

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE POLICE KIND

Police officers have been some of the most reliable witnesses to sightings of UFOs. Ken Sloan reports on his own experiences and those detailed in a recent book

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Police officers are usually very reliable witnesses when dealing with day-to-day events. So can they be dismissed out of hand when they talk about seeing things from another world?

The testimony of police officers who believe that they have seen unidentified flying objects plays a big part in *Above Top Secret* by Timothy Good (Guild Publishing), which makes an interesting case for UFOs and examines the alleged attempts of governments to cover up their existence.

In a foreword, Admiral of the Fleet The Lord Hill-Norton, writes: 'A large number of sightings have been vouched for by persons whose credentials seem to me to be unimpeachable. It is striking that so many have been trained observers, such as police officers.'

The book records the experiences of Sgt Tony Dodd and PC Alan Dale when on duty in Cononley, near Skipton, Yorkshire, in January 1978.

In Sergeant Dodd's own words: 'We were going down a country lane — it was dark.

Suddenly the road in front of us lit up. We stopped the car, looked up, and there was this thing coming from our right to our left. It was glowing; like a bright white incandescent glow, and it came right over our heads.

'It was as if the metal this thing was made of was white hot, and there were these three great spheres underneath, like huge ball-bearings — three of them equally placed around it. There was a hollow area underneath and like a skirt-



WHAT'S THIS?: Farmer Dick Jennings inspects a saucer found in a field near Chippenham, Wiltshire, watched over by a local officer

ing around the bottom, but these things protruded below that.

'It was absolutely awe-inspiring — it was such a beautiful looking thing. It seemed to have portholes round the dome — and what stood out more than anything else was the coloured lights dancing round on the outside of the skirt at the bottom, which gave the impression that it was rotating.

'We carried on along this road and as we got towards the village we could see

these lights coming towards us from the other direction — it was another police car. We stopped and the driver said: 'I've just been watching this damn great UFO and it seems to have come down somewhere over here.'

During my own police service I can remember three incidents which were connected with UFOs. The first was when a woman reported that her neighbour had been raped. She went on to say that it was no ordinary rape as it had been committed by a Venusian. The man had just appeared in her neighbour's house, said that he had come in a space ship from Venus (and to prove it he plunged his hand into a pan of boiling water). He then had intercourse with her and she was unable to resist. A few weeks later a child had been born which, the woman said 'is obviously not human'.

I regret to say that, after making vague promises to investigate, I forgot the incident and failed to report it. (I hope now that the statute of limitations applies to disciplinary offences.)

As a sergeant I visited one of my constables in the early hours of the morning during what I think was 1967. He was pale and shaky and told me that he had just seen a flying saucer land and take off again in a nearby park. At his request I promised not to mention this to anyone and have not done so until now.

The strange thing was that the following day's newspapers carried a report of a strange object of the same description, observed and followed by two officers of the Cheshire Constabulary.