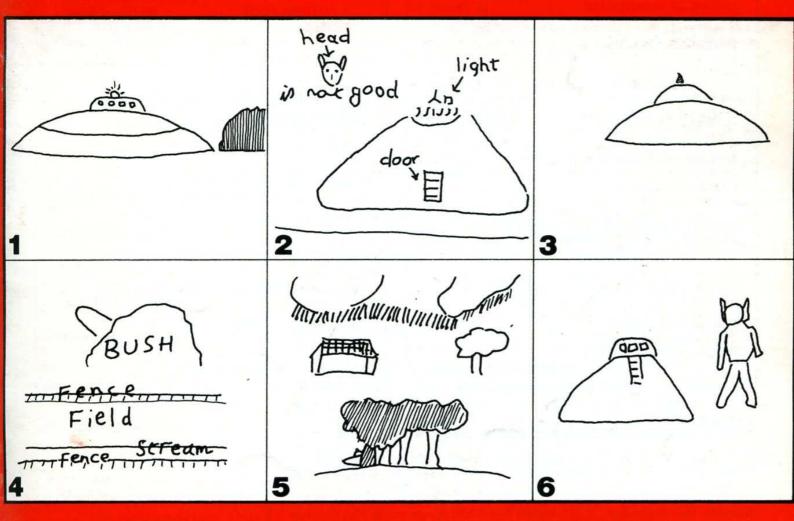


Volume 23, No. 1 1977

70p



A feature of the great United Kingdom wave ...

BROAD HAVEN SCHOOL REPORT

See page 3



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AIRCREW EYEWITNESSES

DURING the course of the last twelve months or so there has been an impressive increase in the number of UFO reports made publicly by members of the aircrews of civil airliners.

The cynics among ufologists will point out that any increase in reports from such sources is bound to be impressive when, in the recent past, there were long periods when no UFO reports of any description were made in public by pilots and aircrew. Indeed, if there were any public acknowledgement that an airliner had been in the proximity of an unknown object, it would almost certainly have been because passengers, who are not subjected to muzzling by regulations, had witnessed the incident. And to those readers who may object to the suggestion that pilots and aircrew have been muzzled, then we seek to disabuse their minds of such thinking, and not without good cause.

About ten years ago the Editor of Flying Saucer Review was invited to give a talk on UFOs to a ladies' club somewhere near Ascot. It was an "open night" and many of the members had their husbands with them, and it quickly became evident at question time that some of those husbands were airmen. As the evening drew to a close, one of them, who identified himself as a senior captain, took your Editor aside and confided that while flying he had had a relatively close encounter with an unknown, and similar experiences had been shared by many of his BOAC and BEA colleagues, and indeed by aircrew the world over. He added, however, that the rule here in the United Kingdom was that such incidents should only be reported officially, and to the Ministry of Defence; there should be no communication of information to the public and the media. Some two years before that, a well-known test pilot of sophisticated military aircraft, who at that time was a neighbour of the Editor of this journal, and whose interest stemmed from his own experience, had volunteered a similar

It went without saying that similar restrictions were applied to aircrew throughout the world.

Now, suddenly, the stranglehold seems to be slipping, and reports, and even case histories, of aircrew-reported UFO incidents have

recently appeared in this journal – with more to follow.

Captain Philps, of the Carvair sighting over Thanet, got us off to a gentle enough start, but before long came the remarkable British Airways Trident involvement in a radar/visual incident near Lisbon, an occurrence that was shared on July 30, 1976, with a British Airways TriStar and a TAP Boeing 727 (whose commander's corroborative report is carried in this issue of FSR). Then there was the report of another TAP jet, a Boeing 707 which, after take-off from Faro Airport, Lisbon, nearly collided with an oval-shaped, multicoloured UFO on September 19, 1976.



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Since then we have learned from the captain of an Iberia Airlines Boeing 727, who gave his story to a newspaper, how a strange object had paced his aircraft for 20 minutes at 17,000 feet on November 19, 1976, as he approached Madrid on a flight from Santiago de Compostela. More recently, on January 21, 1977, an Avianca jet had just taken off from Bogota, Columbia, when at 20,000 feet, its captain and crew observed the alarming, albeit erratic, headon approach of a glowing UFO. This too was confirmed on radar. The story of what happened was told to the press, with additional accounts by officers from the control tower (due to appear in our next issue).

Significantly, the captain of the *Trident* of the Portuguese incident of July 30, 1976, was given clearance to appear with Professor John Taylor, Police Sergeant Digweed and the Editor of FSR on a Thames Television production with Mary Parkinson in the *Good Afternoon* series on April 12, 1977. To those establishmentarians and other die-hards who

would wish all UFO reports to be swept under the carpet, it must have been galling to see the commanding, uniformed figure of a highly responsible airline pilot like Captain Denis Wood (the "D.W." of Omar Fowler's report in FSR Vol. 22, No. 4) speaking with calm authority about the intriguing affair.

One can appreciate that reports of radar-visual sightings must cause very great concern, for where they remain unexplained they can be included among the most potent evidence in the records of UFO encounters aloft; evidence calculated to impress a public hitherto conditioned for the most part to ridicule of UFO witnesses.

While we must aplaud the fact that aircrew witnesses of UFO manifestations have suddenly taken to speaking out about their experiences, we should at the same time pause to wonder not only why it is happening, but also why it is being allowed to happen.

"TRIDENT": EXPLANATION OFFERED

Since the foregoing Editorial leader was prepared, the July 30, 1976, story has been given coverage in the press and on radio and television. As a result, ITN tell us that Southampton University have claimed that Captain Wood and his crew probably saw one of their experimental plastic balloons, an explanation that has been publicly accepted.

When I met him Captain Wood was extremely doubtful that it was a balloon, but it seems he has now changed his opinion, and if the object were such a balloon it would certainly satisfy some of the data and solve part of the problem, including the homeward journey radar returns. However, it is doubtful whether it could be held responsible for the very large dark objects which suddenly appeared in the vicinity of the bright light in an otherwise cloudless sky.

Again, one cannot help but wonder why such a contraption was released, as claimed, to drift, apparently hazardously close to busy air routes, within the limited range of ground control radars and (according to Captain Wood and his colleagues) at 8 miles well within the even more limited range of the aircraft's radars. All this seemingly without warning to the ground controllers who, knowing nothing about it, had to ask the airliner crews if they could identify it. Surely there are hazards enough?

Of course, in view of all this ignorance about it, there remains the possibility that the object may not have been a balloon.

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SEEK correspond military aviation personnel (pilot, crew technician, air traffic controller, flight line technician) re UFO experiences: SGT Terry W. Colvin, Box 148/1543 U.S. Army Element/Allied Forces South; FPO NY 09524.

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MANCHESTER Aerial Phenomena Investigation Team — special issue No. 2, local UFO reports from 1973, 30p a copy. Also the MAPIT Publication, Skywatch, 20p a copy. Information sheet available. We would like to hear from foreign countries with a view to exchanging information. Write to: D.L. Rees, 92, Hillcrest Road, Offerton, Stockport, Cheshire. SK2 5SE, England.

MEN IN BLACK: Articles, information, personal experiences, etc., concerning MIB required for research project. Write: Box No. 10, FSR Publications Ltd.

BROAD HAVEN SCHOOL REPORT

Randall Jones Pugh

Our contributor, a retired veterinary surgeon, is a BUFORA co-ordinator for the area and a correspondent of the recently formed UFO Investigators Network (UFOIN)

AT 4.50 p.m. on Friday, February 4, 1977, I received a telephone call from a lady who claimed that her 10-year-old son, David Davies had, in company with some 14 other children, seen a UFO which had landed near their school in Broad Haven, Dyfed, West Wales, and which had apparently frightened the youngsters appreciably, since they fled en masse.

Accordingly I drove down to Mrs. Davies' home at Solbury Hostel, Tiers Cross, and interviewed her son David, who subsequently agreed to accompany me to the spot. We arrived at Broad Haven School at 6.00 p.m. and made our way to the spot where the children had witnessed the UFO (see map). However, it was raining heavily at the time and it was also becoming dusk, and in view of the fact that further progress to the actual site of the landing was impeded by a fence bordering a swiftly flowing stream, I decided to leave any further investigation until the following morning. I did, however, note the spot where David informed me the UFO had been seen. This was done by alignment in relation to the trees which obstructed the view of it, and also in relation to a number of telegraph poles which ran down alongside the hedge behind the landing site.

On the Saturday morning I telephoned a local news reporter, Mr. Hugh Turnbull of the Western Telegraph, and asked if he would like to accompany me to the site. He agreed to do this, so along with my companion of the previous night, David Davies, the three of us went by a different route into the field itself. We found what David thought was the

landing site, but in spite of an extensive search for imprints, tread marks and so on, we found nothing.

It should be appreciated that the heavy rain might have been sufficiently heavy to have obliterated all traces of an actual landing, but I consider this improbable.

Certain of the children were interviewed by myself, and also by their headmaster, who was astute enough to separate them immediately he had heard their descriptions of the event, and instructed them to record their impressions. At this juncture, it is to be regretted that the initial reaction on the part of all the teachers was, perhaps not unnaturally, one of total disbelief. In effect, by the time it was realised that all the children were in dead earnest, some of the teachers had themselves gone out to investigate. Unfortunately they could not corroborate the children's claims since the "thing" had vanished.

Now, whilst one has inevitably to be most careful in the assessment of any claims made by children in such a bizarre and emotive subject as ufology, generally it must be recognised that in a close study of the drawings done immediately after the "event" there is a basic similarity both in their drawn impressions of what they considered they had seen, and in their verbal descriptions. According to their headmaster, Mr. Ralph Llewellyn, they were quite adamant in their assertions that they had seen something they could not normally account for, and he accepted their opinions. Certainly, in their drawings of the "vehicle" and its "occupants" I feel quite

THE INCIDENT THAT AROUSED GREAT INTEREST

A report that fourteen children of the junior school at Broad Haven, near Haverfordwest, had watched a landed UFO in a field, and that a humanoid shape had been observed, caused something of a stir in the Principality, with Television, Radio and the newspapers all deeply involved; the news also reached some National newspapers. It also led to a filmed interview of some of the children being shown on BBC TV's fabulous *Swap Shop* programme, which has national coverage and an audience of at least 7½ million. The Editor of *Flying Saucer Review* also appeared on the programme for a discussion on UFOs with John Craven and later, with John and Noel Edmonds, answered viewer's telephoned questions.

Here is an extract from the Western Telegraph (date not quoted on the cutting, but probably February 7, 1977) about the incident:—

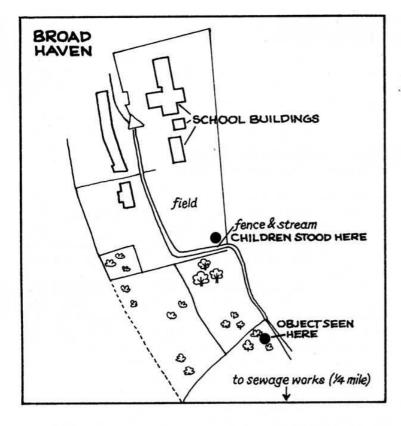
"...the flying saucer was first seen at lunchtime on Friday, behind a bush about 300 yards from the school.

"Most children give the object a classical saucer shape, though others have drawn it looking more like a pudding, or even like a cigar. Some accounts give it a dome and windows, others say it had a flashing light.

"The children say it disappeared and re-appeared from time to time. It was seen by other pupils during the afternoon break and immediately after school.

"Six of the youngsters say they saw a spaceman with the saucer. He was dressed in the same silvery grey colour as his saucer and — according to some witnesses — he had pointed ears like Mr. Spock.

"Ten-year-old David Ward said: 'He wasn't a very tall person, and he didn't look very nice either.'



confident that there has been no collusion whatsoever.

It is of interest that the parent of one of the schoolchildren Squadron Leader Tim Webb, completely accepts what his son Michael told me of the incident, and considers that "...there is no real answer as to what it could have been if not a UFO."

However, on February 17, 1977, one of the school-teachers, a lady who wishes to remain anonymous, had occasion to go outside her class room, and she reports that "...on leaving school (by the side entrance, facing east) something shining caught my eye. I stopped, and could see a large object, oval-shaped and with a slight dome, the colour of shining metal, and I also noted ridges. I stepped back, intending to call someone, and then heard a humming noise and watched the object glide away to the left. A field and trees then appeared. I know the area very well as I have frequently walked there. The time was approximately 10.30 a.m. and it was pouring with rain. The distance was about 200 yards."

A comparison of this lady's UFO sighting account form and those of some of the children show a

striking similarity.

Some time later, possibly an hour or so, two other ladies who also worked in the school, went outside the school building and saw an object. It was raining at the time, and was somewhat misty. They were aware of the claims made by the children prior to going outside, and went to ascertain for themselves. Their impression was that the "object" they could see was a sewerage lorry in the field, and indeed, so convinced were they that they "had solved the mystery," that they informed the headmaster to this effect. Now this is in sharp contrast to the teacher who claims in her report that she saw it "glide away," and in view of the time factor the

"thing" must have returned to precisely the same

spot.

The ladies were so convinced that what had caused all the furore was a prosaic sewerage lorry that on the following morning, accompanied by their husbands, they went to the spot to look for tyre

marks. None, however, were found.

It should be noted at this point that the field has, initially, a gentle slope, which becomes quite steep at the point of the landing. So, even if a lorry was able to get into the field it certainly would never have been able to get out, because there was a morass of mud at the bottom. The amount of sticky, glutinous sludge at this spot accords well with the verbal description given me by David Davies that when he saw the object behind the trees it seemed to give a "tugging action" as though it were well and truly "stuck in the mud."

I was later informed that no council lorry or workmen engaged in sludge removal had been in the

field.

I must emphasise here that from the vantage point where the children claimed they saw the UFO, the observer looks up a rising slope of ground somewhat sparsely covered by trees and shrubs, so that in effect the observers were looking not so much through leafless trees as between two trees growing closely together, but with a narrow gap between their trunks. In a subsequent BBC television programme it was suggested that what the children saw was indeed the rotating arm of a sewerage macerating machine, but I discount this totally, since the mechanism is below eye-level anyway from the point of observation.

Since I know many of the people concerned in this case personally it is my considered opinion that this case history is factually correct, even though there may be slight variations in respect of the

descriptions of the humanoid(s).

One last observation: if a very real fear be regarded as any criterion, one of the boys fell as he ran away, bruising his leg and, apparently, he became almost hysterical.

OUR COVER ILLUSTRATION

Investigator Randall Pugh arranged for the schoolboy witnesses to complete standard BUFORA questionnaire forms, and to provide drawings of what they had seen. A selection of these appear on the cover, and are numbered so that the names of those who drew them may be identified...

1. Michael M. Webb

- 4. David John Davies
- Tudor Owen Jones
- 5. Philip James Rees
- 3. Jeremy Passmore
- 6. David R. George

Extracts from the boys' written answers are given on page 5.

[BUFORA address: Newchapel Observatory, Newchapel Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs, England]

DESCRIPTIONS BY THE BROAD HAVEN SCHOOLBOYS

David John Davies, aged 10: (Only second sighting reported). Stated that they were standing at the top end of the school playing field, watching a bush where it [the object] was sighted. Philip [Rees] was trying to get a closer look when "...up from the bush popped a cigar-shaped object. It was silvery, bright and humming. It seemed to be tugging. Then we all ran." The time was 3.35 p.m. as they had just come out of school.

Philip James Rees, aged 10: Stated that he saw a silvery object at ground level at approximately 1.30 p.m., just after having school dinner. The object was still there when he went back into school at 2.00 p.m. Wrote Philip: "My friends and I asked the headmaster to have a look at the object, but he refused. A couple of my friends saw movement of a figure, but I did not. I was frightened. Two friends, Tudor and David, were very frightened."

Michael Mathieson Webb, aged 11: "It was silver and a cigar shape with a big dome and a red light flashing on top."

David R. George, aged 9: Saw both manifestations, the first after 1.00 p.m. and the second at about 3.35 to 3.40 p.m. Stated that the object was "huge" and silver-coloured. It was shining and humming, and looked like a "saucer with a point." He saw the "occupant" [described by him as the "man"] who was silver-suited, and whose features were not

seen, apart from his ears, which were "long." During the second observation, one boy was so frightened that he cried. Tudor Owen Lloyd Jones, aged 10: Of the lunch-time incident, said the object was at ground level and behind a bush. Stated that he saw a "man" and admitted that he was

Jeremy Passmore, aged 9: Wrote..."I saw the UFO when it was dinner time. It was a silvery green and it had a yellowy orange to red colour light. It was a disc at the bottom and a sort of dome on the top with the light on top. It was about 300 yards away. It moved a minute and then disappeared. It did have a noise, but I didn't hear it. We felt very scared. David George wanted someone to go to the toilet with him. Tudor Jones he was nearly crying because he was scared that he was going to be disintegrated or something so we all rushed in. Some of our school did not believe us. We tried to make them believe us but they would not." In answers to specific questions, Jeremy stated that the sighting lasted not less than 5 minutes, that the object was on the ground, and that he saw a person in a silverish suit about 350 yards away.

Summing up in a joint statement, David Davies wrote: "Adults will not believe us, except Mum, Mr. Pugh, and Mrs. Hanlan, [who] almost believes us.."

WEST WALES ROUND-UP

We have been told there have been as many as 60 UFO reports down in Dyfed during the past four months, among them several CEIs, IIs and IIIs. Local investigators have been swamped, so while we await detailed reports here is a selection from recent newspaper accounts.

very scared.

Wales

West Wales flap builds up

Following the Broad Haven incident a number of other sightings have been reported in the South West corner of Wales. The following item, under the signature of Hugh Turnbull appeared in the Western Telegraph of April 14, 1977,—"Why are beings from outer space so interested in Josephine Hewison's greenhouse?

"And why were Pauline Coombes and her family chased for more than a

mile by a flying football?

"These are the questions on the mind of local ufologist Randall Pugh this week as he probes the latest in the bizarre series of flying saucer sightings in Pembrokeshire.

"The new sightings both occurred less than three miles from the Broad Haven primary school, where 14 children saw the best publicised of the recent crop of saucers.

Little Haven landing

"Mrs. Josephine Hewison is a batchelor of science, down-to-earth farmer's wife and a person not given to imagining things.

"And she is positive that she saw a 40-foot flying saucer parked next to

her greenhouse at Lower Broadmoor Farm, Little Haven.

"Mrs. Hewison was in her bedroom 100 yards away when she noticed the shiny, silver object. It annoyed her to think someone had parked by the greenhouse. Then it dawned on her that this was no ordinary vehicle.

"She watched her unearthly visitor for more than two minutes. Then it vanished in seconds while she was trying to get a closer look.

"When I realised it wasn't from the farm, I thought it must be a UFO,' she said. 'I don't think it could have

been anything else.'

"The saucer Mrs. Hewison saw was virtually identical to the object described by the Broad Haven schoolchildren.

"'One of my children thought he saw it, but he jumps on any bandwagon,' she said. 'My first reaction to the children's story was that it was good for a laugh, and that's all. I didn't believe in flying saucers then, but I'm decidedly less sceptical now.'

"Mrs. Hewison wasn't frightened by her saucer. In fact, she'd like a

chance to see it again.

"According to Mr. Pugh, it's unlikely that she will. He says the odds against seeing even one UFO are 12,000 to one.

"But farmer's wife Pauline Coombes claims to have seen three UFOs this year. According to Mrs. Coombes, they are so interested in her that they even follow her car.

Auto pacing, Little Haven-Dale

Mrs. Coombes was driving near Little Haven with her three children when 10-year-old Keiron spotted a strange light dropping out of the sky towards them. His mother put her foot down and accelerated under the falling object. But Keiron, watching through the back window, saw the thing stop in mid-air and begin to follow the car. He described the UFO as a yellow ball, about the size of a football, with a torch-like beam from its base.

"It kept hedge-hopping alongside the car for more than a mile. Then, just as the family reached their home— Ripperston Farm, Dale— the engine

and lights suddenly died.

"Mrs. Coombes, Keiron and her twin daughters Layanne and Joanne, aged eight, dashed into the house to fetch her husband, Bill. But by the time he came out, the flying football had disappeared.

" 'We were all very frightened, especially the children, who were in

tears,' said Mrs. Coombes.

UFO seen from St. Clears

"Yet another UFO has been spotted by bloodstock breeder Mr. Peter Burford of Glasfryn, St. Clears.

" 'My wife first saw a thin orangered light on the horizon,' he said. 'It seemed to be pulsating, but for two minutes remained quite stat-

ionary.

"Mr. Burford watched it for about 20 minutes as it silently left its position and moved towards Carmarthen. He rang Carmarthen police, who suggested it had been a plane or a helicopter. But RAF Brawdy told him they had not been operating in the area at the time.

" 'The officer on duty asked me to describe what I had seen,' Mr. Burford continued. When I told him, he said it sounded like one of the UFOs that had been sighted in the Ferryside

area recently.

" 'I would like to feel that what I saw was just a light from a helicopter, he added. 'But I'm perfectly sure in my own mind that it was something more than that.'

Huge object over Croesgoch

"The space travellers were even working over the Bank Holiday, taking the time to put the wind up holiday-maker Mr. David Smith.

"Mr. Smith, from Anglesey, is staying at Croesgoch, where he saw a huge spaceship hovering about 600 feet from the ground on Monday night. He said the ship appeared about six feet long, even though he was a mile or so away from it.

" 'It was a golden, pencil shaped light at an angle in the sky with what looked like a snout at the top end. Underneath was another patch of

light, more rounded."

Credit: F.W. Holiday of Haverfordwest.

A faceless giant at the window

The following is extracted from a Hugh Turnbull report in the Western Telegraph of April 28, 1977.

"Farmer's wife Mrs.

Pauline Coombs wants to leave her farm near Little Haven because of the unearthly things that are happening to her.

The Coombs family have seen three UFOs...in one incident, Mrs. Coombs claims her car was chased by a 'flying football' - but her most terrifying encounter came early on Saturday morning.

"She was watching a late TV film with her husband, Billy, when they saw a faceless giant at the window of their Ripperston Farmhouse.

"A few days earlier, an identical figure scared Mrs. Coombs' 11 yearold nephew, Mark Marston, while he

was looking for birds' nests near his home at Herbrandston.

'Dairyman Mr. Billy Coombs described his spaceman as 'seven to eight feet high and silvery grey. His face was all black, as if he had something

dark covering it,' he said.

"Mrs. Coombs rang local ufologist Mr. Randall Pugh, who advised her to contact the police. Mr. Coombs said the figure stayed at the window for at least 10 minutes, but there was no

sign of it when the police arrived.
"It was definitely a man, but a terrible size and so broad. It's impossible for it to have been a human

being.
"'I didn't believe in these things before, but I'll certainly believe in future. My wife wants to leave here now because she's frightened to death.'

Entity drifts through closed gate

"Mark Marston was just as terrified by the man he saw at Herbrandston. He said he was searching a hedge for birds' nests when a red glow appeared in the sky 50 yards away.

"Seconds later, a figure appeared and drifted through a closed gate at the other end of the field. It followed as Mark backed away, moving quickly and silently over the ground. He described the figure as being dressed in a silver suit like a diver, with a big helmet and a square, featureless face.

"Mark ran home to 14, St. Margaret's Way, screaming and crying. 'That's the only reason we believed him,' said his father, Mr. Terry

Marston.

" 'He was very frightened. His story was the same every time and we couldn't catch him out."

UFO and occupant again

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into a night of terror for 17-year-old Stephen Taylor on Sunday when he came face to unearthly face with a visitor from outer space!

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" 'I was so frightened that I just took a swing at it and ran,' he told the

Telegraph later.

"But Stephen's terror didn't prevent him getting a good impression of the figure, whom he later described to UFO investigator Randall Pugh of Camrose.

"'The man was over six feet tall with very high cheekbones and big eyes,' he said. 'He was wearing a sort of semi-transparent suit and was

coming towards me'.

"Earlier, about 9 p.m., Stephen spotted a mysterious light in the sky 'a pear drop shape, glowing orange' He ran into a friend's house to tell him, but was met with disbelief. Half a mile down the road, he realised that the same shape had appeared in the field - in fact it was so large that it was blocking out the familiar lights on the horizon - and it had an aura of light around it.

"Mr. Pugh went to Penycwm on Monday evening, hoping to find some sign in the field that the craft had been there. But as it was dark, and had been raining heavily, he was not able to see

very clearly.
"'This is certainly no hoax,' he stressed yesterday. 'When a boy is as frightened as Stephen was - and especially when his mother confirms that - there must have been something there. There is a lack of normality about the whole thing.'

"Mr. Pugh also went to RAF Brawdy, and asked some of the air crews doing normal routice practice in the area if they would look out at the field to see if there was any scorched or flattened grass that would indicate that some presence had been

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"Yesterday morning, Mr. Pugh again went to the field to look for any signs, but it had all been trodden down by cattle.'

Credit: Robert Whitrow of Neath.

THAT BBC-TV DOCUMENTARY

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CHARLES BOWEN

UFO seen from St. Clears

"Yet another UFO has been spotted by bloodstock breeder Mr. Peter Burford of Glasfryn, St. Clears.

" 'My wife first saw a thin orangered light on the horizon,' he said. 'It seemed to be pulsating, but for two minutes remained quite stat-

ionary.

"Mr. Burford watched it for about 20 minutes as it silently left its position and moved towards Carmarthen. He rang Carmarthen police, who suggested it had been a plane or a helicopter. But RAF Brawdy told him they had not been operating in the area at the time.

" 'The officer on duty asked me to describe what I had seen,' Mr. Burford continued. When I told him, he said it sounded like one of the UFOs that had been sighted in the Ferryside

area recently.

" 'I would like to feel that what I saw was just a light from a helicopter, he added. 'But I'm perfectly sure in my own mind that it was something more than that.'

Huge object over Croesgoch

"The space travellers were even working over the Bank Holiday, taking the time to put the wind up holiday-maker Mr. David Smith.

"Mr. Smith, from Anglesey, is staying at Croesgoch, where he saw a huge spaceship hovering about 600 feet from the ground on Monday night. He said the ship appeared about six feet long, even though he was a mile or so away from it.

" 'It was a golden, pencil shaped light at an angle in the sky with what looked like a snout at the top end. Underneath was another patch of

light, more rounded."

Credit: F.W. Holiday of Haverfordwest.

A faceless giant at the window

The following is extracted from a Hugh Turnbull report in the Western Tele-

graph of April 28, 1977.

"Farmer's wife Mrs. Pauline Coombs wants to leave her farm near Little Haven because of the unearthly things that are happening to her.

The Coombs family have seen three UFOs...in one incident, Mrs. Coombs claims her car was chased by a 'flying football' - but her most terrifying encounter came early on Saturday morning.

"She was watching a late TV film with her husband, Billy, when they saw a faceless giant at the window of their Ripperston Farmhouse.

"A few days earlier, an identical figure scared Mrs. Coombs' 11 yearold nephew, Mark Marston, while he

was looking for birds' nests near his home at Herbrandston.

'Dairyman Mr. Billy Coombs described his spaceman as 'seven to eight feet high and silvery grey. His face was all black, as if he had something dark covering it,' he said.

"Mrs. Coombs rang local ufologist Mr. Randall Pugh, who advised her to contact the police. Mr. Coombs said the figure stayed at the window for at least 10 minutes, but there was no sign of it when the police arrived.
"It was definitely a man, but a

terrible size and so broad. It's impossible for it to have been a human

being.
"'I didn't believe in these things before, but I'll certainly believe in future. My wife wants to leave here now because she's frightened to death.'

Entity drifts through closed gate

"Mark Marston was just as terrified by the man he saw at Herbrandston. He said he was searching a hedge for birds' nests when a red glow appeared in the sky 50 yards away.

"Seconds later, a figure appeared and drifted through a closed gate at the other end of the field. It followed as Mark backed away, moving quickly and silently over the ground. He described the figure as being dressed in a silver suit like a diver, with a big helmet and a square, featureless face.

"Mark ran home to 14, St. Margaret's Way, screaming and crying. 'That's the only reason we believed him,' said his father, Mr. Terry Marston.

" 'He was very frightened. His story was the same every time and we couldn't catch him out."

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CHARLES BOWEN

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE FLAP WITH HUMANOID REPORT

Jenny Randles

DURING the month of December 1976 the Midlands, and North Staffordshire in particular, were the source of a series of reports which can only be the product of a flap of fairly major proportions. It is most interesting to note that these reports, which contain examples of possible landings and entity cases, come at a time when Britain has been experiencing something which has all the early indications of being a new wave of important cases. There have been several close encounters, such as the Bowles/Pratt incidents from Winchester (see Flying Saucer Review Vol.22, No.5) and a similar event from County Durham (see FSR Vol.22, No.6). Such a build up in sightings was anticipated by some researchers, bearing in mind the important events of 1967, and there appears to be every possibility that 1977 will be a significant year for the manifestation of the phenomenon in Britain.

Wetley Rocks, Stoke-on-Trent

The events appear to have begun on December 9th when two young women were driving through Wetley Rocks, near Stoke, at 7.45 p.m. The night was frosty and clear. Ahead of them they saw a series of lights which appeared to be hovering low down over fields by the roadside. At first it was assumed that they were lights on a helicopter, but as the place was approached it became clear that this object was, in fact, much too large. The lights were in a tiered formation and measured the apparent size of a tennis ball at arms length horizontally, and a golf ball at arms length vertically. They were flashing orange, white and blue, but were completely stationary.

The women slowed down and drove close by the field. The car window was wound down but no sound was heard. It was apparent to them now that this was something peculiar because they knew the road well and there are overhead electricity cables crossing the field. Whatever was present was hovering over these. Suddenly the lights just went out, and there was no further trace of the object.

There are an enormous number of similarities between this observation, and some more interesting ones which occurred on the nights of December 13th and 14th, and it is worth bearing in mind that there was no publicity for the fact that a large number of sightings were occurring in the area until December 16th. The eyewitnesses involved in these events were all unknown to one another.

North Staffs Dunkirk

On the evening of December 13th the area was blanketed in fog. A woman art teacher in the tiny

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EDITOR

village of Dunkirk, on the edge of the Cheshire plains, had just come out of her neighbour's house at 5.20 p.m. when in the sky to the NNW, at an elevation of about 45° she saw a bright object glowing fiercely against a dark sky, and surrounded by swirling mist. It was orange-coloured, shaped like an oval with a flat bottom, and had two tiers of bright lights inside it. In size it was larger than an apple held at arm's length. It appeared to be hovering over an electricity pylon.

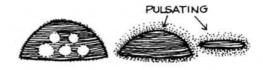
After two to three minutes it appeared to recede, pulsating and fading until only a glow was left. This then crystalised into an elliptical bar of orange light until this too faded and disappeared within seconds.

The woman went indoors after the incident and immediately drew some marvellous colour pictures of the object in its various stages. Fortunately investigators were able to get to her within two hours of the incident and take down her story, so that the details would appear to be very accurate.

After the object had gone the woman's neighbour came riding up on his bicycle. He asked "What was



Wetley Rocks, Staffs. December 9, 1976, 7.45 p.m.



Dunkirk, Staffs. December 13, 1976. 5.20 p.m. Stages of departure, as drawn by the eyewitness