

While filling the truck with petrol, Peter noticed something hovering in the sky several miles away, and pointed it out to his friend.

It looked like a large metallic silver ball, reflecting the sunlight. They stared at it for 10 minutes while it hovered perfectly still.

Suddenly the men were startled by a terrific noise. Coming up behind them, just two hundred feet off the valley floor, were six jet fighter aircraft.

Three of them peeled off and streaked towards the bright silver ball, while the others swept around towards Bolton.

Without warning, like a bullet from a gun, the ball shot upwards at a phenomenal speed with the jets giving chase. Eventually both UFO and aircraft vanished into tiny dots.

On behalf of the Manchester UFO Research Association, I wrote a letter to DS8, a department at the Ministry of Defence,

which, although now allegedly closed, was responsible at that time for handling complaints of low-flying aircraft and reports of UFOs.

I outlined Peter Todd's story and asked if they were prepared, or able, to verify any of his statements. A reply was received dated November 11.

"I have studied the reports of UFO sightings received by the Ministry of Defence during September and October 1978 but have been unable to trace anything similar to the incident you describe. I am therefore unable to verify the information you provided.

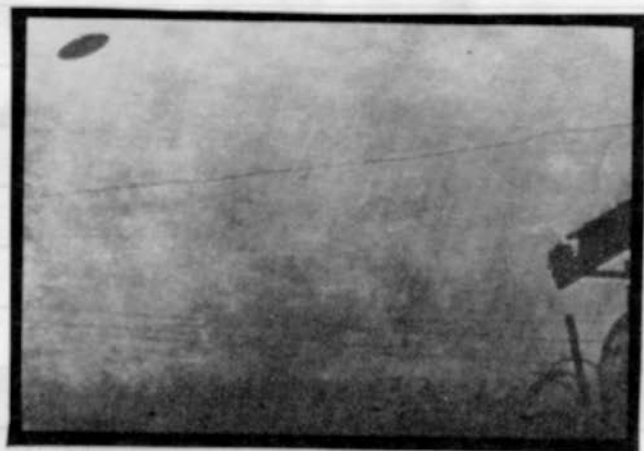
"You may, however, be interested to know that the location of your witnesses was in the vicinity of an area where low flying training for RAF pilots is authorised."

I find the second paragraph hard to believe, and feel it was written to diffuse interest in the case. I cannot see

military aircraft making regular flights at roof-top level close to a built-up area and over a motorway! Peter Todd has lived in the area all his life, and neither before nor since the incident, has he seen any jets "on exercise."

Is there a link between the silver sphere which followed Wing Commander Townsend-Withers' Canberra PR7, and the silver ball Peter Todd observed chased by military jets?

Perhaps somebody, somewhere, knows the "official" answer.



*This flying saucer UFO was photographed by a Michigan farmer. National security services couldn't explain it.*