

Reports of UFOs are our abiding interest, and this *Flying Saucer Review* of ours must maintain its honoured position, so ensuring that all aspects of this subject are debated, that all reasonable views are aired, and that the news and views continue to reach the right place.

We are grateful to our readers for the continuing

support which we know they will give, and we are happy that the signs are that the subject will gain somewhat in respectability, thanks to a more responsible attitude to it in some parts of the press. In which case this journal of ours would be accorded the increasing support it needs, and that despite the curse of inflation.

UFO LANDING AT FENCEHOUSES, COUNTY DURHAM

Close Encounter of the third kind in the North East of England

William D. Muir

THE first intimation that there had been a UFO landing in Co. Durham, with occupants observed, came to me through Ken Phillips of BUFORA. He had received a brief letter giving some details of the incident from the son-in-law of the elderly eye-witness. An interview was arranged, and this is what was revealed...

At 2100 hours on the evening of September 3, 1976, two ladies were walking home from a friend's house in the small colliery village of Fencehouses when they had an amazing experience.

It was a dry, cool evening with a slight breeze. As they walked past a piece of wasteland they saw a very strange object. Both women stopped, then walked towards it. They said that they felt "attracted towards it," and it was disclosed that "It" was an oval shaped object about three feet high and five feet long, standing on chrome or steel runners. The main compartment was glasslike with an orange section on top (see diagram). The whole thing was resting on a mound of earth.

When they reached the object the elderly lady stated that the wind and traffic noise appeared to stop. She then touched the glasslike sides of the object and it felt warm. At this point two strange

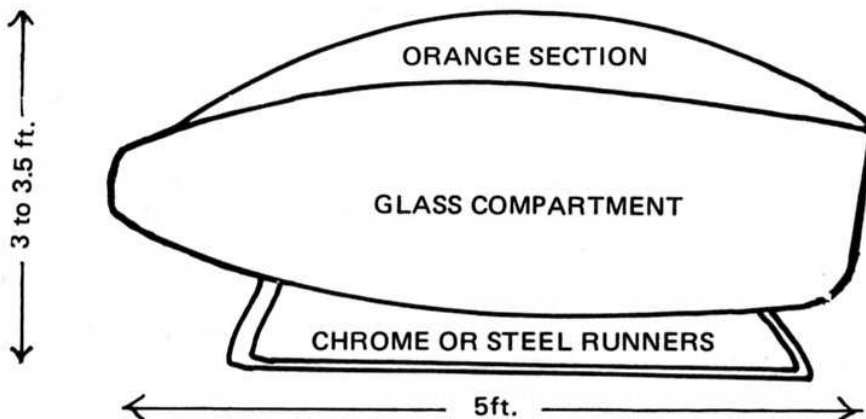
looking beings appeared inside the glasslike structure. They had long white hair parted down the middle, large eyes and claw-like hands. Both beings appeared to be frightened at the sight of the two ladies. Their size was that of a large doll.

In their turn both ladies became frightened at the appearance of the entities, and they hurried away. Once they had moved away from the object all the normal street noise re appeared. The object then took off at great speed, with a humming noise.

The entire episode only lasted about ten minutes, but it seems that both witnesses were so badly shaken by this encounter that they are unwilling to co-operate any further. The elder of the two is suffering from "nerves" and is being treated by her doctor.

One odd result that is claimed of the encounter is that the elderly lady could not plug her vacuum cleaner into the electric socket the next day. Each time that she tried there seemed to be a force pushing the plug out. In the end she managed to get her daughter to put the plug in for her.

The wasteland is now being reclaimed and built upon.



Diagrammatic sketch of the Fencehouses object

NOTES ON THE FENCEHOUSES REPORT

Jenny Randles

Our contributor, already well-known to the readers of FSR, is secretary of the Northern UFO Network (NUFON) and a founder, and secretary of the newly-formed UFO Investigators Network.

—EDITOR

It is unfortunate that the main reporting witness in this case is a lady of 63 who was very frightened by her experience, and wishes no widespread publicity. The 18-year-old eye-witness who was with her has not been traced: John Rouse of Contact, who investigated the case on behalf of NUFON, is respecting the wish for anonymity, and does not disclose the address of the senior witness.

The wasteland area where they were walking on September 3, 1976, when they saw the UFO, has since been levelled for building work. It is also littered with disused mine shafts.

As the two ladies walked towards the object, a somewhat trance-like perambulation during which they were aware of the stopping of the wind and the disappearance of all sounds, they said their watches stopped. These worked normally after the incident. *[It seems odd that, when approaching such a strange device to which they knew they were being "attracted," the witnesses should look at their watches and realise they had stopped — EDITOR.]*

From the description that was given the height of the entities is assumed to be about 1-1½ feet.

The story becomes confused from the time the entities were seen, for the witnesses are not sure what happened to the beings.

It is understood we were only alerted to the fact that this incident had taken place because the older witness wanted to "get it off her chest." Possibly she has since "clammed up" out of fear of the Press getting hold of her story; at the time of writing, however, no publicity has been given to this case.

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UFO OVER SEA CAUSES SURGE OF TIDAL WAVES

A remarkable report of near drowning and paralysis from Togo, West Africa

Joël Mesnard

We are much indebted to the Editor and Consultative Bureau of the *Groupement d'Etude de Phénomènes Aériens (GEPA)** for their special permission to reproduce this report, which appeared originally in *Phénomènes Spatiaux* No.47 of March 1976.

Translation from the French by Gordon Creighton.

MONSIEUR A.W., a Frenchman who was on vacation in [the former French colony of] Togo, [usually known to English readers as Togoland, in West Africa,] claims to have been one of the two eyewitnesses to an extremely interesting UFO phenomenon which occurred on March 29, 1974.

On the evening of March 28 he was with a Togolese lady. Between 11.00 p.m., and 1.00 a.m. in the morning of March 29, they were bathing in the sea at a spot a few kilometres to the east of the large tourist hotel Tropicana, which stands on the shore some two or three kilometres to the east of the town of Lomé. After their bath, they sat for some time on the sloping beach beneath a grove of coconut trees. The night was very dark, and the sky clear and full of stars.

At 1.45 a.m., just as they were about to return to the hotel, they heard a high-pitched whistling sound, quite painful to the ears, coming from the direction of the sea. Then they beheld a dark object coming in towards them over the water. And, when it was at a distance of some 200 or 300 metres from them, it halted, and hung there, facing them. The spot where they were was dry sand, but suddenly a huge wave struck them.

A "hole" in the sea, and a mini-tidal wave

Their immediate fear was that they would be unable to fight their way back through the water to the beach, but fortunately A.W. was able to get his right arm round one of the coconut trees while holding the African girl in his left. All around them and beneath their feet they now felt the surge of a series of powerful waves lashing the shore, whereas only a moment before the sea had been 50 metres from the slope where they were sitting!

Suddenly three powerful lights appeared on the object and dazzled them. These lights resembled searchlight beams, and were directed at them. From the sides of the machine there were also other beams of light, and possibly from the upper surface too, as well as from the rear side which was hidden from them. Some of the light beams seemed to be projected upwards into the air, although Monsieur

A.W. is unable to be categorical on this point, being too much blinded by the three beams directed straight towards the shore. He states that the predominant colour of the light beams was white, but there were also yellow, pink and greenish-blue ones.

A.W. was wearing glasses, which were slightly darkened and corrective, and what struck him most particularly was the blue and green shades on the water illuminated by the beams from the machine. The most interesting detail related by him refers however to the state of the surface of the sea underneath the hovering UFO: the water was not level there, but hollowed out in the form of a basin, which he estimated to be some five metres or maybe even six metres deep. The width of this basin was comparable to the width of the object itself, that is to say in the range of from 25 to 30 metres.

Paralyzed by the beams of light

The two percipients remained where they were, hanging on to the coconut palm, their legs still in the water. But what held him there, paralyzed, was not merely astonishment or fear. In the opinion of A.W. the beams of light had something to do with it. There was also a temperature change, for whereas before the appearance of the UFO the air had been just warm and pleasant, the heat within the beam of light from the projectors was now terrifying. The sweat was pouring from both of them.

Departure of the object

Then, suddenly, the air felt fresher again, and the object was now moving off out to sea, very fast, but still at the same height above the water. Then its lights went out, and it was gone from sight. The sky overhead was black once more, and the sea had regained its normal appearance. According to A.W.'s waterproof watch the time was now 2.05 a.m. The phenomenon had consequently lasted about twenty minutes.

The two eyewitnesses made their way back to the hotel and went their ways. Both of them were still feeling pain in the ears as a result of the whistling note made by the UFO. Monsieur A.W. asked his lady friend to keep the affair to herself and tell nobody of what they had seen. He was afraid he

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