

# PHENOMENON OBSERVED OVER SOUTH URAL, RUSSIA

V. V. Rubtsov

HERE is a translation of an extract from my article "Here, on the Edge of the Unknown..." which was published in *Tekhnika-Molodezhi* No. 11 of 1978 (pages 53-55): other information contained in that article was fortan rather than ufological, and dealt with such subjects as sea serpents, ball lightning, and so on.

"Geological and mineralogical scientist R. Furduduy from Kiev relates that he was in the tented camp occupied by the participants of the XV international Congress on Geology of Coal Sediments on the bank of the River Zilim (South Ural), when he and his colleagues saw an astonishing phenomenon late in the night of September 6, 1975.

"In the north-western sector of the sky, about 40° from zenith, and against a background of stars', he said, 'there was a shining bluish-white firey bubble. Its angular size was equal, roughly, to that of the full moon. This bubble quickly grew larger as if it was inflating. Its shape resembled a hemisphere with its salient part directed upwards. This hemisphere's light seemed to resemble the bluish-white surface of a shining luminescent lamp, although its brightness was less than that of the latter.

"In total silence we watched that bubble as it expanded.\* and soon its angular size had reached about 20°. The sighting lasted about two minutes before the bubble vanished instantaneously. It had vanished as if someone had turned off an invisible knife-switch.

"Later on I learned that this, or a similar phenomenon, was observed that same day and time from the town of Ufa, which is 85 km to the North West. There the observers saw the bubble above the horizon in the south-eastern sector of the sky.'

"A simple calculation gives us the height of the

hemisphere's location at about 50 km and the diameter of its base as 600 metres at the beginning of the sighting and, at its closest as 20 km.

"Here is another account: the reader A. D. (who has asked that we do not publish his name) from the station Aydirlya (Kvarken region, Orenberg district) relates how one autumn evening in 1971 he '... saw in the sky a small sphere flying directly towards us and quickly growing larger. The sky had darkened but the sphere was clearly seen against that background. It rotated like a terrestrial globe, and even the outlines of continents and oceans were seen on it. Then this object had closed all the sky and 'ran' on it [this passage is not clear, but is suspected to mean that the object blotted out the sky before departing at speed - ED]. At the same time another small ball appeared. This also enlarged quickly, but after that its growth slowed down. Something which looked like a spark was seen to emerge from its centre, pass along its radius, and then everything disappeared. The next day I enquired of friends, who had been out fishing that night, whether or not they had seen the objects. They confirmed the description, but said that they had seen it in another direction.' "

\* [The UFO which landed in the Canary Island of Gran Canaria on June 22, 1976, confronted, on the road, a doctor travelling by taxi to visit a patient, whose son was also in the cab. The three witnesses saw, through the transparent wall of the sphere, two giant humanoid occupants. When the driver switched on a movable spotlight the object rose into the sky and grew in size - the humanoids retained their original sizes - until it was as big as a 20-storey building; it then shot away, with a high-pitched whistle, towards Tenerife (see FSR Vol. 23, No.3, published October 1977) - EDITOR]

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# 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.

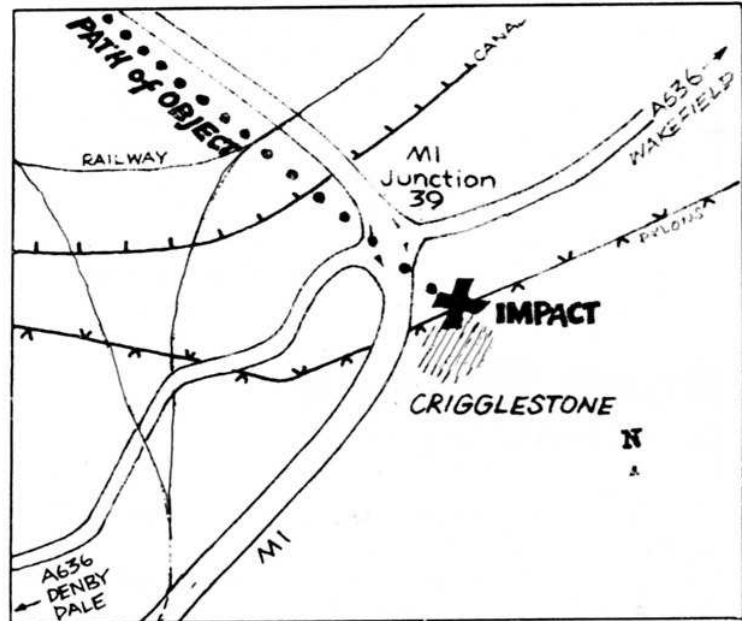
Having moved out of Leeds metropolitan area she passed the towns of Dewsbury to the west, and Wakefield to the east, approaching junction 39 where she would turn off near the village of Crigglestone to travel along the A636 for the final three or four miles towards home.

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.<sup>1</sup>



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