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Timothy Good — "Easy to ridicule"

IF Mrs Thatcher ever sits up in bed at night studying information about UFOs, Timothy Good would be delighted to hear it.

It is his opinion that heads of government like her do not pay enough attention to the matter. He himself takes the idea of UFOs seriously, though scornful of any suggestion of little green men in flying saucers, ready to invade.

"It is easy to ridicule such matters," he said. "The evidence around it is so dramatic, sensational, that people scoff because they are afraid to admit that there might be other beings out there in space."

"I'm convinced there are and that they could be hostile. Which is why I think we should know more about such things. I'd like to think top politicians like Mrs Thatcher took the matter seriously and were fully informed."

Timothy Good (42) has

Report by Diana Pulson

During his 1976 election campaign he announced that he had seen a UFO in Georgia in 1969, together with witnesses.

Very bright

"It was the darndest thing I have ever seen," he said at the time. "It was big, it was very bright, it changed colours and it was about the size of the moon. We watched it for ten minutes, but none of us could figure out what it was."

Carrier, it seems, then

In London, one in America.

Is there a great

UFO COVER-UP?

One man's close encounter



ON August 12, 1983, Alfred Burtoo had an alleged close encounter beside the Basingstoke Canal in Aldershot, Hampshire.

He was fishing at the time and it was in the early hours of the morning says Timothy Good. An ex-soldier and local historian, Alfred Burtoo was having a cup of tea when he saw a strange light. Then two "korms" appeared. Both were about four feet high, dressed in green overalls and helmets with visors which were blacked-out.

One beckoned to Mr Burtoo and he followed them. On a nearby towpath they came to an object about 40 to 45-feet across. It had portholes and rested on two ski-type runners.

Entering he heard a voice say: "Come and stand under the amber light." He was then asked how old he was. Alfred Burtoo said he was 78 and after five minutes the voice said: "You can go. You are to old and infirm for our purpose."

Leaving what he later thought was a UFO Burtoo went back to his fishing, then home to his wife and told her what had happened.

The occupants of the spaceship moved like human beings with a stiff gait, he said. No facial features could be discerned because they were covered by the visors. The suits, which also covered the hands and feet, appeared to be moulded onto their thin bodies like plastic.

Mr Burtoo died on August 31, 1988, aged 80. He had not changed his story in the intervening years and Timothy Good himself is convinced that he was telling the truth about his encounter with a UFO and its occupants.

He was impressed, but cannot hazard a guess as to what, if anything, was aboard.

He enjoyed the film Close Encounters of the Third Kind and thought it reasonably accurate, apart from the Hollywood ending when a spaceship looking like a chandellier came out of the sky.

"UFOs — unidentified flying objects — are not a figment of the imagination," Timothy Good says. "But why has so much of the information available been suppressed? Why has there been such a cover-up?"

□ Above Top Secret, by Timothy Good; Subjunct and Jackson, £14.95.