

## **PENSIONER** Alfred Burtoo's close encounter with little green men while he was angling on the canal bank at Aldershot is no fisherman's tale.

That is the opinion of UFO experts who are convinced that his amazing story is "absolutely true."

Not only did the beings from outer space speak to 77-year-old Mr. Burtoo, of Pegasus Avenue, Aldershot, but he claims they also took him aboard their flying saucer:

After a thorough investigation of the alleged happening, Mr. Omar Fowler, of the Surrey Investigation Group on Aerial Phenomena, said: "I have been investigating UFO sightings for 16 years, and this is the most sensational thing that has ever happened!"

Mr. Burtoo, accompanied by his dog Tiny, was fishing in the Basingstoke Canal, near the Government Road bridge, when, he says, the flying saucer landed.

"I saw a bright light coming towards me over North Town and it hovered just over the railway line.

### **Accent**

"It then settled down on the bank. I went to have a look and two forms came towards me dressed in pale green suits. They were about 4ft. tall and had dark visors covering their faces.

One of them beckoned me, and I followed them to the steps. I wasn't afraid — I was more curious than anything."

Mr. Burtoo went on: "The object was made of a kind of burnished aluminium and I climbed some steps and went inside.

"I walked across the room and one of them spoke to me in a kind of sing-song voice, with an accent something between Russian and Chinese.

"He asked me to stand under the amber light. I could not see it at first because there was a kind of black tube blocking my view. Then I saw it and went and did as I was told.

"After a few moments they asked me to turn round, which I did. They asked me how old I was and I said 78 next birthday. Then they said I could go because I was too old and infirm for their purpose."

Mr. Burtoo says he then left the spaceship, and was half-way along the towpath when it took off. It went over the military cemetery and then off towards Tongham.

Mr. Burtoo's "close encounter" happened at about 1.15 a.m. on August 12. He told his wife and son and a neighbour about it the next day but did not report it officially because

he did not think people would believe him.

"It was not until last week when an American air force officer revealed he had seen UFOs in Norfolk I decided to speak out. I am now inclined to think that lots of people have seen these things but don't report them because they do not want to be made fools of.

"I did not believe in flying saucers until this happened to me."

His wife Margery said: "I was a bit frightened when he told me, but I did not take any more notice. It has been bothering him ever since and he has been losing sleep over it.

"He obviously believes he saw what he saw and I believe him."

A sceptical Mr. Fowler went to interview Mr. Burtoo at his home on Monday evening this week. But next day, his group issued an official statement, saying it was convinced his story was true.

Said Mr. Fowler: "We can confirm that a number of the incidents he said occurred are consistent with known UFO characteristics."

### **Unexplained**

He added: "I was very sceptical about this when I went to interview Mr. Burtoo and I expected it to be fantasy. But he came out with things he could not possibly have known about unless he had been studying UFOs for years — things about the shape and inside of the object.

"I am convinced his story is absolutely true and this actually happened."

The Surrey branch will now be carrying out a detailed investigation.

Mr. Fowler would like to hear from anyone who has had a similar experience or saw anything on that night.

• There have been dozens of unexplained reports of unidentified flying objects in this area over the past 15 years.

In April, 1978, eight people, including a policeman, reported clear sightings of a UFO in the skies above Farnborough and Ash.