

'Aliens' On Battlesbury

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A recent close encounter of the bright green and silver kind was made by 50 brave youngsters from the Avenue and Minster schools, Warminster.

The pupils, who were camping in the grounds of Avenue School, persuaded Peter Gerrish, the school's head teacher, to let them loose on Battlesbury Hill even though they had heard a specially taped radio news report of UFO sightings earlier in the week.

The programme reported the sightings of three silver cigar-shaped objects hovering above the hill and sightings of four alien creatures actually on the hilltop.

After telling them to be careful Mr. Gerrish let them go, and, led by Minster's class three teacher, Mr. Ashley, they made their way to the hill.

Mr. Gerrish later said: "Some of the children were a little frightened after the encounter, and, for a time, had to be comforted, but by the time they returned to camp they were congratulating themselves on how brave they had been."

Eight-year-old Laurie Southwell, tells what happened:

"Class three of Minster School and class eight of the Avenue School went up Battlesbury Hill to have a walk. Before we went, we listened to the news. We heard that UFOs had been spotted over Battlesbury.

"Our headmaster nearly didn't

let us go, but in the end he did if we were careful.

"We had gone about half way when Mr. Ashley, shouted 'Duck', so we all put our heads down. 'Put your hands up', shouted someone.

"I had a quick peep. It was a man dressed in green. He looked quite queer.

"'Oh no', I said to myself. We had all put our hands up by now.

"I have come to explore this planet, Earth. I have to see if it is all right for my people," said the strange person.

"'Oh my!' I said to myself.

"'It's an alien,' said Mr. Ashley. 'He looks friendly. Let's go and talk to him'.

"'Do not come near, otherwise you will catch a Space disease,' said the alien.

"We talked to him. He answered questions and asked questions about Earth.

"When we went back to school after our walk we talked about the alien. I was frightened.

"Later that evening, when both classes were camping in our field, a policewoman came and took a statement. Robert Sketchely gave her a description and she said it was very helpful."

With tongue in cheek Mr. Gerrish added: "This matter now rests with the local constabulary who are investigating the close encounter with all the resources they can muster."