

AMOEBA-LIKE UFO OVER OXFORDSHIRE

Bob Webb

Bob Webb is a member of the UFOIN team, covering events in the Oxfordshire area. He works as an electronics technician, as does the witness to this incident. Bob has worked with the witness since 1973 and can vouch for his integrity. He says that this was the case that started him thinking about the reality of UFOs.

ONE Winter's morning in 1976 a colleague at work, Len Franklin, came over to me and said excitedly: "UFOs do exist. I saw one last night."

Len was aware of my passing interest in the subject which, up to that point, had consisted of little more than subscribing to *FSR* and reading the odd book. Being a level headed person and extremely inquisitive he had not accepted the reality of the phenomenon at face value, although he was open-minded enough to consider possibilities. He was quiet and honest, usually remaining in the background, and certainly not prone to boasting or spreading rumours. Confronted with these facts, and the clear indications that he had seen something quite remarkable to him, I listened to his story.

The night before had been quite mild for Winter, with hardly any wind and a cloudless sky. At about midnight he had returned home to Foliat Drive in Wantage after he and his wife had spent an evening with friends. A babysitter had been looking after their children and now he was escorting her the short distance to her home.

As the two of them left the house Len caught sight of a peculiar object in the sky. "What's that?" he asked alerting the babysitter to it.

She glanced up and replied "Ooh - I don't know" apparently a little alarmed.

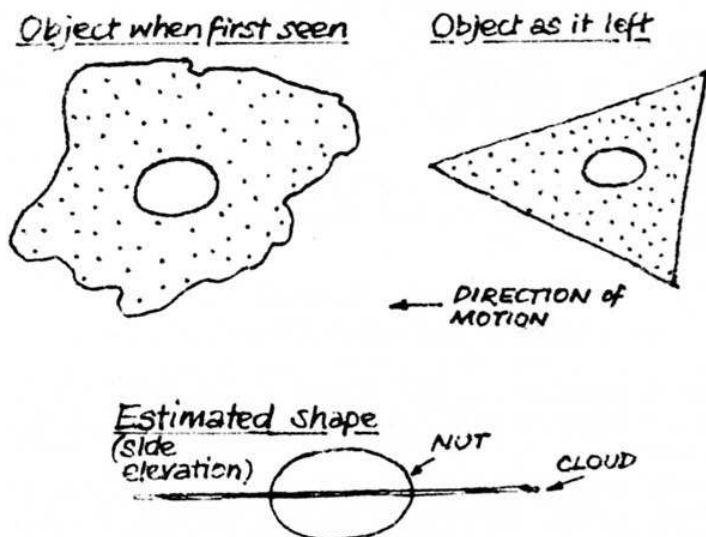
Then she looked downwards and walked on as if frightened refusing, despite the requests of her chaperone, to look at the object again. Len, on the other hand, stood rooted to the spot for a few seconds and closely observed the object and its behaviour. He described what he saw:-

"It was dead in front of me... slightly to the right and at about 60° elevation. I didn't have to crane my neck backwards, and I suppose that's why I saw it. I often gaze up at the sky."

Although he never saw the object fully sideways - on he was able to obtain a fairly clear impression of what it was really like (see drawing). Most of the time it presented a partial plan view which showed it as a round or oval centre that he describes as "nut shaped." This was a very bright white, but not bright enough to hurt his eyes. Surrounding it was a plasma or "cloud of tiny, speckly bits." The outline of this "cloud" was going in and out at various points haphazardly, slowly moving and constantly changing shape. It looked rather like an amoeba.

Len Franklin continued his story: "I could see the

outer edge of the 'cloud' and the dots of light in it were white, but nowhere near as bright as the middle bit. I suppose it wasn't really a cloud. It was nothing like an ordinary cloud. I was just wanting to know something to call it... the bit that amazed me was the outer edge movement, constantly changing shape



so slowly and calmly... I got the impression the cloud was thin... I suppose the object would have been four inches across at arms length, proportioned as in the diagram."

The UFO was apparently moving towards the East at no more than 3 or 4 mph. The witness pursued it, walking onwards slowly and looking up at the same time, trying hard to avoid tripping over his own feet as he did so. The babysitter continued to refuse to look at it.

"I could see the black background and the stars through the 'cloud' as the object moved... I was amazed at the many, tiny pinpoints of light... It stayed like this for about 5 or 6 seconds, long enough for me to absorb all the detail... suddenly the centre bit glowed bright orange, dimmed a little and then intensified again.... the 'cloud' I noticed had instantly changed into a delta shape with the 'nut' still in the centre. The whole object then shot off at tremendous speed..."

This last phase of the encounter is of course very important. The delta-shape is by no means

uncommon — particularly in connection with shape-changing phenomena,^{1,2} and this sudden increase in speed rules out all possibility that the object was windborne. In fact the object streaked off to the East in the direction of Didcot Power Station, which was not directly visible, but is a well-known landmark whose position was known to Len. The distance is about 7 miles and the object seemingly covered this in about two seconds, point (of the delta-shape) first, and then disappeared. Total duration of the encounter was about ten seconds. This mode of disappearance towards a power station brings to mind the pulsating object seen by policemen in Merseyside in January 1978.³

Len Franklin can find no explanation for the phenomenon. "I have never seen anything like it before. There was no noise or smoke, it moved off far faster than any aircraft and appeared to stay at the same height as it did so. I dropped off the babysitter and RAN home. I was scared stiff, and not a lot frightens me usually."

No plausible explanation for this phenomenon has

come to light and we seem to have a most unusual type of UFO reported here. Knowing Len as I do, I can verify 100% that this report is factually accurate and true. But what did he see that night?

References

1. Bowen, Charles, *The Annapurna-Pokhara UFO 'Ballet'*. FSR Vol. 19, No. 4: July-August: 1973. A bizarre sequence of shape-changing phenomenon that includes objects made up of many tiny dots.
2. Fredrikson, Sven-Olof. *Young Swedish scientist's unique series of UFO pictures*. FSR Vol. 22, No. 6: 1976. Photographs of a delta shaped UFO, seen in connection with an object similar to the initial "amoeba" in this report.
3. Randles, Jenny, *Humanoid Encounter at Rainford*, FSR Vol. 23, No. 6: 1978.

A "JOGGING" UFO IN SOUTHERN SCOTLAND

Alan & Trisha Price

Another report for UFOIN and *Flying Saucer Review* by this husband and wife team which operates from North Eastern England.

COLDSTREAM in Berwickshire is a small Scottish town which, one cold clear night in October 1977, played host to a frightening encounter.

The witnesses are both aged ten, so we shall call them by their first names only; Michael and Steven. Both are considered to be truthful in their accounts and are expressly against publicity. Indeed one of them is well known to the investigators, and we can therefore vouch for their integrity. In addition we have the testimony of this same boy's mother who was present moments after the encounter when the boys ran in, visibly terrified and trembling all over, and with faces white like sheets. She is certain that this was a genuine fear and that the boys were telling the truth as they knew it.

On the town's High Street, adjacent to the Magicado Hotel, is a fish & chip shop and alongside this is Nursery Road which curves round in a quarter circle. The time was about 8.00 p.m. and the boys were purchasing some chips from the shop. After leaving the shop they noticed a brilliant glow coming from around the bend of Nursery Road. The glow was so bright that, being young boys full of curiosity, they decided to investigate. They soon began to wish that they had not.

As they rounded the corner they came across an object spanning the road less than 100 feet in front of them. They were terrified at the sight of what seemed to be a classic flying saucer, hovering no more than 6" above the road surface.

