

(5) Two witnesses reported feelings of great fear, with sweating and shaking predominant.

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The foregoing collection of data would appear to indicate that *something* extraordinary was observed by a number of independent witnesses during the evening of May 21st, 1977. The phenomenon observed by some of these witnesses can be paralleled

at other times in other parts of the world, and is the phenomenon usually termed "solid light." That such phenomena should be observed at exactly the same time as a unique demonstration of searchlights is taking place not far away, must say something about the UFO "intelligence." What better time could there be to operate light beams, when the more mundane "light beams" will obviously be held responsible? A cunning ploy? Or are games being played with us yet again?

UFO AND ENTITY REPORTED FROM MORAYSHIRE

Jenny Randles

A special UFOIN report by the Network's Secretary. UFOIN address: 23 Sunningdale Drive, Irlam, Greater Manchester M30 6NJ. Telephone: 061 775 4749

NORTHERN SCOTLAND is a remote and largely wild region. There seems little doubt that UFO activity takes place there which is never uncovered by investigators. Partly this is because the population density is low and partly it is because there are relatively few "ufologists" in these less accessible areas. For this reason UFOIN has been keeping a check on the more prominent newspapers covering the region and occasionally advertise appeals for information in these. Such an appeal was carried in the *Sunday Post* and brought an immediate response. Bryan Hartley, the investigator who placed the appeal, received a letter from a young mother, Mrs Caroline McLennan from New Elgin in Morayshire, and this in fact turned out to refer to a landing with an entity associated.

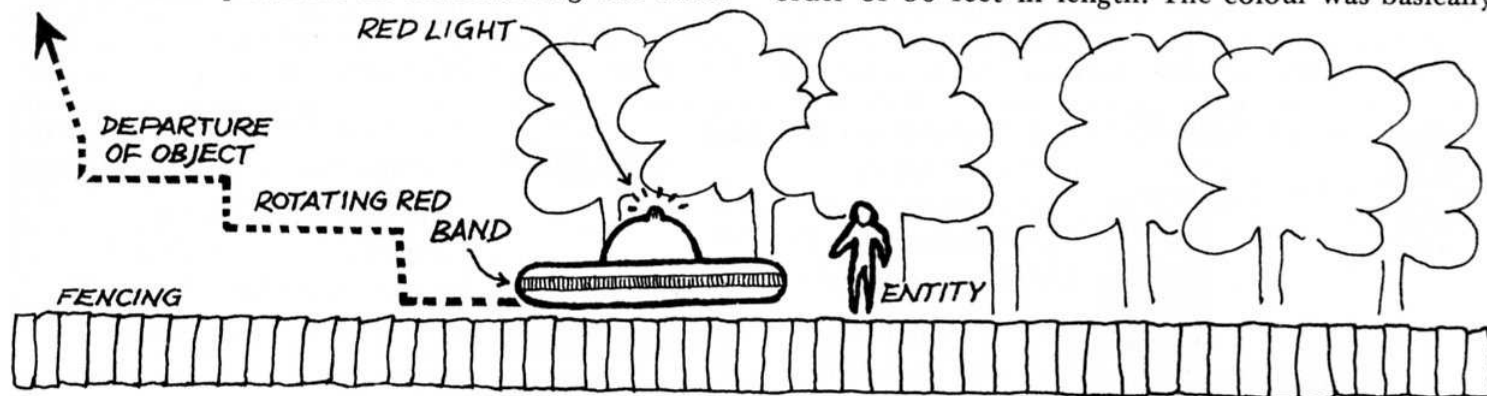
New Elgin is situated somewhat remotely in the north eastern part of the country, and on-the-spot investigation was not possible. However, interviews with the witnesses have taken place by telephone at some length, and written statements have also been obtained. The local police, and the media, have been consulted, and soil samples from the location are at present being analysed, although as these were obtained some three months after the events, it seems unlikely that anything of significance will show up.

There were problems in remembering the exact

date of the events: it was almost two months after the incidents when Mrs McLennan contacted Bryan. However, with the aid of the police this has been narrowed down to May 18, 1977 - a date which is of some interest because it places it central to a considerable flap which occurred throughout Britain during that month (and particularly during the month's second and third weeks). Since there was relatively little publicity for these events the temporal concentration on such a wide scale is of great importance.

At 6.30pm on May 18 two young girls, Karen McLennan and Fiona Morrison (both aged 10) were playing in some fields near their home. The area consists of a new housing estate with adjacent woods surrounded by fencing. The first thing that attracted their attention to anything unusual was a strange humming noise. This sound they describe as something like a helicopter when it hovers, but more of a hum, and softer. When they heard the noise they were round a corner from the woods, but the noise appeared to come from there, so they moved towards this spot to see what was causing it. It was at this point that they saw the object.

The object was made up of a long cylindrical shape with rounded ends and a small dome on top. The size was difficult to judge but they feel it was of the order of 30 feet in length. The colour was basically



Morayshire incident: the object is as drawn independently by the two young witnesses.

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that of polished metal, and there were no visible markings, and no doors or windows. However, on top was a red light which was steady and did not flash. In the middle of the bottom section was a red band about one quarter the width of this portion of the object, and it seemed to be rotating.

The girls were approximately 400 yards from the object, and consequently the accuracy of any estimates of sizes cannot be guaranteed. However, both girls are very certain of what they saw, and can give vivid descriptions. The object was apparently hovering just off the ground at about the height of the fencing which surrounded the woods. This is about two feet. In fact it seemed to be just above the fencing.

By the side of the object both girls insist that they saw a "man". He was hidden partially by the bushes but they were able to tell that he was tall and thin (it seems at least six feet in height) and seemed to be dressed all in silver. A vivid description from Karen was that he looked rather like a telegraph pole. (This means that the impression was that his arms were disproportionately short.)

Upon seeing this figure the girls became quite frightened. He then began to step out from the bushes and move towards them, and at this point they turned round and fled.

After a few seconds (perhaps thirty) they regained sufficient composure to look back. The "man" had disappeared, but the object was still in the same position. Almost instantly it began to take off. This departure was unusual, for it moved in three jerky steps. In other words it moved to the left a few yards, and then rose upwards a few more yards. It then moved further to the left and rose again. After going through this routine a third time the object took off vertically at a terrific speed and was rapidly lost to sight. The total duration of the sighting (i.e. from first seeing the object) was in the region of one minute.

The girls returned home and told their parents of what they had seen. It was taken seriously for the simple reason that both Mrs. McLennan and Mrs. Maureen Morrison had heard the sound and had realised that it was something peculiar. Mrs. McLennan describes it as sounding something like a vacuum cleaner and Mrs. Morrison said it was just a

humming noise. Other residents in the estate also heard the noise but there were no other witnesses who actually saw the object as far as we can ascertain.

Mrs. McLennan immediately telephoned the police at the local station who took a statement and promised to look into the matter. They were unable to find any cause.

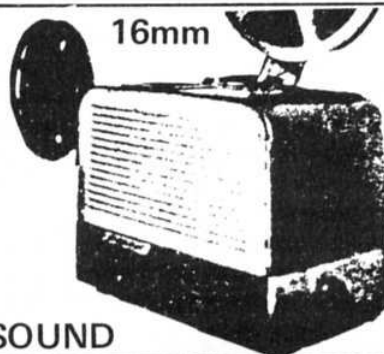
The next day Mrs. McLennan and the children visited the woods and looked at the spot where the object supposedly had been. They found a circular area about 100 yards in diameter where there was minor damage to trees. Some of the young trees in this area seemed to have been singed. Of course it is possible that many other causes were responsible for this but it was felt necessary to take samples of these.

Another factor which may be relevant is that one of the neighbours of Mrs. McLennan says that she heard the same noise again at exactly 6.30a.m. the next day — in other words exactly twelve hours after the sighting.

It is the opinion of the investigators that the two girls are telling the truth about what they saw. Apart from the other witnesses to the sound there are two main reasons for this conclusion.

One is that they have described features typical of close encounters. Even if one accepts that the entity description (tall figure in a silvery suit) could be culled from general publicity for the subject, it is most unlikely that they should know about a feature such as the stepped take off followed by rapid acceleration (the reverse of the 'falling leaf' motion). This is an important, albeit minor, feature of their story, which seems to gain in authenticity owing to its consistency with other similar accounts.

The other reason for tending to accept their story is that it tallies remarkably well with information kindly supplied to UFOIN by Constable Grant of the local police force. He was the officer who dealt with the report, and his written testimony shows that the basic story related by girls does not contradict the one that they gave to him some months before. In conclusion this sighting seems to be a typical example of a Close Encounter of the Third Kind. Despite its brief duration, and the age of the witnesses, it offers some interesting information on the nature of the UFO phenomenon.



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