

harrowing experiences of UFO witnesses, plays a valuable albeit indirect part in encouraging thousands of witnesses to talk freely about their own UFO experiences. Even before Steven Spielberg's masterpiece was released in Britain, its approach had commended itself to the newspapers concerned, and they followed the line in their own special ways — and no doubt were well aware of the possible effect on their circulation figures. And now we have heard it admitted in the office of the *Daily Express* that the response has been an "eye-opener" for them.

Naturally this all goes to confirm a fact already crystallising for us as a result of the splendid success of the UFO Investigators Network (UFOIN), something we have believed for a very long while, and that is that Britain could well have experienced UFO

events and waves with at least as great a frequency as anywhere else in the world. No longer will we be seen as one of the backwaters of the world in terms of incidence of UFO reports, but rather as a country where the bulk of the witnesses have been successfully repressed by an innate fear of ridicule.

So whatever one thinks of the effect of "CEIIK," it certainly appears to have bestowed sizeable blessings on ufology, if only by heightening interest and increasing public awareness of the few who for so long have been voices crying in the wilderness.

Again, let us not forget that ufology survived the Condon attempted kiss of death; as long as it maintains its guard it should be able to survive, and even benefit from, the CEIIK embrace. As John Keel says: things will never be the same again.

REMARKABLE ENCOUNTER AT STONEHENGE

Peter Warrington

IN October 1977 two families from Cheshire made the journey to Salisbury Plain in search of a few days' holiday and relaxation. What they found was a graphic and disturbing view of the UFO phenomenon. The two families were good friends, a bond cemented by the fact they were to become the witnesses to one of the most significant UFO events in Britain for many years. In qualification of that I can state that the case includes electro-magnetic effects on a portable television and two children's compasses, possible physiological effect in the form of a body rash on one witness, the sighting of a slug-like object the size of a cow which disappeared suddenly, sightings of golden spheres on three consecutive evenings and more than three minutes of colour film to support the sightings of the spherical objects.

Full details began to come to light while I was researching material for a television programme by the Granada TV, which is based in Manchester. Although the case was known for a while beforehand its true value was not realised by the local group in the area concerned. The first opportunity to view the film was taken quickly and a meeting was arranged between three of the witnesses, a researcher from Granada TV, Miss Jenny Randles and myself.

The witnesses are two families, parents and two children, making six people in all. (The name and addresses of all are withheld for the present.) The party had travelled to Stonehenge with the intention of "getting away from it all," to show the children Stonehenge, and to enable one of the fathers to make a short amateur film about the monument and its mystique. They pitched camp close to Stonehenge on some common land, using a caravan type vehicle and a single tent.

At dusk on the second day, October 17, 1977, the group were busy when someone noticed that the

Our contributor, Chairman of Manchester UFO Research Association and a founder member of UFOIN, prepared this preliminary report for *Flying Saucer Review* on March 22, 1978. The incident, reported to, and due for investigation by UFOIN, was also reported to the *Daily Express* "UFO Bureau."
—EDITOR

portable television had "gone dead," and nobody could understand this as the battery had been fully charged specially for the holiday. The television set showed no signs of functioning. Minutes later they were to see the first of many golden spherical objects. The object meandered about in a closely defined area of sky centred about half a mile away from the camp site. Sometimes just a single object, at other times three or four (even seven on one or two occasions). The objects sometimes sped into the area from the horizon and sometimes simply appeared out of thin air. They likewise sped off to the horizon, climbed vertically into the sky high above, or else disappeared by dissolving out of view. It is fortuitous that the amateur cameraman was able to capture some of the objects on film. After all the objects had gone from view the TV set apparently returned to normal.

The third evening provided a similar series of events, interference with the television, sightings of similar objects, and filming. Again on the fourth evening similar events. The number and motion of the objects is not yet clear in respect of how many and on which evenings; these details will be clarified during the investigation proper.

The factors of potential interest are that six witnesses saw and, using two different film stocks, filmed UFOs on three consecutive evenings. There

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HUMANOID ENCOUNTER AT RAINFORD

Jenny Randles

This UFOIN report has been prepared following considerable work by Stephen Balon, an investigator for the long-standing Lancashire group DIGAP. The assistance of Bill Skellon, also of DIGAP, and Tony Pace, of BUFORA, is gratefully acknowledged in parts of the investigation. Stephen Balon has now joined the UFOIN team.

THIS incident involves the encounter of four young men with a strange humanoid figure on an isolated road near Rainford, Merseyside. Although there was no actual UFO sighting at the time, the case is of special interest for several reasons.

First, the entity described corresponds closely with several seen in direct association with the UFO phenomenon. Secondly, reports were received of UFO activity in the immediate area just 46 hours previous to the encounter and, thirdly, the Merseyside/South Lancashire/North Cheshire region became the focus for an important "flap" immediately following this incident.

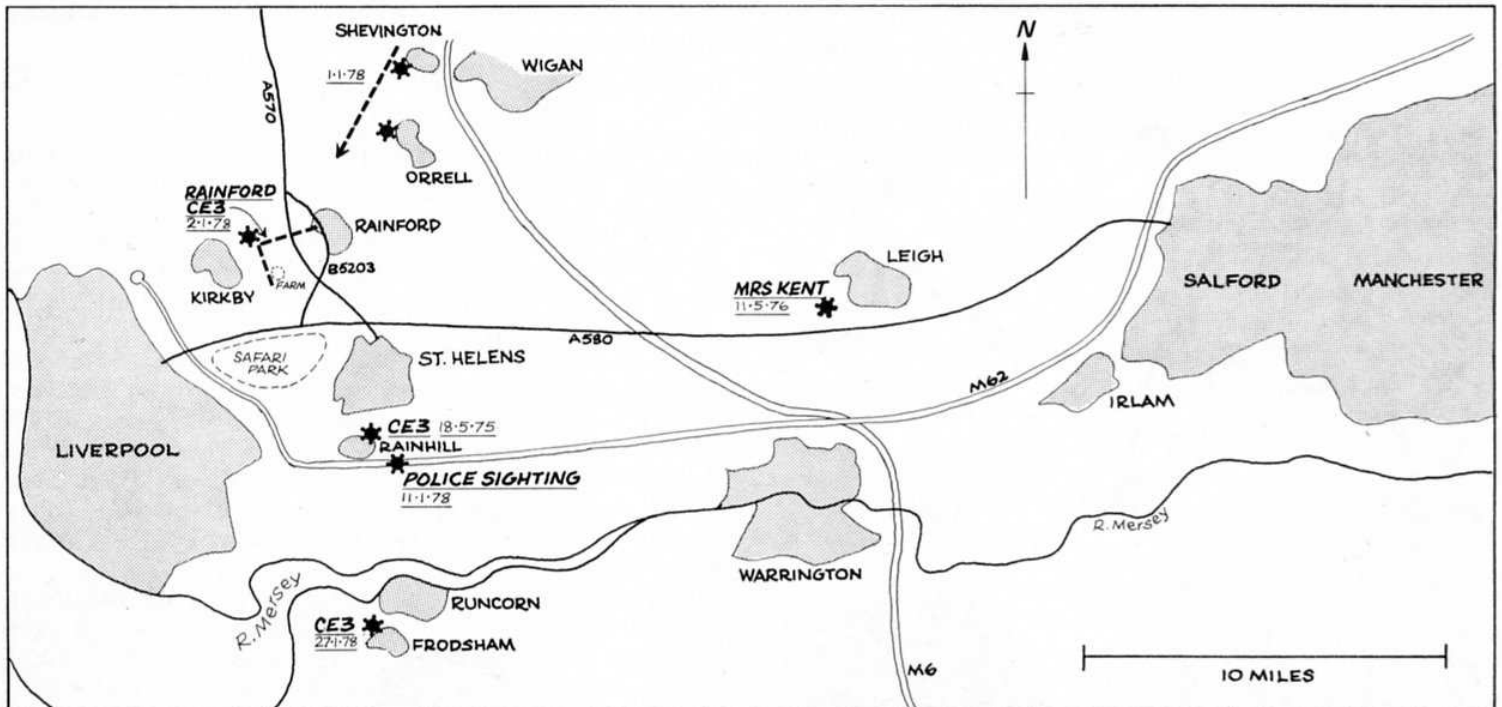
The locality

The events took place on an old coach road in Merseyside, midway between the villages of Rain-

ford and Kirkby (just a few miles north east of the city of Liverpool). In fact the exact location is precisely on the borders of the three counties: Merseyside, Greater Manchester and Lancashire.

The area is desolate, with few signs of human habitation save one or two farms. It is mostly open mossland, known by several names including Kirkby Moss. It is situated two and a half miles north west of the town of St. Helens, and the road itself runs almost due north to south into the estates of the Knowsley Safari Park, which is famous for its reservation of wild animals.

The coach road is little used and is quite narrow, being lined by trees along its perfectly straight route. There are muddy ditches to the sides, and then grass and scrubland, and there are no lights of any type along its course.



NORTHERN UFO NETWORK — ANNUAL CONFERENCE

To be held in Scunthorpe, South Humberside, on June 24th, 1978. The theme will be "CLOSE ENCOUNTERS" with an accent on the 'new' ufology. Admission (subject to revision) 50p

Details from: NIGEL WATSON, 1 Angerstein Road, Scunthorpe, South Humberside, DN17 2LZ