

"WELSH HATS" UFO OVER SNOWDON

Jenny Randles & Paul Whetnall

A recent investigation of an old case, conducted for UFOIN

THIS report stems from the big wave of sightings which hit Britain during August 1967. Many of these have been recorded by Messrs. Roger Stanway and Anthony Pace in their excellent report on a Cheshire/Staffordshire events. Although ten years old almost to the day of interview it is of sufficient interest to warrant publication. Thanks are due to Derek James, also of UFOIN, for his help in the initial stages of the investigation.

Now a Solicitor and a man of wide education, Mr. David Jones, was at the time only 15 years old. He was travelling with a friend, John Alexander (also 15) in a car driven by John's father, Garnett Alexander. The latter was a major in the guards and is a respected provincial newspaper man.

The group were returning towards a caravan site at Blackrock Sands near Portmadoc in North Wales on a beautiful sunny afternoon which, it is believed, was August 5, 1967. The time was around 2.00 p.m.

Having passed through Capel Curig, in Gwynedd, they had turned towards the picturesque village of Beddgelert (which is steeped in folklore).* The road is flanked on both sides by mountains rising to over 3000 feet and Snowdon, the highest in the region, is close by. The valley is glaciated and 'U'-shaped, and the tops of the mountains are jagged and some 600 feet above the road surface on both sides.

To their left above the summits a strange object suddenly appeared. It was just 50 to 100 feet over the summit, and swooped down in a gentle 's' curve, crossing the valley bottom and the road ahead at a height of about 30 feet. It then proceeded to complete its 's' curve, heading towards the car and rising upwards to the summit on their right, disappearing between a gap amongst the peaks.

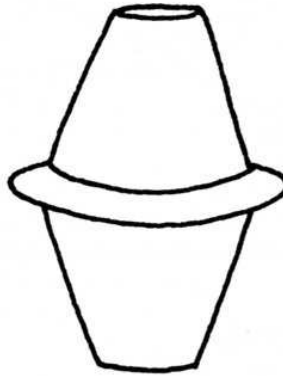
The curve was very graceful and the object was totally silent in flight. It gave the impression of hugging the surface, as aircraft sometimes do to avoid radar cover. It was in view for a total of about 20 seconds.

At its closest approach the object came to within a quarter of a mile of the car, but no effects were noted. There was no other traffic in sight during the whole of the incident.

In shape the object was described as like two traditional Welsh hats rivetted together. The drawing made by the witness clearly shows a shape which is not at all unfamiliar to ufologists, although it is reasonably clear that the witnesses had no interest or knowledge of the subject at the time. Mr. Jones has since become interested in the subject although he says, strangely enough, that the incident did not make an immediate impression other than that it was slightly 'odd'.

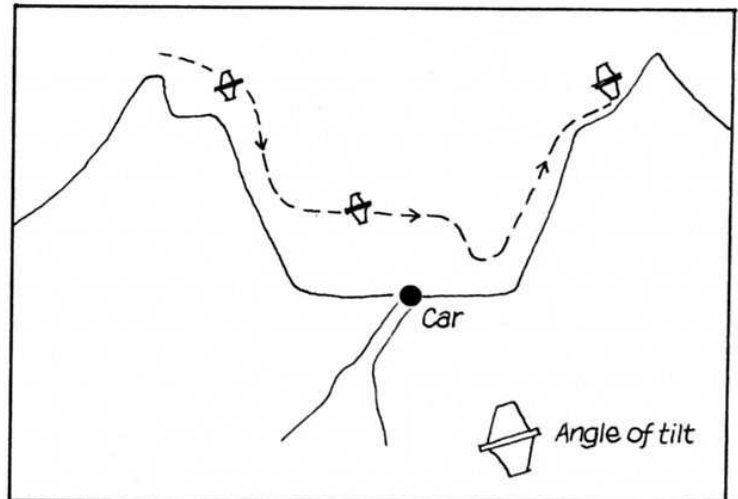
The two conical shapes seemed to be rivetted

together with a kind of plate between them although the surfaces seemed smooth, and made out of a shiny chrome-like material.



UFO "like two traditional 'Welsh hats' rivetted together"

The size was relatively small. Estimates are 8 to 12 feet high and 3 to 6 feet wide. Mr. Jones cannot understand how such an object could be aerodynamic, especially flying at a low airspeed (estimated as no more than 100 mph).



Gyroscopic stabilisation? An interesting feature

An interesting feature of the report is that the object was tilted at a slight angle (perhaps 20 degrees from the vertical). This angle of tilt remained the same throughout the incident, despite the orientation of the craft. The witness commented that the whole thing gave the impression of the UFO being gyroscopically controlled, and stabilised by something like a child's spinning top. Again a feature not unheard of in ufology.

About 10 or 15 minutes after the sighting three aircraft (*Lightning* interceptor jets) flew over the car, heading in the same general direction as the object.

It is possible that they had been scrambled to follow the unknown, although military activity is not uncommon in the area at all times.

* [Beddelert — pronounced Bethgelert — means “Grave of Gelert.” Gelert was the faithful hound tragically killed by mistake by his master, Prince Llewelyn who, at the end of

the 13th and beginning of the 14th Centuries, fought a long and courageous fight against the English under Edward I. The grave may still be seen in this village which was more recently famed for being the headquarters of the makers of the epic film *Inn of the Sixth Happiness*, starring Ingrid Bergmann. Readers who saw the film will recall the wild beauty of the mountains—EDITOR].

MAIL BAG

Bible warning

Dear Mr. Bowen,—I have had it put to me that flying saucers, UFOs etc., are delusions as are warned against in the Christian Bible (second book Thessalonians, Chapter 2, verses 10-11). How should one best answer such ideas?

The passage does seem to talk about some kind of deliberate campaign of apparent happenings with an otherworldly flavour. These have the appearance of being true happenings but aren't really.

How can one best refute the arguments raised in the Bible and convince people that UFOs really exist?

Yours etc.,

J. Wadkin,

2 Crawford Rise, Maidenhead, Berks.
November 26, 1977

For years we have asked ourselves the important question: are UFOs solid space-travelling objects carrying extraterrestrial visitors, or are they something less obvious than that? Are the majority of the things that people see no more than illusory objects induced by some means into the minds of the percipients by some external power, or UFO (itself encountered on the other rare occasions) which aims, perhaps, to control the minds of the human race? Is the UFO frame of reference — in the illusory sense — used as a decoy to divert the attention of human observers while the main purpose is conducted unobserved and unopposed?

This naturally sounds evil, but not all the UFO evidence points to evil intent. It is in the nature of things that good invariably counters evil, and this is what most of us yearn for.

These ideas have been touched on, or discussed, in a number of FSR editorial leaders, with “More Beliefs” (Vol.20, No.6) and “Alarm Bells ringing?” (Vol.23, No.3) springing readily to mind.

It would seem therefore that it may not be advisable to refute the arguments raised in the Bible; the ancients, and particularly the Prophets,

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.

may well have known a thing or two. Indeed the arguments raised in the Bible may be used to strengthen our belief that UFOs do exist, and that we should beware the intent of many of them, which could well be put into effect in a guise wherein they are the denizens of the “good” forces. (Fortifying ourselves the while with the “good” picture prominent in our minds of the translation of Elijah at the end of his time on Earth, as portrayed in the Bible.)—EDITOR

Blobs and gear

Dear Mr. Bowen,—Has anybody noticed the resemblance of the “blobs” under the Nelson Lancs craft (Vol.23, No.2 1977) to those of Adamski's scout ship photo? I personally never did think they were landing gear. Cheers for now,
Tom Powell,
50 Warren Farm, Pyrford, Surrey.

The lonely percipient

Dear Sir,—I detail the events of yesterday evening Monday, November 28, 1977, in some sort of order.

At 6 p.m. I listened to *Day by Day* on Southern TV, during which I heard a recording of the “alien voice” that cut out the news programme on Saturday — in case anyone hasn't told you as yet, the recording was accompanied by serious warnings to people not to panic, and brief references to other “scarey” items such as the Orson Welles broadcast and one I didn't know about, the “tidal wave” item that apparently put France into a panic in 1947.

At 8.15 the same evening I decided one of our “stray” cats ought to be put out so I went out into the garden and put him well out, and, as is my habit, looked up at the somewhat cloudy sky and was, to put it mildly, transfixed!

Hovering above my house, below the scudding clouds, was a large seemingly circular object, with coloured lights underneath — in the few seconds I watched it I could remember, afterwards, a red light at the “front”,

a green light on one of the other edges, and a white light underneath. Actually this latter was more yellow, than white.

The light underneath illuminated the undersurface of the object.

I just had time to pick out these features before I shot into the house and grabbed my binoculars from the door, shouted to my wife to come out quick, and was possibly ten to twenty seconds in this. When I re-appeared outside no sign of the object anywhere could be seen.

I stayed outside for ten minutes, but no good, it was gone.

I have a good field of view from where I am. No way could the object have gone completely from view in that short time, and having been used to the many aircraft that take off and land at nearby Southampton (Eastleigh) airport I can follow them for quite a while, normally.

I telephoned the local Police. Frankly I was stunned, although it wasn't my first sighting as you know, but this was so close! They hadn't had any reports.

I telephoned Eastleigh (Airport) and they were closed!

Not quite knowing what to do I telephoned the Royal Observer Corps HQ at Winchester. A very helpful gentleman complained that ‘they had no eyes’ these days to investigate the sky but put me on to Air Traffic Control at Middle Wallop, Wiltshire, the Army Air Force, who, he said, maintain a radar watch.

No one there could throw any light on the matter — it would seem that our radar defences go to sleep after eight o'clock — I hope I'm very wrong in that idea!

Then I telephoned Jenny Randles at Manchester having read about the UFOIN structure in FSR — we had a brief but interesting chat and thro' Jenny I spoke to John Ledner at Ringwood, Hants...

Yours truly,

Ernest A. Sears,
12a Westridge Road,
Portsmouth, Southampton.
November 29, 1977.

[That, I confess, is an extract from