

2. All said and done, however, this incident should be of considerable interest to our contributor in the Soviet Union, V. V. Rubtsov, who recently sent

FSR a piece entitled *Scientists observe phenomenon over South Ural, Russia* in which was described the observation of a similar manifestation.

"FLOATING" ENTITY AT REDDISH

David Rees

David, who prepared this report especially for UFOIN and FSR, was co-founder with Jenny Randles of the Northern UFO Network in 1973. He now acts as news editor for the associations monthly publication Northern UFO News. He also organises his own group in the Stockport area, known as MAPIT (Manchester Aerial Phenomena Investigation Team) and is editor of their popular newsletter 'SKYWATCH'.

Data: late August 1976 North Reddish, Stockport, Greater Manchester CE3 A level A.

MY attention was drawn to this case in February 1978 (18 months after its occurrence). It came in the wake of intense media publicity throughout the town of Stockport following the general release of the film *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* in Britain. The date of the events is significant because it pre-dates the CE3 experiences in other parts of Britain that were to strike during the period November 1976 to May 1977. As will be seen there are many parallels, and as the parents of the children involved attest to the story being told at the time we have confirmation that this was not purely based upon publicity for these other incidents.

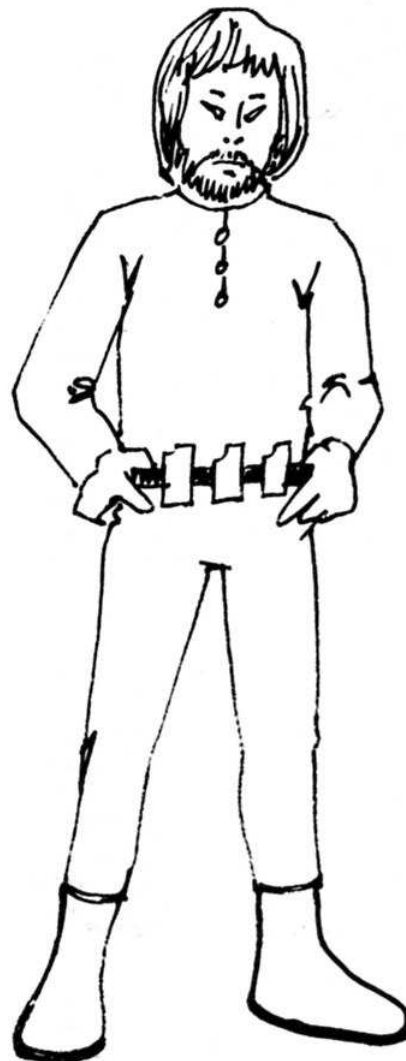
The area involved, North Reddish, is a district of Stockport which is heavily urbanised, with quite a bit of industry. It is close to the borders with the city of Manchester. The children involved were playing on an area of waste ground just off Longford Road West. To their left was an old railway line, beyond which was the club house for a golf course. To their right was housing. Before them was a new primary school and a small reservoir.¹ The OS Reference of the site is SJ 888945.

Three children were involved in the events, two of whom are twins who, at the time, were ten years old. Their parents have requested no publicity so we shall refer to them as Susan and John Harris. The other boy, whom we shall call Paul Smith, was refused permission to talk by his parents.

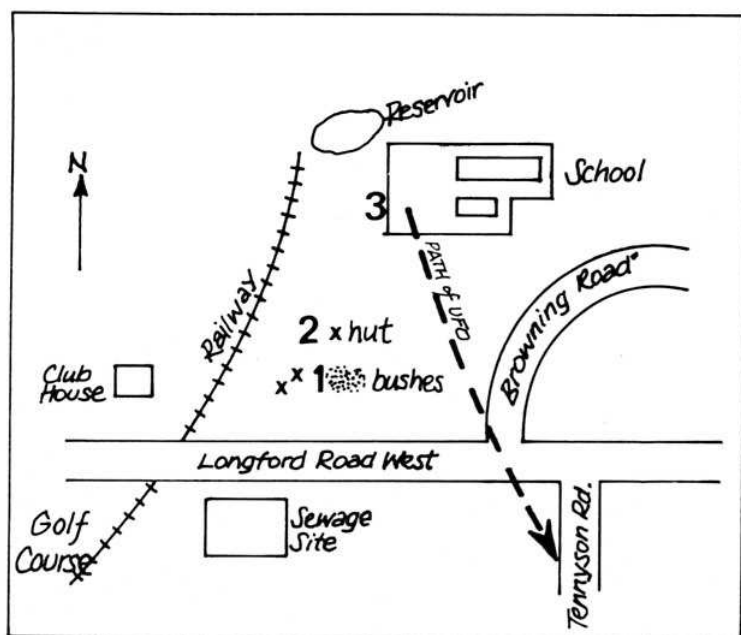
We are certain that the events took place during the last two weeks in August, when the children were on summer holiday from school. The time was between 12 noon and 1.00 p.m.

The children were playing on the waste ground, around a hut which had been constructed for them by a neighbour. Susan was tired and thirsty so she went into the hut to make herself and the boys some orange drinks. The boys remained outside playing by some bushes. Suddenly the boys saw a flash of silver pass before their eyes, and heard a crackling noise coming from the direction of the bush.

Looking in that direction they saw a strange figure emerge from within the bush. He was wearing a silverish one-piece suit, seemed human in appearance but had a short grey beard and long yellowish hair.



Our artist's impression of the "Man" based on the children's sketches. Note facial features reminiscent of the Winchester "occupnat;" also the one-piece suit and pouches in which he deposited his collection of soil samples.



Location of the sightings in the order 1, 2 and 3

The boys stood aghast because he was floating about six inches off the ground!

The figure was only visible for a few seconds, and then it just vanished. John says: "It was like a light-bulb being switched off; one minute he was there, the next he was gone." Meanwhile Susan was in the shed totally unaware of all this.

As she completed the drinks she heard a strange rustling sound. Looking up out of the window she found herself staring face to face with a strange man who was not more than a few feet away. He was behind the boys, so out of their immediate sight, for they were still looking towards the bush.

Susan did not know this man, so she stared back at him. Then he looked away from her and took small hand shovel from the belt he wore around his waist. He proceeded to stoop down and dig up small bits of soil, pouring each shovel full into a see-through kind of plastic bag. There were several of these out around his waistband. By now she was getting frightened, as she had no idea who this man was, or what he was doing — and he did look a little odd. So she yelled out instinctively to the boys. As soon as she did this the man vanished into thin air. When the boys turned round he was not to be seen. Again the sighting had been for no more than seconds.

Susan came out of the shed and told the boys what she had seen. It quickly became apparent that she was describing exactly the same man as they had seen.

In height he was similar to Susan and John's father (five feet nine inches). His complexion was very pale, and his eyes were long and narrow and slanted a bit "like a cat's" (John's description). The silvery suit was like a "track-suit" and seemed to be elasticated at the bottom. There were four or five buttons running down the middle of the chest at the top. The hands were covered with silvery gloves and

the footwear consisted of boots with thick black soles on them.

Unafraid, the children decided to look to see if they could find him again. They walked forward a few yards towards the fence surrounding the school and they say that in a few moments spotted him again. He was stooped down by the fence, seemingly collecting more samples. He seemed unaware of the children, and continued for a few moments this time — although they remained some yards away. Then he disappeared again, only this time John and Susan said that he seemed to "go down into the ground and just vanish".

The children now walked towards the spot where he had been and saw an object rising slowly from the ground, apparently within the playground of the school. It was a medium-sized object shaped like a gently curved disc with a more or less flat bottom. It was silver but had four dark holes (windows?) at the top in a row, and a couple of dark blotches on the bottom in the middle. It rose slowly and then moved horizontally heading South South East to disappear in the direction of Tennyson Road, still quite low.



The UFO, as drawn by the witnesses

The children ran home and told Susan and John's parents. They saw that they were very frightened and upset, and whilst remaining sceptical, felt sure that they had had something happen to them. Both remained nervous, and refused to go out alone at night for some while afterwards, and John refused to go out and play at all for a couple of days. Later they suffered some ridicule from friends whom they had told of their experience, so they decided that they would not talk about it in future, and were happy to remain anonymous when they talked with investigators. Mr. and Mrs. Harris say that the twins are truthful and honest, and never before or since have they claimed anything so unusual. They do not know what to think. They find it hard to accept the story, but they also find it hard to believe that the children simply made it up.

It is unfortunate that we found out about this case after so long a delay, since any possible traces had long since disappeared. MAPIT investigator Pauline Knebel visited the children on February 10, 1978, and made out a preliminary report. On the basis of this I went to conduct a full investigation and take site photographs. This was productive because it offered a possible explanation for one of the most fantastic parts of the story — the figure apparently disappearing into the ground where it stood. At this very point the fence is broken (it is not possible to know if it was broken in August



First appearance was here -- near the bushes.

1976). There is also a hollow dipping down to the fence and considerable undulating ground between there and where the children stood (a hundred or so yards away). It is quite conceivable that they mistook his ducking down into the hollow to go under the fence and so into the playground (where the UFO was seen) as the figure "going into the ground."

I wrote to the Ministry of Defence to see if they had received any relevant reports for that date, but simply received a curt, non-informative reply.² I checked with the golf course and other places in the area but found no corroborating witnesses.

The only CE 3 reports in the area that I could recall were in 1963³ when a figure in a one piece suit was seen in Castleton, Derbyshire (15 miles south), and in May 1976 when Mrs. Kent saw a silver suited figure atop a slagheap in Higher Fold, near Leigh, Greater Manchester (15 miles west)⁴.

The case does bear some similarities with other recent UK cases. Note particularly the likeness of the figure with the one seen in the Winchester landing⁵. In fact when this story broke three months after the children had told their story it made Mr. and Mrs. Harris think very seriously about what their children did see. Note also that the relationship of UFOs to schools was also apparent during that 1976-77 wave⁶.

The story contains elements of comparison with other CE 3 stories, and it seems quite believable in that context. I was very impressed with the Harris family for their sincerity and helpfulness, and I am keeping in touch should anything else occur. What fascinates me is why so many children have recently

been witness to UFO experiences⁷. Also in this instance we have a highly built-up residential area and yet there were just these children as eyewitnesses. They have apparently stuck to their story without addition or alteration since they first told it to Mr. and Mrs. Harris. Is it that the children are "tuned in" to see something -- and if so what?



Third appearance here: stance as adopted by "man"

References

1. "While typing up this report for FSR," writes Jenny Randles, "I realised that I know this area very well as my cousin lives in Tennyson Road (featured later in the report). The area is densely populated. The rail line is little used, and only for freight. Very close to the site there is a sewage release area. This appears to be another favourite haunting ground for UFOs (like schools and cemeteries). David Rees tells me that nocturnal lights were viewed over this sewage works some months after the childrens encounter."
2. See Randles, J. "The Ministry of Defence Approach" FSR Vol. 24, No. 3, p.27.
3. See Oliver, N. "Blue John," *Gemini* Jul-Sept 1972, p. 9
4. See Randles, J. "News round-up from Northern England" FSR Vol. 12, No. 3, p. 27.
5. See Harris, L. "UFO and silver suited entity near Winchester" FSR Vol. 22, No. 5, p. 3
6. See Pugh, Randall, J. "Broadhaven School Report" FSR Vol. 23, No. 1, p. 3.
7. I have written an article on this aspect entitled "Teenage Observers -- a clue?" published in the Spring 1978 issue of *Earthlink* (publication of the Essex UFO Study group of 16 Raydons Road, Dagenham, Essex. RM9 5JR)

I would be interested in corresponding with anyone who wishes to look into this whole area of child observers. Write: c/o 92 Hillcrest Road, Offerton, Stockport, Greater Manchester. SK2 5SE.



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UFO WITH HYPNOTIC EFFECTS

Christine Pickett & Ron Benson

Our contributors are investigators working with the large North Eastern group CHRYISIS which is associated with NUFON. This article was prepared from their report to UFOIN by Christine's husband, Keith, who is also a group member.

Data: May 29 1977 Darlington, Co. Durham CE 1 Psycho Level A

THIS event forms part of the great British wave of 1977. It came to light when the witness saw a TV programme about the Stonehenge movie film (see FSR Vol. 24, No. 4). The orange/yellow spherical objects in the film were, apparently, somewhat similar to the thing, or things, that she had seen. Consequently she decided to report the incident as a possible UFO.

The witness is a retired civil servant (aged 60 at time of interview in November 1978). She lives in Darlington, Co. Durham, is an active member of the local church community, and is very articulate. She often helps the old age pensioners in the locality, and, not wishing to alarm these folk unduly she has requested anonymity. Her name and address are on file at the NUFON/UFOIN HQ in Nottingham. We shall call her Vera.

It was a bank holiday, bright and clear. Being tired, Vera had gone to bed at 8.00 p.m. and fallen asleep almost immediately. At about 11.00 p.m. she was awakened by a blinding ball of light in the sky which was shining in through the curtains of her open window. She watched it for a few seconds and then it "went out." It had appeared at quite a high elevation, seemingly above the administrative buildings of the Department of Education and Science about fifty yards away. Being a bank holiday weekend this building would have been shut for a period of 3/4 days.

She lay watching for a few minutes and then three "stars" — still a yellowy colour — appeared in the same area of sky, but a little lower down. They came one after the other with a brief gap. Then suddenly all three merged into one with a blinding flash that poured light into the room. Scintillations or pulses of light appeared from either side of the object at random intervals and then all at once it disappeared again. It stayed for no longer than a minute or two.

This process continued an unremembered number of times — always several moments pause in between. Each time the yellow ball (apparently similar to the sun in colour and size) was lower in the sky, until it appeared to be almost on the DES building's roof.

Vera describes a curious sensation whilst this was happening. She says she felt the thing was alive and that it was "pulling" her. She became more transfixed each time it appeared, "rivetted" by the sight of it. Thinking back on it now she says it must have been like a kind of hypnotic trance. As the power increased she became very frightened. She felt that it

was going to drag her straight through the window.

Finally she summoned up her willpower, got out of bed, and rushed to the curtains to block out the light. Immediately the hold was released. Exhausted she went back to bed and fell asleep almost immediately. She was amazed to see the clock as she got back into bed. It showed 12.45 a.m., so almost two hours had elapsed. She says that the experience seemed to be nothing like that duration.

Obviously one can interpret this quite simply as a dream, but the witness is adamant that she was awake, and clearly recalls the various sensations involved. It may have been a hypnogogic hallucination — a very "real" waking dream on the borders between sleep and wakefulness. Even if this is so, it is an interesting example of what is often reported as a UFO experience.

Presuming it to be a real event, which we find no reason to doubt, it does compare well with other

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UFO RESEARCHER would like to have details of encounters that have had any physiological effects on people. I am a nurse, and wish to research this aspect of ufology. Eric Morris, 120 Devonport Road, Stoke, Plymouth, Devon.

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