

Artist's impression of the climax of a bizarre incident reported from Dyfed, West Wales

STACK ROCKS HUMANOIDS

See page 7



FLYING
SAUCER
REVIEW

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An international journal devoted to the study of Unidentified Flying Objects

Vol. 23, No. 6
(published April 1978)

THE CEIIIK EFFECT

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WE have heard it suggested that the film *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* will prove to be only a mixed blessing as far as serious UFO research is concerned; that, in spite of the traumas experienced by some of the witnesses in the story, the overall picture conjured up is one of sweetness and light. Now that we have seen the movie, there is little doubt that it is a projection, loud, vigorous and exaggerated, of much of the UFO phenomenon; that the story line is one of the final tracking down of the objects culminating in contact; that the technical wizardry and special effects — which are stupendous — have produced something which is science fictional rather than ufological, with seemingly benevolent entities.

However, any speculation that the film will encourage euphoria and cultism could be premature, and we have good reason to believe that the *real* reports will be little changed in character. The only difference could be one of *quantity*.

As many readers will recall, the *Daily Express* recently serialised the story of *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* and parallel to that ran a series of articles on the subject. Furthermore, at the drop of a hat they opened a UFO Bureau where readers' reports would be submitted to "experts." As FSR had collaborated with feature writer Geoffrey Levy in the provision of source material we felt obliged to ask him who were their experts. This, it was admitted, was a "good question." We also suggested that we should be accorded some recognition for the assistance given and this was forthcoming on February 27, 1978, in an oblique sort of way when it was announced that the *Daily Express* readers' reports that had been submitted would be shared for investigation and evaluation by *Flying Saucer Review* "...the doyen of UFO magazines," and BUFORA.

We quickly learned that people react well when they find that UFO reports can be treated seriously, and the response to the *Daily Express* UFO Bureau idea would appear to support the contention that when, heretofore, UFO witnesses have been publicly ridiculed there have been an even greater number who, seeing this, have maintained silence about their experiences. The number of people who submitted reports had topped the 6000 mark by February 27, 1978.

The content and quality of this mass of reports has not been sampled at the time of writing this leader, but if Miss Jenny Randles' experience with that other UFO-conscious national newspaper, *The Sun*, is a reliable guide, then we are likely to be staggered by what we find. At the close of *The Sun's* series of articles by Miss Sue Freeman — who had interviewed FSR's editor and borrowed material, and had also interviewed Jenny Randles — the address of NUFON (which is also that of UFOIN) was published. Miss Randles received hundreds of letters, the bulk of them sober and serious. At least 30% of these reported encounters have a high rating of strangeness. Several of them are CEIIIK cases, and all of this bodes well for the content of *Flying Saucer Review* for many months to come.

In this way the big movie *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* (CEIIIK), because it has been conceived in a manner sympathetic to the sometimes

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

(Continued on page 12)

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.

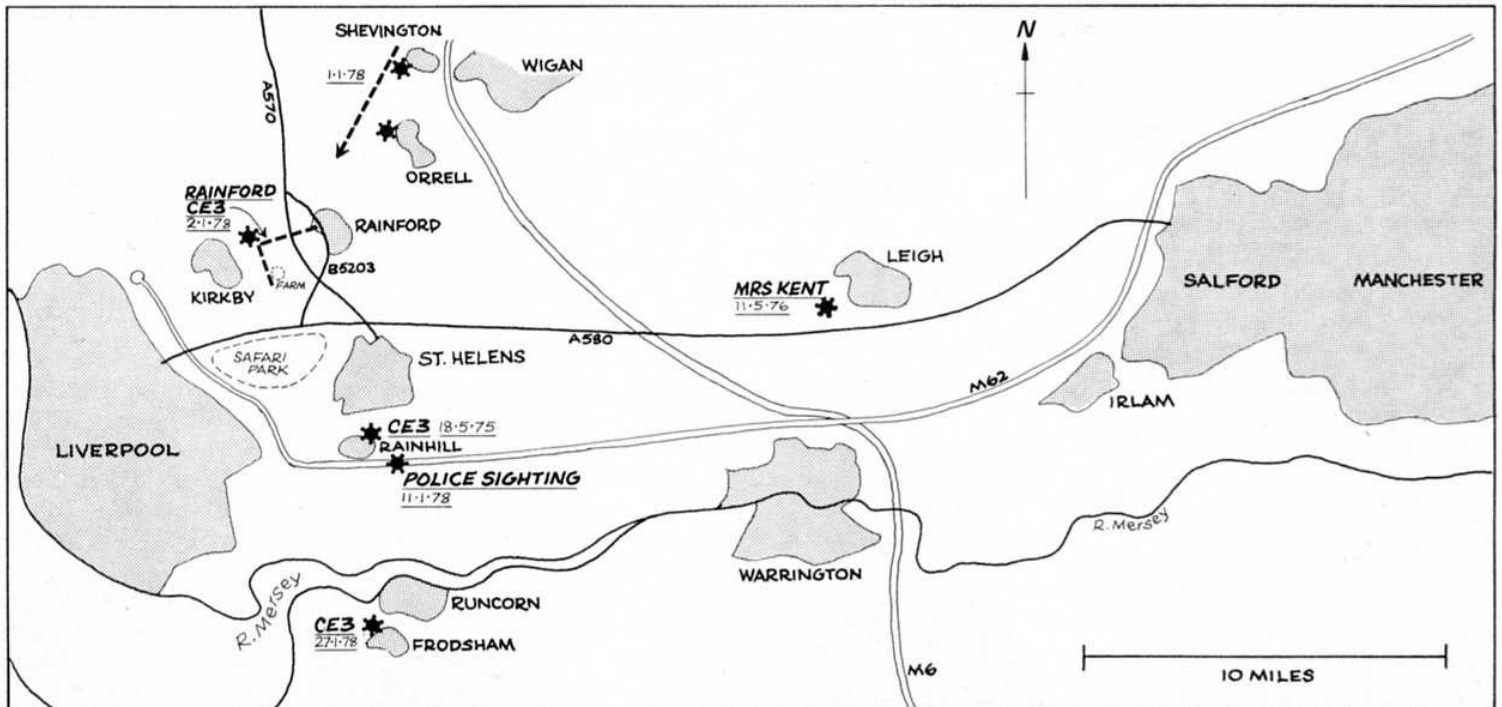
The locality

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

The incident

Four young men in their early twenties had been out for the evening of January 2, 1978, and were returning from the direction of Rainford to the Liverpool area where they live. The men were Geoff Hales (who was driving), Stephen Simpson, Glynn Mathews and Keith Thomas. They had stopped on the way home for a drink, but this was by no means enough to have impaired their judgement, and in fact the police were able to confirm that the men were not in any way intoxicated.

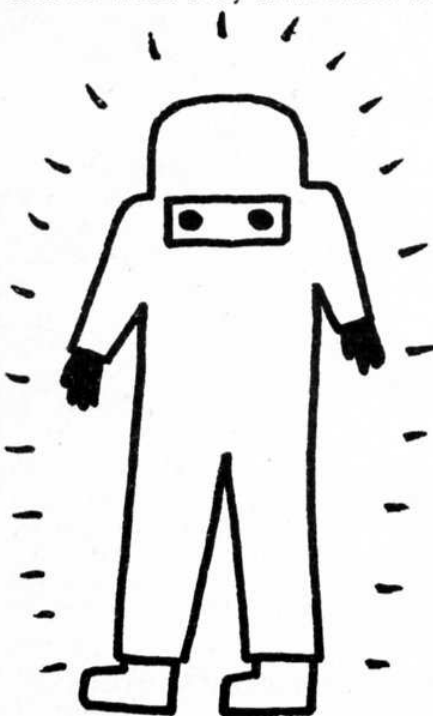
The time was about 11.15 p.m. as they drove out of Rainford on the B 5203 road. They turned left on to the old coach road, crossing the A 570 and proceeding for about a mile through open countryside, heading West South West.

At a spot that we have been able to locate as OS Reference SJ 456007 they came to a crossroads. To follow their scheduled route towards the A 580 they should have turned left at this point. In fact they turned right, which in the conditions prevailing was a very easy mistake to make, since the surroundings are featureless and are somewhat similar in all directions. Geoff, the driver, quickly realised his error and braked sharply. The car was only travelling at about 30 m.p.h., but the road surface was slightly greasy and the back wheels skidded. The car moved over on to the verge, and then into the muddy ditch where it was stopped (apparently by normal means).

Geoff was the first to see the figure, illuminated in the beams of the headlights. It was standing in the middle of the road at an estimated distance of 25 feet from them.

The entity

All the witnesses were consistent in their descriptions of what they saw. There were slight discrepancies



THE RAINFORD
HUMANOID



Object seen at
Rainhill 11 Jan. '78
by PCs Lowe
and Roberts



Red object seen at
Shevington
1 Jan. '78

over minor details, such as height (although all agreed that this was at least 6' 6" and possibly as much as 7'), but in general nothing more than one might expect.

It seems the entity was basically humanoid, and was clad in a one piece suit of a fluorescent white colour. In fact the suit was said to glow. There were white boots, which were quite short, and a rounded helmet which had no visible protrusions or openings. There was no indication of facial features, and no sign of a joint between the head and body parts of the suit.

The body was very broad — much broader than one would normally expect for a man, and the other unusual feature was the description of the arms. These were *very* short and in fact, some estimates were that they were only about 8 inches long. The men are not certain what the hands were like. They were darker than the rest of the body, but it is not clear whether there were gloves on them or not. They did give the impression of claws but, unlike the newspaper accounts which stated that the figure did have claws, the witnesses do not claim this with any certainty.

The only other feature of the entity was a rectangular box on its chest, in the middle portion directly underneath the head. This stood out in relief as if raised from the body, and had on it two red lights which flashed on and off in rapid alternation.

The basic description does not conform with any clothing or gear used by experimental workers, or other such persons, by some strange circumstances, who might have been in this remote spot. In any event the men are certain of the "non human" features that the figure seemed to possess.

After effects

As one might expect the men were somewhat unnerved by this experience and their first thoughts were to "get the hell out of there." Geoff attempted to get the car into reverse gear and back out. As he was doing so the figure took three or four steps in their direction, appearing both to be hesitant, and as surprised and frightened as they were.

Now Geoff Hales is an asthmatic and the symptoms of this illness can be brought on suddenly by fright, and it was when the creature moved forward that he had an attack. There followed a frantic struggle inside the vehicle to get them away from the scene. Eventually they did manage to get away and drove off down the road which they should have taken originally.

In all the duration of the sighting of the entity was about 20 seconds, and as they drove off along the path the witnesses were terrified.

The first habitation they came to was Brown Birch Farm. Here they stopped and, despite the late hour, rushed to the farmhouse and urgently awoke the farmer. Seeing their state of extreme distress, and the unhappy physical condition of Geoff Hales he telephoned the Kirkby Police, who came round immediately.

The farmer commented to Stephen Balon when he was interviewed: "Those lads were really scared

when they called. They were not messing about.”

Three policemen arrived at the farmhouse, and went back with Stephen Simpson to the spot. One of the officers was Pc. McCluskie. He told the investigators that “There was no doubt they were scared, both visibly and physically. I think they definitely saw something. The lad who was asthmatic was sat in the back of the car when we arrived. His knees were shaking, he was white and he couldn’t speak properly. When we got to the spot I took the road to the right and I locked my car doors. I wouldn’t have gone there on my own without a car radio.”

The police searched the area for over half an hour, but this was obviously quite difficult in the dark. Nothing at all was found. Stephen Balon returned a few days later and looked at the area with the witnesses. Nothing was found and no unusual readings were recorded on a geiger counter.

UFO activity in the area

This region has by no means been devoid of UFO activity. Indeed two highly interesting CE-III events have happened in fairly close proximity to the spot within the past three years.

On May 18, 1975, three witnesses at Rainhill, Merseyside (about 5 miles to the south) reported the landing of a UFO in a copse of trees.¹ The object looked like three tennis balls in a triangular formation. On searching the scene of the incident some unusual footprints were found which led up to a duck pond. They were square shaped with no in-step, measuring 14 inches by 6 inches, and were heavily indented. The impression gained was that they were made by a large and heavy figure which



Facing west: to the left the road which should have been taken. Arrowed, the turning accidentally taken

was apparently put into the environment suddenly, and taken out just as suddenly (the steps began and ended quite clearly in the middle of a large patch of muddy ground).

Then on May 11, 1976 came the encounter of Mrs. Kent at Higher Fold, Greater Manchester,² when she observed a figure in a silvery suit beside a spherical UFO. Higher Fold is about nine miles east of Rainford.

These correlations are interesting, if not important. However, it was soon to be discovered that the police had received independently, several reports of something seen even closer to Rainford on the day before the four men encountered the humanoid.



Left: South, beyond the crossroads is the road which should have been taken. The farm is a quarter of a mile from the crossroads. Stephen Simpson looks at the skid marks.

Below: Car route arrowed, before skidding to a halt at spot indicated. Entity drawn in at point where seen from the car.



The principal set of witnesses for this report were in Shevington, Greater Manchester, a village close to Wigan and about three miles north east of Rainford. They have requested anonymity, but consist of a husband and wife, their lodger, and a neighbour who had all been watching TV on New Year's Eve. The programme finished at about 1.45 a.m. on January 1st, and it was a cold moonlit night.

The object was described as a circular disc of light, which was bright red in colour, with a bluish tinge to it, and which gave a fuzzy purple effect overall. It was lighter on the underside and gave the appearance of being lit from within. It illuminated the surroundings and was clearly seen as a glow even when it went behind houses.

The disc was very large (about ten inch diameter at arm's length!) and was extremely low (described as roof-top height). Its speed was quite slow, somewhat reminiscent of a helicopter, but in appearance totally different, and with absolutely no sound. The witnesses kept it in view for between three or four minutes as it moved towards the South South West.

The course that the object was travelling would have taken it directly towards Rainford, which is of course very interesting. On this course it would pass close to the village of Orrell (about two miles north east of Rainford) and it was from here that several more witnesses came forward to the police and reported seeing a red cigar shape moving South West. These reports were all independent, and they have never been published in any form. Whether or not they bear any relation to the Rainford encounter the following day is, of course, open to question.

Following the publication of the Rainford encounter in the national press (where quite typically the men's stories were twisted with facetious comments about them having seen a 'Cyberman'*) another most interesting event was brought to the notice of investigators.

This sighting involved two policemen, Pcs Lowe and Roberts, from the Prescott Division. On January 11, 1978, at 4.45 p.m. they were on traffic patrol on the M62 motorway near Rainhill (remember the 1975 sighting mentioned earlier). They saw a brilliant white light in the northern sky hovering over Bold Power Station. After some ten seconds this light began to pulsate, and then moved across the sky at a fantastic speed to hover in the south over Fiddlers Ferry Power Station. Here it began to pulsate again after about two seconds and was clearly seen as an inverted 'T'

shape which glowed very brightly. After a total observation time of about twenty seconds the UFO streaked away, vertically, reduced to a pinpoint of light which vanished within a second or so.

This report was investigated by Peter Hough of the Manchester UFO Research Association, working with Arthur Tomlinson of DIGAP. Obviously it seems unlikely that it should be just coincidence that the light should appear over *both* power stations in the area.

It would seem that something very odd took place during these weeks in this small area and indeed, as I write this, another most interesting close encounter of the third kind from the area has been reported (this time involving entities and UFO), and is the subject of a detailed investigation by UFOIN. This took place at Frodsham on January 27, 1978.

Conclusions

There seems little doubt that the four men saw something very unusual which caused them great fright. The circumstantial evidence points to the possibility that this was indeed an encounter with a UFO occupant, although we must bear other considerations in mind.

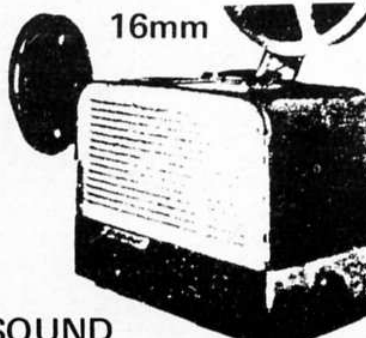

It is not totally impossible that the men were subjected to a hoax by someone who dressed up in a suit. However, bearing in mind the hour and remoteness of the location the sense of any such a hoax seems very hard to imagine. Certainly the police view this as only a remote possibility and, frankly, are very puzzled by what the witnesses saw. They only know that they saw something.

Investigations by ufologists and police have not uncovered any plausible explanation for these events, and nobody has come forward to admit that they were responsible for some bizzare experiment or hoax.

Quite clearly, the description *may* relate to a UFO occupant — but all we can do at the present moment is term the case unidentified and leave the matter open.

References:

- * (p.4) Cyberman were fictional creatures in a *Doctor Who* BBC television series.
- 1. 'Did a UFO land at Rainhill?' Randles, J. BUFORA Journal Sept/Oct. 1975.
- 2. FSR Vol.22, No. 3 p. 27 (1976 series)

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STACK ROCKS HUMANOID DISPLAY

Randall Jones Pugh

Our contributor, a retired veterinary surgeon, is a BUFORA investigator who lives near Haverfordwest in West Wales. He is also a member of UFOIN

THE egregious saga of Ripperston Farm, Dale, Dyfed and its environs continues unabated, for on Sunday October 30, 1977, at around 15.00 hours, Mrs. Pauline Coombes, her mother Mrs. Grycz, and her four children were returning to the farm on a day which was warm and sunny. Engrossed in conversation with her daughter Mrs. Grycz suddenly pointed upwards and exclaimed "What on earth is that?"

Mrs. Coombes stopped the car, both women and the children got out, and watched what they described as a "round flat disc, whitish in colour," move across the sky in a seawards direction. It was, as Mrs. Coombes emphasised, difficult to estimate the altitude of the object, which she ultimately concluded must have been around 200 feet, and her considered opinion was that it was travelling "at the speed of a motor-boat going fast across the bay," which might suggest something in the region of 20-30 m.p.h.

However, both women watched the disc gradually descend to the height of the nearby Stack Rocks and then, without altering speed, literally "crash" into the side of the rocky islet itself, into which it completely disappeared. It was at this point that Mrs. Coombes insisted that both she and her mother fully expected to see some sort of explosion, and to hear the expected noise of the crash, but both women were quite adamant that "it just disappeared into the rock."

She then reiterated how she and her mother were so intrigued that they decided to investigate at a much closer range, so in company with the children, the two women crossed two small fields, which brought them literally to the water's edge. From where they were standing on the headland sloping down to the edge of the sea, they acquired a perfect view of the side of the little islet facing the mainland, since the stretch of water separating the Stack Rocks from the peninsular head at this point is only some 400 yds wide.

The young farmer's wife went on to describe that as she and her mother approached the sea, they could see "two men moving about on the rock," and their immediate reaction was that they were witnessing two skin-divers going about their business in the deep waters around the Stacks.

Both women, however, soon realised that whilst the two figures had the requisite number of arms, legs and feet, their heads appeared to be very elongated, and far larger than the average human head. Indeed, Mrs. Coombes described the heads as being

"rectangular in shape with the corners rounded off..." When I queried her as to whether or not she was quite convinced that they were not skin-divers or fishermen, Mrs. Coombes assured me that whilst "they were human in shape, they were definitely not human beings."

For some 15 minutes both women watched entranced as the silver-clad humanoids moved about on the uneven surface of the Stack Rocks. At this juncture it is necessary to point out that the Stack Rocks rise abruptly out of the sea to a height of some 80-100 feet, and that the sides of the rock face themselves are pitted and uneven, so that the average human being would have to move extremely carefully in finding the foot and hand purchase if he were not to fall into the sea.

As the little crowd of people watched, Mrs. Coombes described how they could see "a door opening and shutting fairly rapidly on the right hand side (the Broad Haven side) of the rock face." There appeared to be "a shimmering haze around the door(s)" which seemed to be of a size commensurate with that of the ordinary household door, but the interior of the rocky space behind was "quite black."

As the doors opened and closed, much as would the sliding doors of a serving hatch in a restaurant, the family saw a silvery clad humanoid "walking up and down steps." This is indicative of the motion of this particular individual, since whilst no "steps" as such were actually visible, the motion of the figure was such that first the head, then the shoulders and chest would appear, up to about waist high, when the motion would cease and the figure would descend again.

The figure to the left of the Stack Rocks was also not entirely inactive, as it walked about "with a normal gait as though walking on a flat surface." This particular figure, as described in Mrs. Coombes' taped conversation, seems literally to have "walked upon the water," or at least, at water level, though it seems to have given the impression of having blended with the very consistence of the rock surface itself. This figure, which was kept under strict observation though possibly to a lesser extent than was the "opening-shutting" door sequence, with its mechanistic climb-up go-down companion, eventually disappeared behind the left (seawards) side of the Stack Rocks. Ultimately the doors and the energetic humanoid abruptly vanished.

On December 1, 1977, in company with Mr. David Allen of the B.B.C., I interviewed Mrs. Coombes at Ripperston Farm, and it will doubtless be appreciated that a recitation of such a grotesque series of "behavioural" events was indeed recited not without certain misgivings and reservations. However, as Mrs. Coombes stated, she could not fathom out why she decided to take that particular route.

"For some reason or other," she affirmed, "I decided to come down Broadmoor Way," when normally, and indeed, routinely, she takes the main road down to Ripperston Farm itself. The implications of this statement must be taken within the context of the whole "paranormal" listing of the farm itself, and the Coombes family in particular, because I am utterly convinced that if anyone has a deep psychic ability to see things not normally visible to other people, that person must be Mrs. Coombes.

This episode is of course just one small facet of the riddle which Ripperston Farm itself projects. Indeed, one might well have mental reservations as to the veracity of the witnesses to themselves in view of the "strangeness" quality of the objects seen, were it not for the fact that when the two women and the children had barely entered their home, the telephone rang and a neighbour, a woman who lives in Broad Haven itself in a position directly opposite the Stack Rocks, queried whether any member of the family had "seen figures on the Stack Rocks."

Quietly and efficiently Mrs. Coombes and the children were questioned and probed by Mr. David Allen, who is an experienced and somewhat sceptical B.B.C. news reporter. We could not shake

her testimony and indeed Mrs. Coombes emphasised that she was not at all bothered by the sighting, in view of her other UFO experiences, she felt if anything "quite excited." Indeed, to silence any would-be critics Mrs. Pauline Coombes is prepared to take any scientific test to prove that the incidents were not just imagination."

[In addition to the foregoing, the author added a note about another sighting—EDITOR]

Personal close encounter

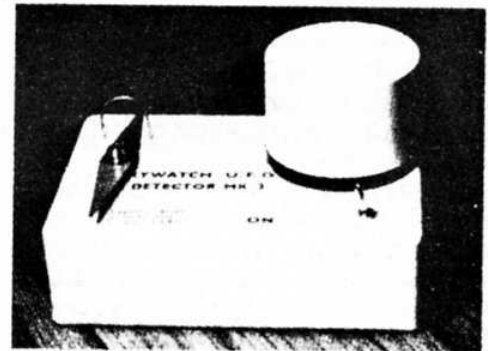
At about 10.30 p.m. on an evening in July, 1977 prior to "retiring" I pulled aside the curtain of my bedroom window which overlooks St. Brides Bay, Pembrokeshire, and saw that a fairly thick sea-mist was coming in. Across the main road, some 30 feet wide lies the Pembrokeshire Park, and it was in a field directly opposite my window that I saw a crescent shaped object with a pipe-like stem sticking upwards for a distance of some 3 feet. In spite of the near-dark conditions, I could see the outline of what looked like the upper half of a "dome" — the right hand side being obscured by sea-mist. However as soon as I had pulled aside the curtain and allowed the bedroom light to show, the object took off vertically at a very fast rate. The "tube", which to me appeared to be of glass or plastic, flashed a very bright red light three times, and so bright was the light that I could perceive the filaments in the "tube" — which looked like those seen in an ordinary electric light bulb — quite distinctly. The "thing" took off vertically, very quickly, but I was able to count three distinct "flashes" at perhaps one second intervals, the interior pulsating red light showing up the "filaments" vividly.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE NEXT ISSUE OF FLYING SAUCER REVIEW Vol. 24. No. 1

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by *Andrew Collins*
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Send stamped self addressed envelope for explanatory literature.