen, questioned him closely about the weather at the time when the photograph was taken, whether there were any birds about, and where the cattle were on the Marsh. "Then one tried to trap me," said Mr. Templeton. "He said: 'This would be where the man was at the time'. I told him there was no man."

A young friend of mine, Mr. Gavin Warburton, now in South Africa, recently had a chat with Mrs. Elizabeth Klarer, who, as readers will know, claims to have ridden in a saucer and to have taken a number of photographs of the craft, in July 1956 (See FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, November/Decem-



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The Templeton photograph

ber 1956). Mrs. Klarer told my friend that our visitors have more than one way of rendering their craft and themselves invisible to us, and that one of these ways is to cause some of the light-waves to be bent by the agency of their magnetic fields.

I suggest that when Mr. Templeton took his pictures of his daughter, a UFO had already landed, and was quite near him, in that very meadow. Do the camera and the human eye register precisely the same types of light-wave? Is it not possible that the only reason why the UFO does not appear on Mr. Templeton's picture is that he did not happen to have his camera pointed at it? But he did have it pointed at the back of a member of the UFO's crew.

Mr. Templeton, like all good countrymen, is a

good observer. He noted that the cattle were huddled together as though a storm were brewing. But no storm was brewing; the weather was fine, as the beautifully clear photograph shows. It is known however, that storms are magnetic, or at any rate, involve some kind of changes that affect the magnetic field. Is it then not likely that the presence of the UFO was sensed by the cattle, and that these animals were perceptive enough to know that there was something *magnetic* about it, something like the portents of a storm?

Mr. Rex Stanford, the well-known American UFO researcher, was recently in London, and he gave a most interesting talk at the Caxton Hall on 12th September to members of the British U.F.O. Research Association (BUFORA). Among the many very interesting things that he said, I recall most particularly that he was present at Socorro, New Mexico, earlier this year, when Dr. J. Hynek (Director of Dearborn Observatory) and U.S. Air Force officials were there investigating the landing of 26th April. *Dr. Hynek and the U.S. Air Force take the Socorro case very seriously*, Mr. Stanford told us. They know quite well that a large silvery craft, the size of two petrol tank-cars, landed there. They know that the witness, the highway patrol policeman Lonnie Zamora, has a high reputation for honesty. They know that he saw several small men (about 3½ ft. high) near the machine. They know that the machine left deep wedge-shaped marks in the very hard earth, where its four feet had stood, and they know that as the machine took off, one of its legs grazed against a piece of rock and left particles of metal on that rock. They also know that the landing received quite widespread publicity in the USA and here in Europe. In sum, they know that the Socorro case is one that they can't laugh away. No talk of Ford hub-caps or high-flying geese or low-flying planets this time.

I suggest that just as there are officials in the United States who take a deep interest in the Socorro landing, so too there are officials here in Britain who take a deep interest in the Burgh Marsh Landing.

And the same reasons underlie their interest. Those reasons relate to atomic energy. There are atomic installations near Socorro and near Burgh Marsh. Homo So-called Sap. is tinkering. Does he really know what he is doing? Is it not apparent that, even though he, poor fool, may not know, others, *somewhere*, do?