

UFO 'MISSILE' SCARE

Trevor Whitaker

Trevor is one of Britain's best known UFO investigators, having organised the BUFORA branch in West Yorkshire for many years and hosted UFO meetings and conferences. He has also been closely involved in the development of the Northern UFO Network since its inception. His work as an ophthalmic optician, and other spare time duties, have caused him to reduce his UFO workload of late, but fortunately he is now back in business, as this fascinating UFOIN report indicates.

Category: May 17 1977 Crigglestone, West Yorkshire CE1 Physio Level A

SOCIAL WORKER Mrs. June Cadman (aged 31 at the time of occurrence) has special qualifications in the field of sign language for the deaf. This often means, of course, that she keeps irregular hours.

At approximately 3.00 a.m. on the morning of Tuesday, May 17, 1977, she was returning to her farmhouse home near Emley, West Yorkshire. Her route took her southwards along the M1 motorway, probably Britain's most frequently used roadway. However, at such a time traffic was inevitably light.

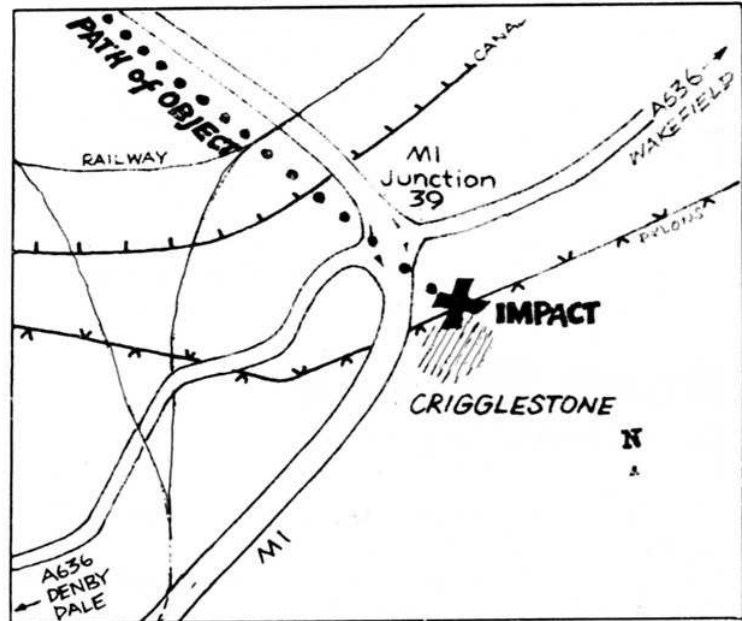
Having moved out of Leeds metropolitan area she passed the towns of Dewsbury to the west, and Wakefield to the east, approaching junction 39 where she would turn off near the village of Crigglestone to travel along the A636 for the final three or four miles towards home.

When approximately two miles from the junction she noticed that a star was shining particularly brightly on this clear and pleasant night. Watching closer, however, she realised that it was not a star and that it was in fact following the car. It was first seen in the North West, behind her, but as she came towards the turn off (after what must have been about 2/3 minutes) it seemed to pass directly over her, descending and growing much brighter as it did so.

By now she was obviously worried. The thing had become the size of a two pence piece held at arm's length. The glow grew to a blinding intensity and it dropped towards her very fast. She was now on the slip road, quite alone and intensely afraid that this falling object was going to hit her car. She slowed down as the dazzling glow increased. The white ball now changed shape and appeared like an oblong with a tapered top portion. She could see it changing shape constantly as the brilliance increased yet further, and the whole roadway became lit up.

Then the object struck the grass just yards from her by the roadside. She could hear it thud as it bounced once and then totally disintegrated. The glow disappeared. This was the only sound she heard.

Naturally very frightened she stopped the car and turned off the engine. Her eyes were still blinded by the light and she could not see very well at all. She also felt a strange mild tingling sensation, not unlike a gentle burning, that was most noticeable on her lips but was also felt on her face and her arms.¹



Within a few seconds she had recovered.

Glancing upwards at the source of this terrifying missile she saw through slowly improving eyesight a dark rectangular shape. It had a mass of red and yellow lights on it, at least half a dozen she feels. Owing to the lingering afterimage of the first object she could not see this object as clearly as she might have done, but she is positive it was not an aircraft. She could tell that it was very large, in fact she described it as "massive." Then in a flash it was gone. It disappeared "like a rocket" straight upwards into the clear night sky.

Mrs. Cadman sat for several minutes regaining her composure after this ordeal. Presently she was calm enough to continue home.

Investigators for the Yorkshire branch of BUFORA were on the scene within 24 hours. Our initial reaction on hearing the basis of the story was that Mrs. Cadman had either seen falling space debris or a flare of some kind. However, this did not obviously explain the long duration (if the two objects — i.e. the initial light and the missile — were one and the same thing). Careful surveys of all the grass and open ground in the vicinity of the motorway exit were made both with and without the

witness being present. No traces whatsoever were discovered.

People in the area were also alerted to the problem, but nobody came forward with an explanation or any evidence. At 11.45 p.m. one night we went to the scene in response to a call from someone who said they had found evidence we were looking for, but this turned out to be a pile of rubbish deposited by the roadside.

In the immediate area of the encounter are a railway junction, a line of pylons and a canal with a yacht club. However, the police had no records of anything that might have been relevant to this sighting, nor had they had any other reports of the phenomenon.

There was more success, however, when the *Huddersfield Examiner* carried the story for us on the evening of 19th. In it I appealed for more witnesses to come forward, and a Mr. Jack Roberts from Huddersfield did say that he saw the bright white light from his bedroom, but only for a few seconds as it passed across. It moved north west to south east and was too bright and low to be an aircraft or a satellite. This was the only form of confirmation that we received.

The nearest airport is Yeadon (Leeds/Bradford). They had no flights after 10.00 p.m. that night

and also were not operational with their radar coverage at that particular time. Consequently, we have been unable to identify any known cause for this sighting.²

NOTES by Jenny Randles

1. Perhaps, with the lips being moist, this indicates the presence of an electric field of some kind. Saliva is known to enhance the conductivity of the skin.
2. It should be remembered that May 1977 was the central point of Britain's major wave. In fact one only has to look at FSR Vol. 23, Nos 2, 3, 4 and 5 to see five examples of unexplained close encounters that occurred during that period (spanning the whole spectrum from solid light to CE3). There are many others that will no doubt filter into FSR over the next year or two. In fact NUFON has on file 30 reports for the period May 14-30 (it was the third and fourth weeks that were particularly active). This compares to a normal *monthly* average from their north and midlands region of about 12.

In addition one cannot help but speculate why such seemingly pointless and frightening escapades as this should be perpetrated. One can almost envisage someone "up there" in that rectangular UFO projecting a missile at poor Mrs. Cadman just to see how she would react to a "near miss." I am not suggesting that some extraterrestrial, for this term's seminar project, has to write a report on "The psychological reactions of the earthling" but it's a thought!

Book Review

OUR UFO VISITORS

by John Magor published by Hancock House Publishers Ltd., 3215 Island View Road, Saanichton, B.C. VOS 1M0, Canada, and 12008 1st Avenue South, Seattle, WA. 98168. USA.

Professional and successful journalist, Mr. Magor, whose home is on Vancouver Island, gives special attention to British Columbia and part of Alberta; however, he mentions other areas where events have led to active groups being formed, such as Edmonton, where "John Musgrave, while contributing editor to *Canadian UFO Report*, was given a Canada Council grant to make a study of the country's UFO history, the first person ever to receive such an award." Again, Ontario is the home of the first UFO publisher in Canada, Gene Duplantier of Willowdale, who started *Saucers, Space and Science* in 1957; also, of Henry McKay of Agincourt, who conducts night-school courses on our subject.

An extraordinary experience was that of Miss Bernice Niblett, who spent the winter of 1967/8 alone in a cabin on Keats Island at the mouth of Howe Sound, opposite Vancouver Island, in "a nest

of UFOs." Twice she was visited by two men who were helpful, but didn't fit the role of Hydro men they claimed to be. Indian legends and rock drawings, for example at Christina Lake, show continuity of the phenomenon in areas such as the Rocky Mountain Trench, and suggest "space visitors" may not be strangers to the district. A chapter on "Matching Cases" little reduces the variety of experiences, of which the abundance may mean that extraterrestrial does not necessarily imply being interplanetary. Strange that Earth scientists envisage establishing inhabited space stations, yet object to visitors from space because other solar systems are light-years away, whereas visitors may live in vast mobile homes of their own making, to which our planet is a pleasant camping ground.

However, as Mr. Magor sensibly concludes: "The function of ufology, at this early stage is not to diagnose and explain but to observe and describe. Since we know so little about our visitors, any 'expert' who thinks otherwise is in for trouble." Verb. Sap.

JOHN M. LADE

SEVEN SCARED WITNESSES AND A HUMANOID (Continued from page 19)

This, however, isn't the place to discuss this question. The Sturmo case is only one out of some 35 known humanoid cases in Italy between 1947 and 1978. And more interesting cases involving human-

oids and UFOs have been reported since August 1977; I trust they will be published in this *Review* — especially those of 1978 — in the near future.

EXPANDING UFO OVER ANGLESEY

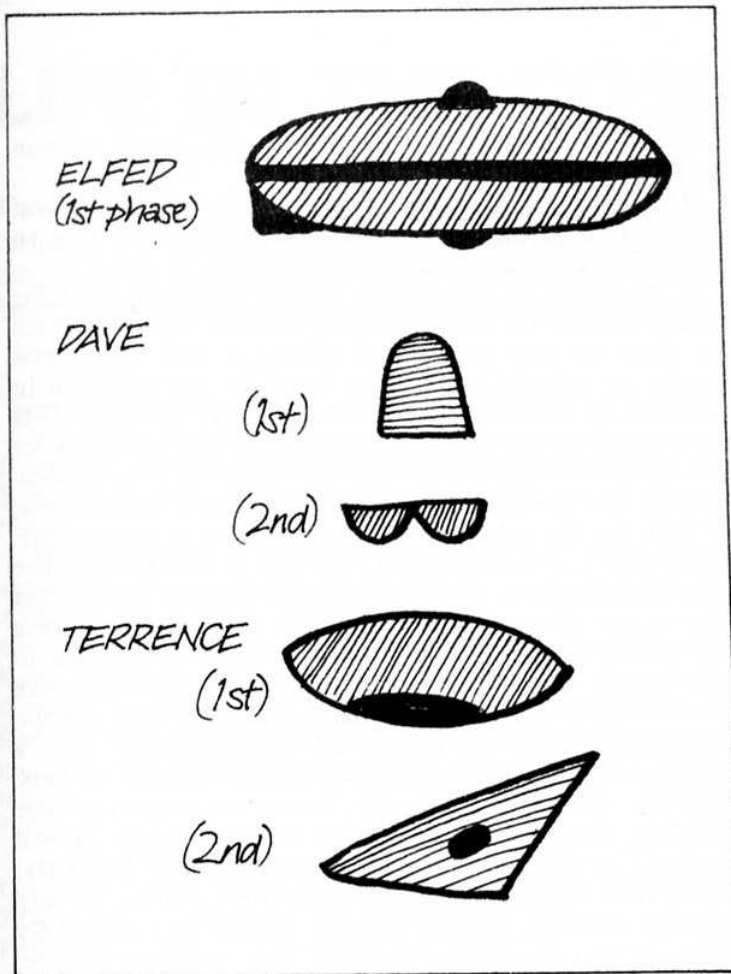
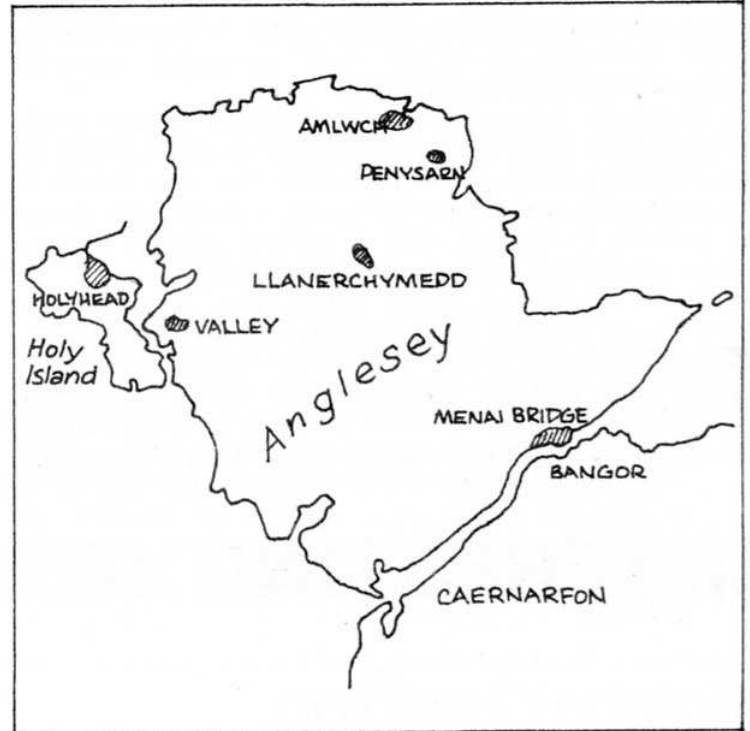
Kevin Babbs

Our contributor is a police officer in North Wales where he investigates for UFOIN.
Data relating: October 8 1978 Penysarn, Anglesey, Gwynedd MED Level A

ON October 8, 1978, we received a report from the island of Anglesey, North Wales, regarding an incident which took place at the village of Penysarn, which is some 3 to 4 miles N.W. of Llanerchymedd, where some earlier incidents had been reported.

The sighting began when 18-year-old Elfed Williams was driving his car near the village along the B5025 from Amwlch. The time was about 10.40 p.m. and he had just crossed over the bridge by the by-pass when an orange light to his left attracted his attention. It was high up and seemed to pass directly over the car. In a few moments it was seen to his right (South West) and now appeared stationary.

Because of this he decided to call at the house of a friend, Wyn Hughes, who lived in the village. Wyn was with two friends, Terrence Kellaher and David Jones, and all three were also aged 18. They all went outside when they saw the excited and frightened state of Elfed, but there was nothing to be seen. Believing that he was simply having a joke, Terry and



Wyn went back inside. Dave stayed with Elfed, and they wandered around the back of the house to see if they could see anything there. After a few minutes Elfed spotted the light again. He claimed that it just materialised in the sky. As he and Dave watched, it grew in size until it was equivalent to a matchbox held at arm's length.* However, it remained stationary. They called in to urge their two friends to come out, and all four stood on a wall at the front of the house to watch the object. After a moment Wyn rushed into the home of his next door neighbour without knocking. Owen Pritchard (aged 43) saw the obvious panic of the young man and went out with him right away. His wife Anne got some binoculars and went out into the back garden to watch.

The object was in the South East, more or less in the direction of Llanerchymedd. It seemed to be very low (estimated 200 feet) and the distance was variously estimated by the six witnesses as between half a mile and a mile. At no time did it make any sound. Individual views of the object were slightly different, as will be seen.

Elfed describes it: "It looked like two saucers joined at the rims by a black band. It appeared to move slowly towards us, and as it did so it appeared to tilt slightly to our right. As it did that it started to change shape. It took on the form of a triangle with its point uppermost and two square protrusions near