

VALLEY OF THE UFOs

NEWS OF THE WORLD
INVESTIGATES

Faceless men and flying saucers—32 reports so far

IT was dusk when coalman Tom Schofield's day suddenly turned to terror . . . as two silver-suited aliens loomed up behind him.

He had just arrived home from work in the village of Crawshaw Booth — overlooking the eight-mile Rossendale Valley running between Burnley and Todmorden.

He told me: "I was closing the garage door when I saw something from the corner of my eye. I looked over my shoulder and they were there."

Tom, 48, leaned forward, his hands tightening their grip on a mug of tea.

"I can still see them clearly," he said. "There were two figures in silver suits—like the chrome of a car bumper, brilliantly polished and without a crease.

"I just kept looking at them. Then suddenly I realised they didn't have any features. They didn't have faces.

Probed

"Their heads seemed to be covered with helmets. "One of them turned towards me and I heard their clothing rustle.

"They were carrying something between them. It looked like a metal bar." Tom looked away for just a second. When he turned back, the visitors had gone.

The case of the silver aliens is one of 32 hair-raising sightings from UFO Valley being probed by the Defence Ministry.

"Other people had seen things, too," said Tom, who joined friends in setting up a flying-saucer spotting group.

THE CASE of the Eerie Egghead.

Teenagers Mark Ashworth and Simon Heyworth, were shooting magpies and crows in Bolton Wood, Newchurch. But what Mark, 19, saw was no bird.

He said: "There was a bright light in the sky between the branches.

"We ran. There was no doubt about it—we were frightened."

And as they dodged between the trees Mark and Simon came face to face with a dark-cloaked figure.

Said Mark: "It was like a tall man. A shining black gown covered him from head to foot but the thing I most remember is his large forehead.

Dodged

"We stood for only a second. The figure didn't move. It was blocking our path through the woods so we just turned and ran."

THE CASE of the UFO Hedgehopper.

Sandra Philips, 16, and her 12-year-old friend Tracey Brown were out in the meadows at Bacup leading their ponies back to their stable.

Suddenly a bright light appeared in the sky.

Said Sandra: "It came lower and I could see other lights — blue red and green. It was only about 30 ft above us.

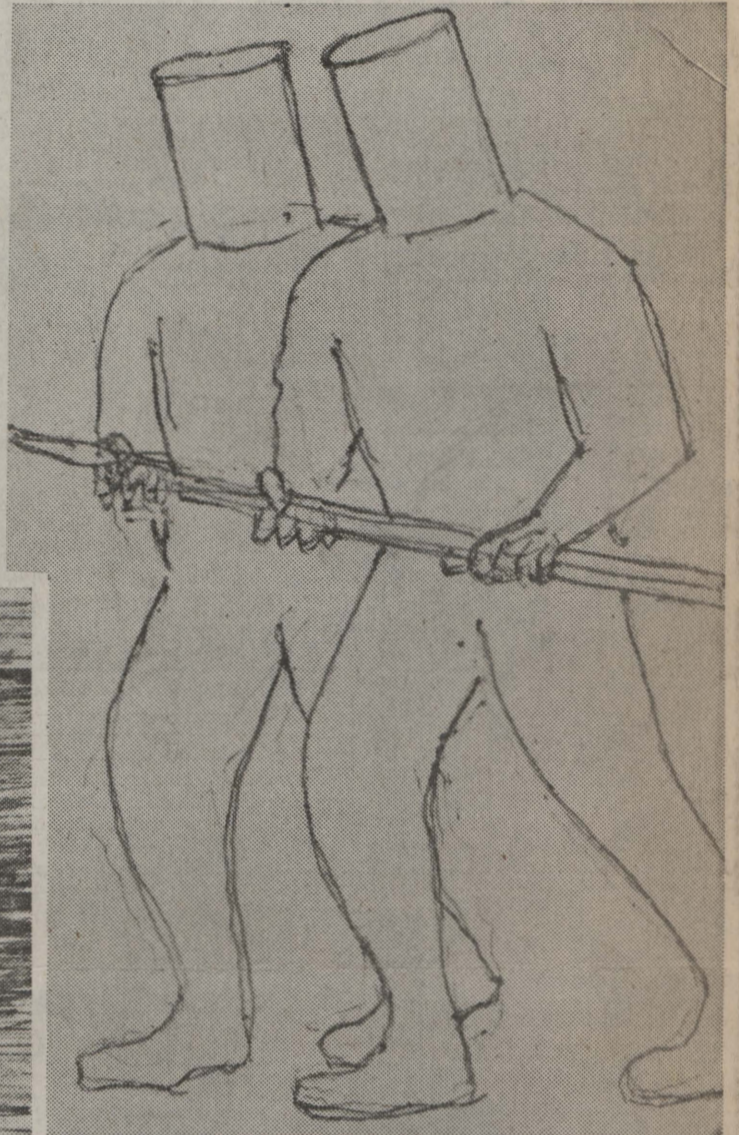
"The horses were so frightened that they bolted to the stables.

"We ran after them. But the faster we ran the faster the lights came after us.

"I've never been so frightened. I shouted 'Come on, Tracey, run.'



FLYING SAUCER: Impression of the invaders on Eagle's Crag



SILVER ALIENS from 25 yards: Sketched by Tom Schofield

By KEITH BEABEY

"But she was so scared that she just threw herself to the ground."

As mysteriously as it arrived, the UFO vanished.

THE CASE of Terror on Eagle's Crag.

Some villagers revealing their experiences refuse to be named through fear of the unknown.

One of them is an engineer in the mill-town of Todmorden who looked out of his window and got the fright of his life.

For there lit up in the sky over Eagle's Crag he says he saw a UFO.

He told me: "It was a piercing bright white light hovering over the trees.

"I took a second look and there were bright blue lights. Then I saw the outline of the craft, shaped like a helmet."

THE CASE of the Roadhog from Space.

Fishmonger Arthur Shelton was driving over the moors above the valley from his shop in Union Street, Bacup.

He told me: "Suddenly a bright light appeared in the middle of the road. It was coming towards me.

"I pulled up. It was such a strange light. It didn't seem to dazzle me but came nearer and nearer.

"Suddenly, right in front of the van, it shot up into the sky.

"I jumped out but there was nothing. No light and not a sound."

THE CASE of the Shimmering Skydiver.

Bacup tailor Mike Stacks was intrigued by talk of "things in the sky."

So Mike, of Miles Avenue, Stacksteads, went up into the hills with his



TRACEY and SANDRA: "Lights came after us"

brother Raymond and friend John Hargreaves, determined to get to the bottom of things.

Raymond heard a soft humming overhead.

Said Mike: "There was a big light falling rapidly towards us. It went out and a mass of other lights appeared, revolving in a circle.

"Above us was a circular craft. As it came lower and slower, the high-pitched

hum dropped. It got to 300 feet and just hovered there. It had stopped dead and there wasn't a sound.

"Underneath it were triangular pads and orange shimmering lights.

"A bright blue light shone into the sky from the domed roof of the strange craft."

Raymond said: "I didn't believe the things I was hearing in the valley. Now I'm completely bewildered."

A CID MAN'S CAR RIDE TO TERROR

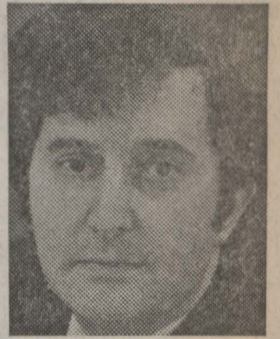
DOWN - TO - EARTH policemen like Chief Inspector Norman Collinson are used to sifting fact from fiction.

But there was nothing in the police manual to explain his experience as he drove home early one morning from the CID HQ Salford, Manchester.

The detective says that as he headed for Heywood in the direction of the Rossendale Valley he saw a brilliant white circular object speed across the sky—and heading toward the valley. Suddenly it turned at 90 degrees.

In his report the officer says: "Never had I seen any aircraft make such a movement.

"Suddenly, without



NORMAN: "Unearthly"

warning the craft stopped. And from a standing start it flashed across the sky to the horizon in less than two seconds.

"That convinced me that whatever it was, it was never made by man. No earthly craft could disappear at such a speed."

He added: "Many sightings in the valley have been explained."