

More unusual "flying Objects" over Pound Hill

Perhaps the most interesting sighting occurred on the morning of Thursday, August 17, 1978. Miss M, a 29 year-old airport receptionist from Burgess Hill, was travelling, with a workmate who is similarly employed, towards Gatwick Airport to start their shift. It was 5.15 a.m. on a cool, dry morning with scattered cloud. It was still dark.

To the south of Crawley they joined the M23 motorway which links the 7 miles to the airport. Almost immediately on joining M-way they noticed to the North East, at an elevation of about 30°, two very clear letters in the sky. These were a clearly outlined 'O' and a 'V'. The 'O' had only a small centre hole. They were coloured white, and were the brightness of car headlights. Each object seemed to be about the size of a golf ball at arm's length. The objects appeared to be over the Pound Hill area, scene of the initial Gatwick encounter.

Partly because they were on a motorway, where

stopping is illegal, and partly because they were late for work, they drove on. They do not recall seeing any other traffic on the motorway. When they passed through Tilgate Forest the objects were temporarily obscured, but they were seen again, still in the same position, as the women turned off the motorway, westwards towards the airport.

There was a wind of 5 knots from bearing 260° and one-eighth cloud at 1000 feet. At no time did they see the objects pass in front of, or behind cloud. They were in view, off and on, for seven minutes.

While the two women do not realise it, and it may of course be pure coincidence, the letters O V make an intriguing and unusual formation. It is, of course, the first two letters of O V N I – the term used in many languages for U.F.O. The initials O V stand for "Objets Volantes" – or Flying Objects.

These were not the only sightings in the flap. Many odd lights were reported. Something quite unusual was going on in the vicinity of Gatwick Airport during those two weeks in August.

TWO ENTITY REPORTS FROM ITALY

Verga Maurizio

THE first encounter involved a farmer who wishes to remain anonymous. He resides in the country around Veghenza (Ferrara) in Northern Italy. The incident took place about 1.00 p.m. on the afternoon of August 14, 1951.

The farmer saw an object come down to the ground and land in some open ground adjacent to the town's cemetery. As it was coming down it looked rather like the planet Saturn, but tentatively he approached to within 150 feet of the object and obtained a clear view of it on the ground.

It was about 20 feet in diameter and it had the colour of a white, aluminium-like metal. It looked like a double saucer placed rim to rim, with a big dome on top. On this dome there were large "ailerons." The centre of these seemed to remain fixed while the outer surfaces rotated, but this was only noted when the object took off.

The farmer says the craft sat on telescopic supports, and had a set of stairs at each side that came down from the middle of the object to the ground. A row of portholes was visible on the side, seemingly set in a ring around the rim. These were dull blue.

While standing transfixed and staring stupefied at this sight the farmer was approached by six strange beings. They seemed to be looking around at the cemetery with great curiosity and, when they saw him, they came towards him laughing. Five were clean shaven but one had a short red beard. He made a gesture towards the farmer with his hand, which was interpreted as a greeting. They seemed to com-

About this report, Jenny Randles writes:

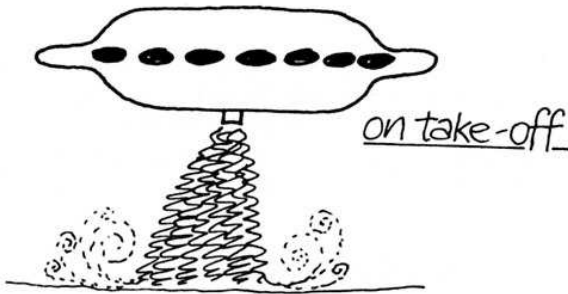
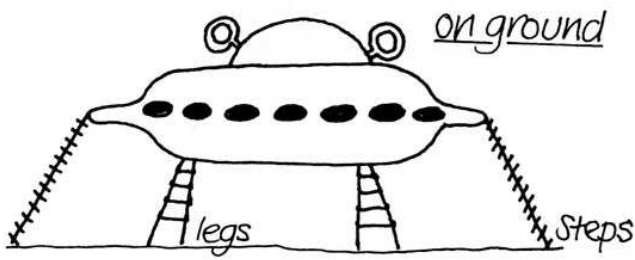
"I am indebted to Signor Maurizio for supplying us with details of these two fascinating cases – one recent, one from the distant past. Sig. Maurizio is an investigator for the Italian UFO Centre 'Centro Ufologico Nazionale' and was helped in the 1951 case by investigator, Sig. Z. Fabrizie. The investigation notes were kindly supplied in English and although there are a few phrases that are not quite clear I believe I have pieced them together in the manner in which they were intended."
– EDITOR

municate with one another by a system of similar hand signs.

The beings were about four feet tall, or just under, and were dressed in one piece shiny overalls of a white colour. They wore white ankle boots which rose up to the knees. On the back they carried several cylinders or "oxygen bottles" that were strapped on, and attached by tubes under the chin. Around the hips were belts about 8 inches in diameter. These had various "lenses" of differing colours slipped into them.

The faces of the beings were a whitish colour and looked rather like those of monkeys. The eyes were round, and coloured azure blue. The arms appeared to be longer than those of a human, stretching down to below the knees.

Each being was carrying a "weapon" that looked something like a "tommy-gun." They had round magazines and, at one point, one was raised and pointed at the witness. There was a flash which was



dazzling but seemingly had no effect on the man.

On their heads, says the farmer, the entities wore round transparent helmets that had three antennae sticking out. Two came from the sides and one from the top central part of the helmet.

After the "shot" was fired the farmer, recovering from the shocked surprise, noted that the entities had moved back towards their craft and mounted the steps either side, three by three. The red bearded creature was the last to climb into the object.

As soon as they were all inside, the protruberances started to retract smoothly, and then there was a brief, loud noise, something like that of a vacuum cleaner. A little nozzle then appeared on the central underside and spouted flame of a red/green colour (rather like kerosene burning) at which the object started to rise slowly.

It reached a certain height and then stopped. A few seconds pause, then it tilted to the side and streaked away at an incredible speed in the direction of Venice. An area of burnt soil about 25 feet in diameter was left where it had stood.

On the slopes of Mount Etna

Our second encounter story was related by *La Sicilia* for July 6, 1978, and concerns an incident alleged to have taken place at about 10.30 p.m. on the night of July 4, 1978. There were four witnesses, Franco Padellero (aged 27) and Attilio Di Salvatore (aged 30), both sergeants in the Italian Air Force, Maurizio Esposito (aged 21) an Italian naval officer, and Signora Antonina Di Pietro, who was a friend of the latter. They were all off duty, taking a vacation by Mount Sona on the slopes of the great volcano, Etna, on the island of Sicily.

The first thing they noticed was a triangle of bright red lights in the sky. These three lights seemed to pulsate, growing larger then smaller. Suddenly one of them detached itself and streaked down towards the group. It went out of sight, behind the slope, about 1000 feet away.

Deciding to investigate, the group got into Di Salvatore's car and drove along towards the place where the object had seemed to land. By the side of the road there was a dip and as they rounded a bend they saw a dazzle of bright light coming from the dip. Stopping the car they got out and went over to the edge to look. Sitting by a rocky precipice below them was a classically shaped flying saucer, about 40 ft. across.

The object had a dome on top that was a brilliant yellow in colour. The rest of it was of a reddish hue, with red and blue lights on top. By the side of the craft on the precipice there were five or six beings. These were very tall, and wore black overall-like suits that fitted very tightly. Their features were human and the four witnesses said they looked very beautiful. The hair was a blond colour. Two of the beings began to climb the slopes of the precipice towards the witnesses, who by now are rooted to the spot, immobilised by a strange force. The entities were smiling at them and came to within about 15 feet, before one nodded his head towards the saucer and they started to climb down again.

The object had now started to glow with myriad tiny lights of many colours but the yellow, red and blue still predominated. Suddenly a car drove past and all the lights on the object went out. As soon as the car had gone they brightened again.

Soon after this the hold on the witnesses was released suddenly. They wasted no time in scrambling back to their car and driving to the hotel as fast as possible. They did not see the UFO depart.

For some time afterwards all four felt drained of all energy.

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A CLASSIC REPEATER WITNESS

Jenny Randles

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ROY WILKINSON of Brightlingsea, Essex, submitted a most intriguing set of data to the *Daily Express* UFO Bureau. Since he lived in a part of the country not well covered by investigators and since our Essex members were in any event already more than busy, I decided to find out more myself.

Mr. Wilkinson has been very helpful, answering all my questions fully, and also supplying voluminous notes taken at the time, site drawings and sketches of the objects seen.

It might seem odd that Mr. Wilkinson should do this. However, he has had an interest in the paranormal since childhood, when he had several experiences that I shall refer to later. These triggered his interest in psychic phenomena, although he has always maintained an open-minded and level-headed approach to such matters. He had, nevertheless, given almost no thought to UFOs until his first sighting in 1971. Following this he decided to keep a record of anything that occurred, and has since come to view the two as wholly related.

His current viewpoint may be best summarised by himself:

"I think that when studying UFO phenomena one must look into all phenomena, i.e. ancient, modern, myth and religion etc. All appear to be pieces of a giant jigsaw puzzle, but there appears to be one piece missing. I often wonder if that final piece is waiting just around the corner, or if somebody has found it and does not realise it... I find it difficult to establish fact from fiction, with such a vast amount of phenomena around us it is difficult to say what is normal... I find it very hard to believe that over all the thousands of years during which UFOs have been recorded that superior people from another world, or worlds, have not made contact with man. It is a very long way to come from outer space just to observe earth and not make contact... If they were from another dimension they could have been here all the time."

At the foot of Hythe Hill, Colchester

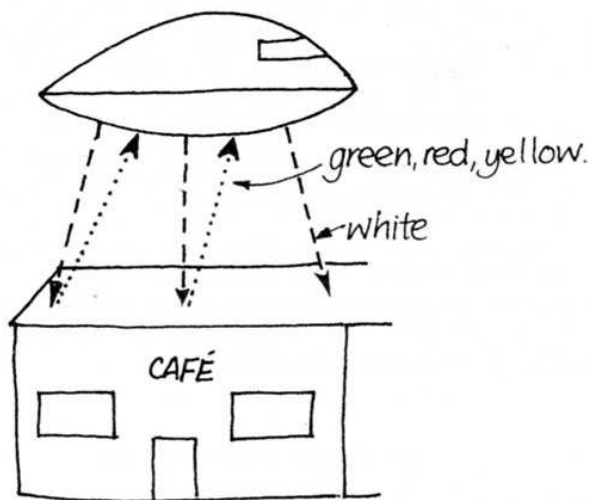
Roy's first UFO encounter took place on Wednesday, November 10, 1971 (note the recurrence of Wednesdays in the reports that follow). It was a clear night with many stars.

At about 8.25 p.m. he was walking up Hythe Hill in Colchester, Essex close to the factory where he works. He became aware of an object hovering to his right over the top of a café at the bottom of the

hill. He stopped in the doorway of a betting shop and looked down towards the café. He had a very clear view.

At first all that could be seen was a brilliant white ball, but then it changed to green, red, yellow and then back to white. When it shone the other colours, the shape of the object was clearly seen.

It was shaped like a rounded dome, with the top surface slightly more curved than the bottom. The dark surface of the object was broken only by a "window" in the front. This was only visible when the red and yellow lights were in evidence. It was narrow and rectangular, seemingly about four feet by two feet, although it appeared to be wrapped around the front of the object so that only part of it was in view. It gave off a yellowish, candle-like light that was milkish or opaque. It was impossible to see inside.



November 10, 1971, as sketched by Roy Wilkinson

Roy was looking East South East towards this strange object. It appeared to be hovering about 30-40 feet above the café rooftop, and was tilted away slightly to reveal a little of the smooth underside. The white light shone down brightly on to the rooftop, but the other colours did not. They seemed to be reflected upwards to the craft, illuminating it.

As he gazed on in astonishment, the colour change occurred five times, going white — green — red — yellow — white. In all this took about five minutes, he believes. Then suddenly it was gone, just as quickly as it had seemed to appear.

Judging by the size of the café roof, he would