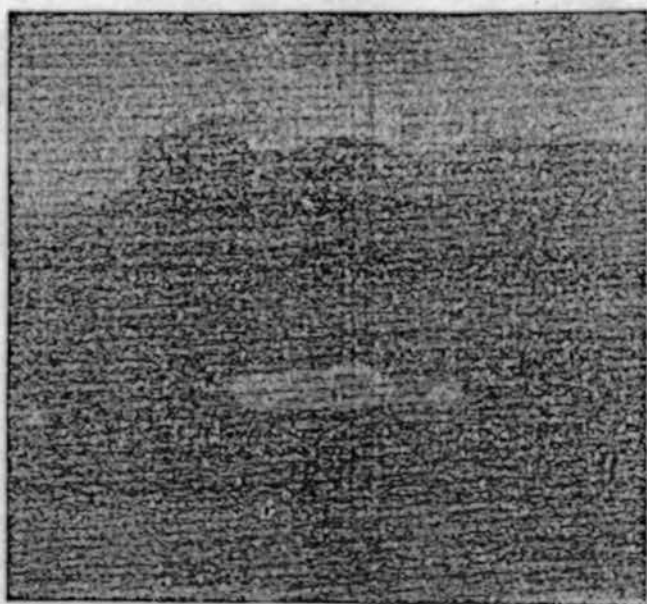


U.F.O. siting confirmed



THE PHENOMENON two Craven police officers witnessed at Cracoe on a clear morning in March two years ago was a U.F.O., experts are claiming this week. And they go so far as to say this photograph, taken by one of the policemen and first published by the Herald shortly after the sighting in 1981, is the most conclusive proof ever obtained in Britain of an alien visitor from space.

In fact, Graham and Mark Birdsall of the Yorkshire U.F.O. Society say Craven seems to be a favourite haunt of U.F.O.'s. Over the past 18 months there have been 60 reported sightings in areas around Skipton.

Because of this increased activity, the brothers felt the time was ripe to publish their conclusion following their rigorous investigation into what the police officers saw, in the hope it would encourage other people having had similar experiences to contact them.

And they now state they are 100 per cent sure that the object captured on film while hovering in front of Cracoe Fell is a U.F.O.

The picture shows a long shining object with three intense white lights spaced along its underside. It was spotted by the wife of one of the policemen who immediately contacted a colleague who brought along his camera and a telephoto lens. He was able to get a number of shots during the 50 minutes the object remained suspended before the sheer cliff face.

Said Graham Birdsall: "We have kept this under wraps for two years because we wanted to be absolutely certain the photograph could not be knocked down when we released it. During that time, we have covered the area with a small toothcomb, and it has left us in no doubt that no natural phenomenon could have caused this to hover there for just under an hour.

"The object was about 60 ft. in length and the only way you can get up the fell is by making a two hour walk with mountain tackle. There would obviously be certain difficulties in getting 60 ft. of lights up there."

He added they were convinced the object was solid, and that it had been controlled. "To construct something like this requires a pretty good intelligence."

He said sightings in Craven were way above the national average, and they were appealing to people who had seen strange happenings to contact them at the Society in Miles Hill Street, Leeds 7.

"All I can say to people is to look skyward and report to us if they see anything. There are innumerable questions that need answering, and we would like to get a better idea of what is going on in that area."

He pointed out that only 10 per cent of people who saw inexplicable sights reported the fact.

"This is out of fear of ridicule or public exposure, but we are hoping that now even more people will pluck up courage and approach us. We would not be spending a vast number of hours or our own money on this if we did not think it all worthwhile."

He and his brother have been in touch with Ground Saucer Watch, the top American U.F.O. photograph analysts, to determine just how far away from the fell the object was when it was pictured in a bid to establish its exact size.

"It could be that it was even bigger than we think," he said.

"O
—
y