

# A CASE OF RABBIT SNATCHING?

*Janet & Colin Bord*

A report of an investigation conducted on behalf of UFOIN as a follow-up of a letter passed to *Flying Saucer Review* by the *Daily Express*.

It has always been suspected that many unreported UFO experiences must lie hidden within people's memories, and the recent publicity given to *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* shows that this is so, because many people have come forward to tell their stories. Some of them go back more than twenty years, including the incident we are about to describe. In the early days of UFO research, only the spacecraft type of sighting was likely to be considered relevant by many investigators. Recently we have seen all manner of weird happenings gathered together under the heading of ufology, and some of the older reports show that such weird happenings are not a recent development. Again, this case confirms that finding.

Today Philip Molava is a 37-year-old lifeguard living in the East End of London; in 1954, which was probably when his UFO experience took place, he was 13 years old and living in an orphanage at Shirley near Croydon in Surrey. He has always been fond of animals, and as a boy he kept rabbits. He kept the two larger rabbits and some young ones in a locked and totally predator-proof hutch close to the 'cottage' at the orphanage, but at the time of the experience he had been having trouble with them. Over a period of about three weeks, he had 'lost' about four baby rabbits. It was a complete mystery, because the youngsters had simply disappeared, on separate occasions.

None of the other boys kept rabbits and had not been stealing them, and there were no traces of the hutch having been tampered with. (The only possibility that occurred to us was that the adult rabbits were eating the young ones, as some animals do eat their young; but this explanation seems highly unlikely, 1. because rabbits are vegetarian, and 2. because no traces of the babies were found, and surely the rabbits wouldn't have eaten heads, paws, fur and all!) So he decided one night to keep watch in the small hours, to try and apprehend the culprit.

He had been by the hutch for an hour at around 1 or 2 a.m. the night after Guy Fawkes Night and therefore 7 November, when he suddenly noticed what he called a white disc flying or floating towards him in a straight line at about 5 m.p.h. It was completely silent, not lit up in any way, and had no markings or holes in it. It resembled two plates placed edge to edge, and seemed to be about the size of a large plate. It was flying very low, so low indeed that he instinctively jumped up to try and touch it. Being only 13 years old, and rather short, he could not quite reach it, and it flew overhead, over the hutch, and away. Philip naturally did not

know what to make of this, and didn't tell anyone what he had seen. He had no more trouble with his rabbits because soon afterwards his master at the orphanage drowned the young ones and sold the others!

Either the next day, or a day later, he felt strange. He "could not move a muscle," his "whole body was as if it was paralysed," and he told the master that he was ill. Unconcerned about Philip, the master gave him an orange after the other kids had gone to school, which he somehow managed to peel, but he was sick when he ate some. He was taken to the infirmary and given an injection of some kind, but spent the day in this semi-paralysed condition. His brain was clear, but his body was numbed.

## Bedroom visitants

That night, again around 1 or 2 a.m., when he was lying in bed in the dormitory, "waiting for something, what, I didn't know," he saw a strange mist forming at the foot of his bed. It was the bed's width and it moved up the bed towards his head, freezing the parts of his body it passed over. Philip emphasised that the cold was not due to fear, but to the mist. Then it stopped and three figures materialised from the mist at the foot of the bed and moved so that they stood around him, two on one side and one on the other. They bent over him and he felt they were benevolent and were going to make him better. They froze his body but not his mind, and it was as if "they were making me at ease with myself."

Philip described the figures as dressed in dark or black monk-like habit, and although he tried to see their faces, he was unable to. Nor could he describe any part of their anatomy, such as hands, although he thought very hard about this. He could not tell how much time passed ("time stood still" was the way he put it), but he does remember that he tried to speak to the beings, though they did not answer. He does not remember how the experience ended, but feels that he must have "flaked out." Although there were other boys in the dormitory, none seems to have seen anything unusual, and Philip did not tell anyone what he had seen, but one boy did comment that he had heard voices during the night. The next day Philip felt well again.

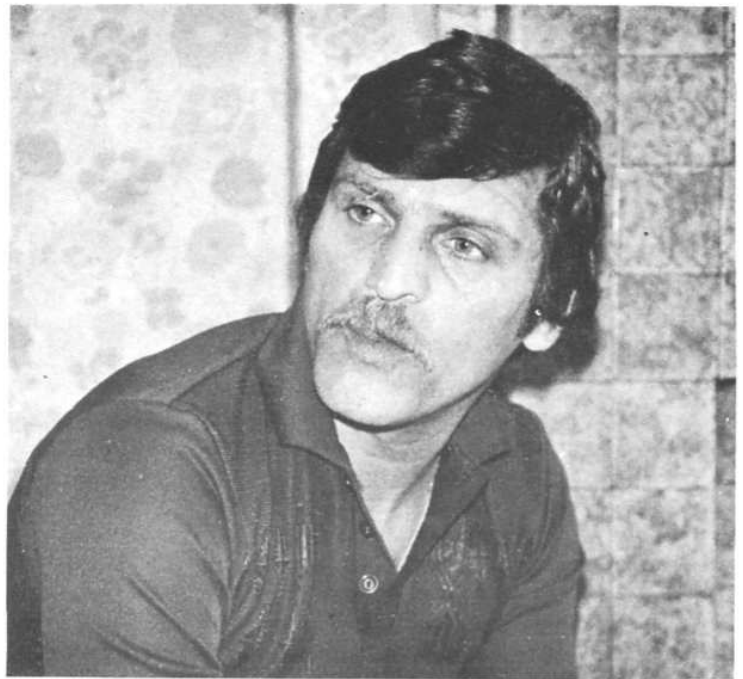
Although his first experience was well remembered and fairly easily described, the "bedroom visitants" episode was less easy to make clear, and Philip strived hard to present the occurrence factually. He found it hard to answer our detailed questions, especially about the beings' appearance. He "felt the presence

of the male type," and it was "as if they were blended together," even though there were three of them. We suspect the whole event took place while Philip was in an altered state of consciousness. This was probably akin to an out-of-the-body experience or astral projection, especially in the light of his later projections (see below), although when we suggested this to Philip, he did not agree that it was a projection. However he did say "I think I'd come out of myself."

### Not "awake" until they came

Although Philip has had no UFO experiences since those just described (except for one occasion three or four years ago when he was digging and went into some kind of trance and had a vision in which he saw a "load of spaceships coming over to London...round about Christmas," and they hovered around the two steeples of a castle-like church, shining down bright beams of light), it soon became clear that we were talking to a man who has had a wealth of psychic experiences. After some prompting, because he thought it was irrelevant, he described to us his ability to sum people up at first sight, often to know incidents from their past, and sometimes to predict their future (once he met someone who he felt sure had not long to live; the man was dead within three weeks); he described experiences of astral projection such as when he "came out of" himself and watched an operation being performed on his hand, even though he was anaesthetized at the time); and he told us that although he had not been a religious child, shortly after his UFO experience he went to church and came out feeling cleansed. In fact he feels that UFOs and religion are closely connected, and continually returned to the theme of the UFO's purpose. He has strong feelings that the human race is doomed if it continues on its present course, and that the UFOs are somehow involved with our present condition and our future salvation. He feels certain that his own UFO experience brought about a change in him, from orphanage zombie to a thinking being. As he put it: "I wasn't awake until they came."

With UFOs receiving so much publicity these days, an investigator must always be aware of the witness's involvement in ufology, to try to ascertain whether an alleged experience happened as the witness

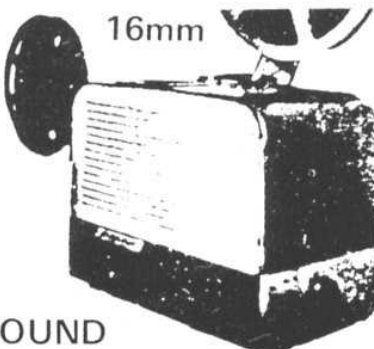



*Photo Copyright Janet and Colin Bord*

### Philip Molava today

described it, or whether the description has been coloured by UFO literature, or even totally fabricated. In the present case, although Philip has read books by Shuttlewood and von Däniken, and is aware of such things as the Bermuda Triangle, the Betty and Barney Hill case, and the Villas Boas abduction, he is not widely read in ufology, and because of its content we do not believe that the story he told us was influenced in any way by what he has read about UFOs.

If our belief is correct, then we have an early case of 'bedroom visitants', and an early case of a UFO's interest in animal life. However, we must remember that there is no evidence whatsoever that the UFO was stealing or dematerialising the baby rabbits. The facts point to that conclusion, but we shall never know for sure. There are several cases in the literature in which UFOs have been seen to take an interest in animals (excluding the notorious Hamilton calf-napping hoax), and some researchers blame them for the rash of cattle mutilations reported in the United States during the past few years. So this strange incident is not entirely without precedent.

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