

UFO PLUS BEAM OF LIGHT

Paul Murray MA

Paul Murray is a UFOIN member and investigator for Central Scotland. He works on a freelance basis and this is his first report for FSR.

THIS report came to our attention because it seemed to bear a resemblance to other accounts of UFOs with multiple beams of light (e.g. FSR Vol.18, No.3 of 1972). It was even more similar to events during a recent Winter wave of low-level UFOs which have seen a number of closely related incidents at locations as far apart as Greater Manchester, Derbyshire and Surrey (see *Low Level UFO at Mytchett* by Omar Fowler, FSR Vol. 24, No.1, 1978).

The witnesses were members of the one family, Mr. John Fisher and his wife, their thirteen year old son Roger and their young daughter Audrey. They were travelling from Edinburgh towards their home in Blackwood, Lanarkshire, on the night of January 29, 1978. It was 11.00 p.m.

The route they took was along the M8 motorway, which bisects Scotland. It was a clear night with no moon visible, and no stars that they can recollect. Just before the turn off to Livingstone, some 8 miles west of Edinburgh, Roger spotted what at first he thought was an aircraft. A flight path into the City airport does pass over the motorway and so it was natural that he should think this. However, as the car came closer to the object all four members of the group saw it for what it was, and they describe it in very similar fashion.

Roger is an intelligent and articulate boy. He has some interest in UFOs and it was his enthusiasm that led to the sighting being reported (at first to the *Daily Express* UFO Bureau):—

“The most noticeable thing was the intensely bright white ‘searchlight’ at the ‘front’ shooting a beam downwards and scanning the ground. Plainly visible underneath were four red lamps whose brightness was rather less than the white light. There was no sound, and we had the window wound down. There was no change in colour or fluctuation in brightness throughout the whole sighting...”

Mrs. Fisher is a lady who would seem to have an eye for recording details:—

“Its size was at least as big as or bigger than a family saloon car. I could discern no specific shape behind the lights except that it seemed to be circular...” (The witnesses were subsequently shown the drawing of the Mytchett UFO and thought it was similar.)

Mr. Fisher is a lecturer in economics at Motherwell Technical College. Because of his job he has trained himself to be factual in the extreme. He does not believe in UFOs and tried to convince the rest of his family (unsuccessfully) that this was a natural phenomenon. He has doubts about this himself and is now

‘tolerant’ to those who tell UFO stories:—

“I was concentrating on driving so did not really get a chance to see it as clearly as the others. Its size was difficult to estimate but it was about 120 feet off the ground. At first I was convinced it was some kind of helicopter but when I saw it closer I thought it was, maybe, some construction work by the roadside, but where? There are only desolate open fields in the direction that we saw this thing...”

“Even little Audrey was adamant about what she had seen. In fact she was rather perturbed that I could not do something about it!”

The only slight disagreement over details concerns whether or not the object was stationary. Mr. Fisher thinks it was hence his conjecture that it was lights on some construction tower. The others maintain that it moved very slowly on a path from the north to the south, although occasionally appearing to hover for a while. The car eventually went past it, although it was in view for a total of about four minutes. Even Mr. Fisher agrees that it was a most puzzling sight and does not now believe that it could have been a ground-based light. He is very sorry that he did not stop the car so they could have a closer look.

The Fisher family certainly saw something unexplainable. By their accounts we can dismiss aircraft of a conventional nature and astronomical objects. Like a lot of aspects of the UFO phenomenon relating to light, and especially to beams of light, we seem to be at a loss to explain such things. Our own ideas of light are, of course, fairly restricted. Perhaps this UFO, like the one at Mytchett, was purposeful in its flight. I can only conclude that the Fishers saw a low-level UFO, and that it must remain ‘unidentified.’

UFO INVESTIGATORS' NETWORK

UFOIN was launched in March 1977. It now has 45 members operating throughout the British Isles, and enjoys active liaison with several respected groups at home and abroad. Hundreds of reports have been investigated, several — including CE3 cases — have been published in FSR, and there are other CE3's in the pipeline.

If you have a report to make get in touch with UFOIN's Secretary: *Miss Jenny Randles, 23 Sunningdale Drive, Irlam Salford M30 6JN, or telephone 061- 775 4749*

HUMANOIDS ENCOUNTERED IN 1901?

Jenny Randles & Philip Barnet

THE *Daily Express* UFO series in February 1978 brought to our attention a number of intriguing cases from the past, but perhaps none more interesting than this one. Occurring in 1901, it is a strong contender for Britain's oldest reported humanoid encounter and, as will be seen, it bears considerable resemblance to modern-day close encounters of the third kind. Indeed, with the great wave of airship sightings between 1895 and 1909 in mind, this case seems to offer a kind of transition between these reports (which invariably deal with mechanised Victoriana of advanced design) and those of our "super-modern 'electromagnetically powered' space-ships."

The witness to this incident is now, of course, a very elderly man, and does not wish his name to be disclosed. We shall just call him Frank. He was very helpful, but despite his still active faculties, the length of time that has elapsed since the incident must obviously make some of the details suspect. However, he believes that the basic facts as we have them tally with what occurred.

On a summer evening in 1901, when he was ten years old, Frank returned home after playing out in warm, sunny weather. His home at that time was in a terraced house in Bournbrook, near Bournville in what is now the West Midlands. His house was next to the end of the terrace and had a small back garden. He was taking a short cut along a path behind the garden when he came upon a peculiar structure just sitting there on the grass.

The object looked like a hut, being basically box-shaped, but it had a small turret on top that was centrally placed. There were no windows of any kind, and just a small door in the centre facing towards the witness. In overall colour the object was greeny/blue and it seemed to have a metallic sheen to it.

Accurate estimates of the size of this object have been difficult to pin point, but we have finally settled for something about 4 ft. high, between 5 and 6 ft. long and about 3½ ft. wide. The door was only half the height (i.e. about 2 ft). These estimates are interesting, as they conflict with Frank's first opinion that the entities that came out of it were 4 ft. 6 ins. tall. In retrospect, however, it seems that they were "about the size of the object itself," if not a little smaller, which makes them less than 4 ft. tall. Certainly they were very small.

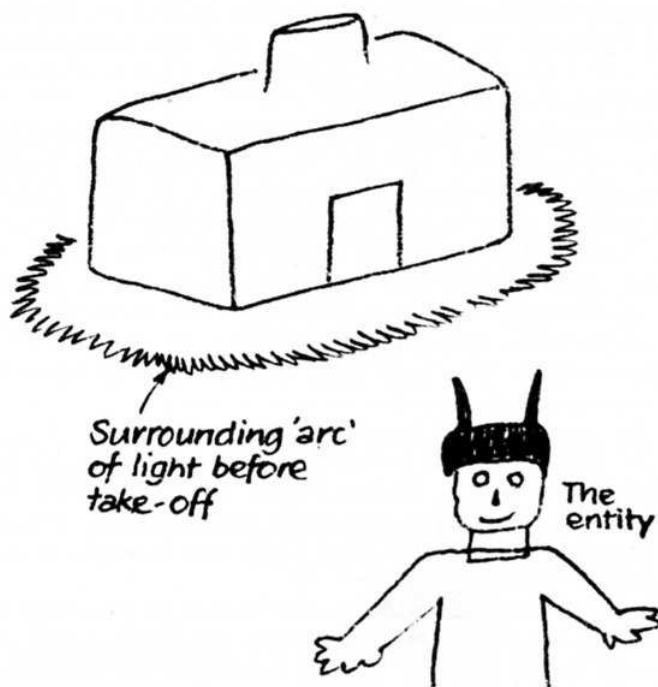
The two entities stepped out of the door, which opened outwards exactly like a car door. One stayed by the door and the other walked cautiously towards Frank with his arms outstretched, waving at him in

a distinct signal not to approach but to keep back. No words were spoken, the contact being entirely gesticulatory in character.

The entities looked human. Their skins were of a similar colouring to ours, and there were no unusual features on the face. They were clean shaven, and appeared to be between 30 and 40 years of age.

Both figures were dressed alike, in close fitting uniforms that had a military look about them, although they were nondescript and carried no insignia of any kind. Their colour was a kind of grey/green. The most curious feature of the entities wearing apparel, however, was the helmet they wore on their heads (apparently covering their ears). This was dark, and like a cap, except for two 'wires' sticking out from either side. These were about 9" long and ¼" in diameter. There was no visible chin strap or other means of attachment to the head.

The witness understood the warning quite readily, and took a few steps backwards. The entity that had come towards him returned quickly to the "ship" and joined the other who went back inside ahead of him. Within a matter of seconds there was a bright flash and something like an electric arc lit up around the object. It formed what seemed to be a complete circle around it, and glowed very brightly. Then with a



The 1901 "UFO" to the best of an old gentleman's recollection, and his sketch of one of the "pilots"