

Walton's case could bring more similarities. If so, considering the mere few days apart, this may add more credibility to his experience.

It would, of course, be easy to create all sorts of coincidences in

compiling statistics from the UFO problem, but this type of 'contact' data is of interest and has appeared in past well-documented cases of course, where certain descriptions have coincided in the same period of time and

sometimes in very different locations.
Yours sincerely,
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World round-up

*of news and comment
about recent sightings*

England

Hertfordshire report UFO

According to a report in the *Hemel Hempstead Mail* (August 4, 1976) the crews of two police patrol cars spotted a UFO hovering over the Buncefield Oil Terminal at Hemel Hempstead in the early hours of Sunday, August 1, 1976, "just as the American spacecraft was scooping up samples of Martian soil."

The police cars were on the M1 motorway when the crew saw two lights hovering at some distance above the depot. The lights remained stationary for some considerable time, and the police radioed to headquarters to ask that a check be made by air-traffic control's radar scanner at nearby Luton airport.

A spokesman at police headquarters said: "I can confirm that our officers reported seeing these lights, and that we made a check with the airport. So far we have been unable to come up with any explanation for the lights."

Canary Islands (Spain)

Onion phobia?

According to a report in the Spanish newspaper *ABC* of June 27, 1976, from their correspondent at Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, a UFO was seen flying over a field planted with onions near Galda, a place to the northwest of the town of Gran Canaria, during the night of Tuesday, June 22, 1976. When inspected two days later, the crop of onions was found to have been annihilated, the few residual plants being burnt and showing signs of having undergone exposure to tremendous heat.

One eyewitness was a medical man named Dr. Francisco Julio Padron Leon, who has his practice in the north-eastern part of Gran Canaria Island. He reported seeing a strange clearly defined sphere, "looking like a compass," with a bluish-grey periphery, and of the approximate size of a three-storeyed house. On its lower part it had a silvery coloured platform with three panels inclined outwards. He also claimed to have observed two persons aboard the

craft. They were, he said, very tall beings dressed in vivid red clothing. They had no fingers, their arms terminating in a sort of pointed fin. On their heads they were wearing helmets resembling those of divers.

Credit: Jean Bastide, Translation by Gordon Creighton.

New Zealand

UFO and Occupants at Brookby

Here is the account of a strange encounter, retrieved from *N.Z. Space-View* No. 66, by way of the *Australian UFO Bulletin* of our old friends the Victorian UFO Research Society of PO Box 43, Moorabbin, Victoria.

It seems that at 11.30 p.m. on January 8, 1975... "Mr. Dale Norton and Miss Sheryl Ricard, returning from a flounder fishing trip, were about a mile from Brookby, Auckland, on the Alfriston Road, when Sheryl saw a round, brightly lit globe in the sky in front of them. It was lost from view behind trees at a bend in the road. As they passed the trees the object came closer, with all its lights blazing. Dale wasn't taking much notice of it, saying it was just a 'plane. The object then moved over the car and a paddock along the side of the road. By this time Dale had slowed the car to get a better view.

"Sheryl said that the object was circular, with a bright white dome in the middle and four lights about its rim, two red, two white. It also had four legs protruding from underneath it and a red light on the end of each leg. These lights were smaller than those around the rim. The dome appeared like clear plexi-glass. Inside the craft she said she could see three dark, shadowy figures moving around. The object by this time had moved in closer and was pacing the car. It was just above the power lines along the right hand side of the road. The object at this time was about 24 feet from the car.

"Sheryl panicked when Dale said he was going to stop the car for a better look, so he turned into the driveway of the first house they encountered. When he turned off the engine a faint hum could be heard. The object hovered nearby for a few

seconds, then shot off over the hills, before the householder...came out to see who it was. The object appeared to be the size of an average car."

The investigator, who interviewed the witnesses separately, points out how there were only minor differences in their accounts, and that these were to be expected as Dale was busy driving as well as observing, while Sheryl had virtually a ringside seat. The account concludes:

"Dale's mother, a registered nurse, states that Sheryl arrived home in a state of visible shock and had tranquillisers administered to calm her. The weather conditions were fine, a clear night with no wind."

The sighting area is in terrain consisting of a shallow valley with low hills around it. The area is one of large, mainly cleared, grazing paddocks.

Spain

Entity with a funny walk

The Madrid newspaper *ABC* for July 18, 1976, carries a report from its correspondent at Santander on the northern coast of Spain.

"At a small place called Escalante two people claimed to have seen 'a gigantic extraterrestrial, over three metres tall' a few days previously.

"The alleged occurrence was at 5.30 a.m. when the witnesses, a housewife and mother, Margarita Cagigas, aged 28, and a neighbour, Sr. Miguel Angel Ruiz Samperio, were on their way to work at a nearby place called Treto.

"They claimed to have seen the entity only from behind and consequently could give no description of features, hands, etc. They said however that the giant was wearing brightly shining dark brown clothing and was wearing on his head what looked like a silvery disc. Margarita Cagigas said he was a real monstrosity.

"The creature - if it had seen them - paid no attention to them, they said, but continued on its way. Margarita Cagigas added that she had the impression that its feet did not touch the ground as it moved along, but that 'it was flying, as a bird does.'