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Fears grow crafts buzz

IT was 9.30 p.m. when schoolboy Peter Topham felt compelled to look out of his bedroom window, over the fenlands near his East Anglia home.

But what he saw had him staring wide-eyed in disbelief.

There, at the end of the field, was a weird craft with flashing red, green and purple lights.

"It was a flying saucer," says Peter. "It also flashed a large white light, like a camera, which seemed to cover the entire field."

He is one of the many terrified people who have seen—but haven't been able to explain—mysterious lights in the sky over East Anglia.

The following day Peter, of Fornham All Saints, near Bury St. Edmunds, stepped out into the field to see if there was any trace of the strange craft.

In the middle of the large crop of beet, there was 100ft-wide circle which had been flattened.

The story reached Del Newman, a UFO expert in Ipswich and two weeks after the sighting he interviewed Peter and inspected the field.

"Even after that amount of time, the circle was still distinguishable from the rest of the field," says Del who helps run the East Anglia UFO and Paranormal Research Society.

Disturbing

Peter's conviction that a UFO visited the fens of East Anglia is backed by dozens of unexplained and disturbing sightings.

"The United States air force bases at Mildenhall and Woodbridge and the nuclear power station at Sizewell would be areas of interest to visitors from space," says Del Newman.

Among the frightening close encounters was that

By ANDY RUSSELL

of former teacher Janet Richards.

She was driving along the A12 at Blyburgh in Suffolk one evening with daughter Cathy, 23.

"We were chatting away about this and that when I noticed a sort of ball of white light in the sky," says Janet, 52.

"We got out of the car and there was a humming sound and the light came towards us and passed overhead."

Saucer

Nurse and qualified pilot Melanie Hartley of Bury St Edmunds had a similar experience when she was driving home near the village of Fornham All Saints.

"It was about 11 p.m. and I noticed a very bright light reflecting on our car bonnet from above. Both my daughters were in the back and they saw an object to the left and above the car," says Melanie, 41.

She described the saucer-shaped object as being about the length of three double-decker buses.

Artist James Aish saw a similar object while he was looking out of his bedroom window at home in Tydd St Giles, near Wisbech in Cambrid-

fascinating look at the unexplained mystery

SKIES OF TERROR

as aliens' the fenland



JAMES AISH ... saw a UFO in daylight

geshire on a clear summer's day.

"I know I saw a flying saucer. I saw it clear as day. It was shaped like a disc with some sort of control tower just off centre," he adds.

One of the strangest happenings in recent years came when four different people reported seeing a bright blue light at exactly the same time. Not one of the four know each other and all reported their experiences separately.

Burning

At 3.45 a.m. on October 27 last year two British Rail workers were stopped in their tracks while working in Felixstowe.

Eric Wallis, 29, recalls: "I was on shunting duties when I was suddenly aware of the ground being illuminated from above by a bright blue light."

Colleague Michael Scarfe, 30, adds: "I saw an object in the sky, like a ball burning really brightly with blue-silver flames."

The same object with its intensive blue light was seen by Mr. Edward Barrett in the village of Ufford, and by George Abbott and Bernard Barrett in Ipswich.

Del Newman of the UFO Research Association says: "All the sightings were at exactly the same time and, despite extensive research, nothing has been found which could explain them."

The most famous case of UFO's in the fens was the suspected landing of an alien spacecraft near the American air force base at Woodbridge.

Details were kept hidden by military authorities until an amazing memo to the Ministry of Defence from the base commander was released under America's Freedom of Information Act.

The memo from Colonel Charles Halt told the story

of what happened in the early hours of December 27, 1980.

Two servicemen saw lights outside the base and thought that an aircraft had crashed. They rushed up to the site where they saw a strange craft.

Colonel Halt's memo recorded: "They reported seeing a strange glowing object in the forest. It appeared to be triangular in shape, about 2-3 metres across the base and two metres high.

"It illuminated the entire forest with a white light. The object had a pulsing red light on top and a bank of blue lights underneath."

The following day, a search of the area showed three separate depressions in the ground, about two inches deep and seven in diameter.

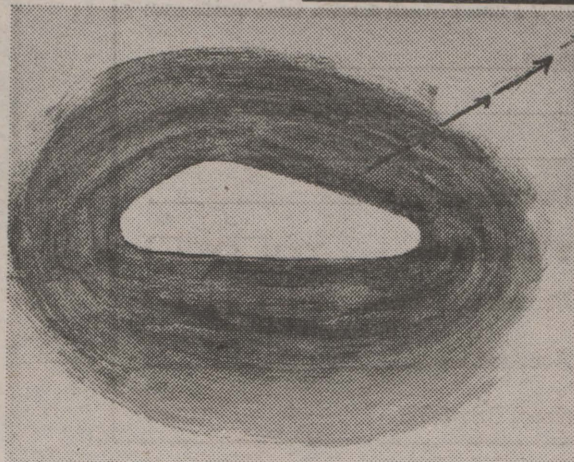
Later that night, the object reappeared—this time in the sky.

"It moved and pulsed. At one point it seemed to throw off glowing particles and then broke into five separate white objects and disappeared," continues the memo.

"Immediately thereafter, three starlike objects were noticed in the sky—two to the north and one to the south."



SHOCKER ... Janet Richards had a terror



SHOCKER ... what James Aish saw

CHUBB & CHAUNCEY

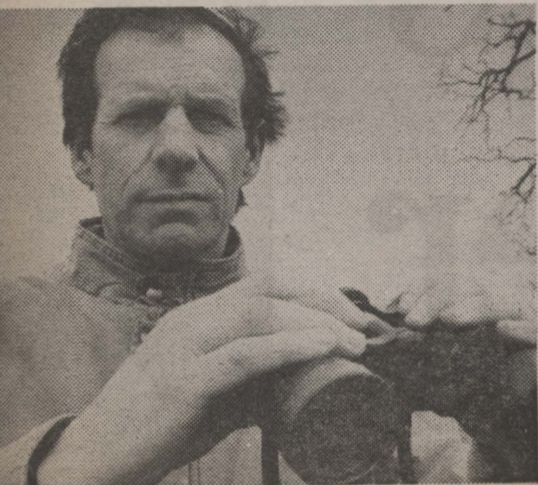


JANET ... forced to stop her car

fascinating look at the unexplained mystery of UFOs

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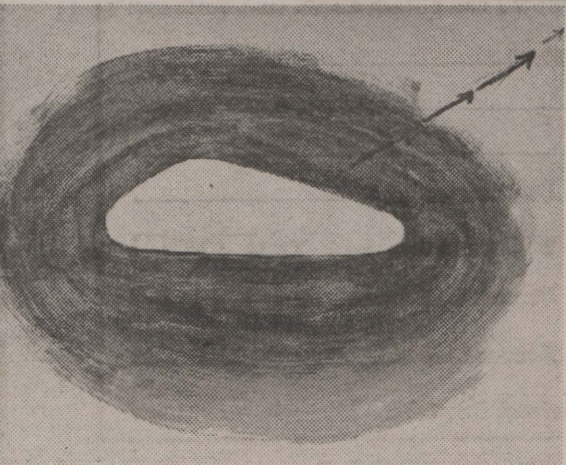
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Drawing by ANDREW HOWAT

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CHUBB & CHAUNCEY By VANCE RODEWALT

THE NEIGHBOURHOOD KIDS ARE PLAYING STREET HOCKEY.

I DON'T SEE ANY GOALS OR HOCKEY STICKS, ET CETERA...

YOU'RE RIGHT, I GUESS IT'S JUST A FIGHT.

RODEWALT 98