

# CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF A LOCAL KIND

HEADLINES in a certain national newspaper can't be helping Mr Timothy Good at all.

"Alien Got My Nerve! Drunk" and fantastic claims of Martians watching Wimbledon last year in a publication I don't think I really have to name could seriously discredit Mr Good's cause.

For, in an era in which we've all had a jolly good giggle about silly drawings of spacemen who apparently find cheeseburgers lethal, Mr Good is trying to be a serious UFOlogist.

## Cover-up

It's taken him 20 years of solid research and a fortune in globetrotting to compile enough information to produce *Above Top Secret*, a new book which claims to expose a worldwide

cover-up of the world's governments don't. He's convinced they take it very seriously indeed. So much so in fact, they will go to great lengths to con the public into believing the whole thing's a farce, even staging fake sightings which can easily be debunked when someone reports them.

But, even though Mr Good is big enough to recognise that as many as 90 per cent of UFO sightings are genuine mistakes — weather balloons, light refraction, hallucinations and so on — he stresses 10 per cent remain "unexplained" and are the subject of secret but intense and concerted government research.

## Top secret

Military personnel who report sightings are sworn

page after page — even including some incredible reports of spaceships and alien bodies recovered after crashes in America.

Mr Good states he cannot vouch for the absolute credibility of all the documents

underneath as well and skirting around the bottom. It was absolutely silent as it flew past.

Mr Dodd told me last week he was so impressed with what he saw, he has returned to the same spot on several

will be howling with laughter. But, if they could pick themselves off the floor for just a moment and think why a former policeman should risk ridicule in an area where he is a well-known face for no apparent gain whatsoever, there's a chance the subject of UFOs will cease to be an enormous joke.

## Evidence

It's only right the last word should go to Timothy Good. He told me last week, since the book was published, more evidence of the UFO phenomena receiving top level interest has been revealed.

The Russian magazine, *Soviet Life*, reports in its edition of May 1987 that the issue was discussed by Reagan and Gorbachev at the Geneva Summit in February that year.

The two world leaders are said to have agreed those little green men we love to laugh about do not present a real threat at present but, when the outstanding issues between East and West surrounding nuclear weapons are dealt with, they are something we will have to consider.

**THE subject of UFOs is always one which prompts fascinating and lively conversation. But, although we all love to talk about little green men and the possibility of life on other planets, how many of us are brave enough to come out of the closet and actually admit we believe in it? Timothy Good is such a man and is the author of *Above Top Secret*, a book which claims to reveal a worldwide cover-up on the issue. Chief Reporter STEVE PARSLEY has been talking to the man to whom aliens are no laughing matter and to others from the area who claim to have had real "close encounters".**

his book is based on. Many of them were apparently photocopied and sent to him by a CIA source he refuses to name. But the people involved in almost all the sightings are almost without exception in responsible professions — airline pilots, policemen, and even scientists and astronauts.

This fact surely explodes the myth UFOs travel light years across space just to visit sheep farmers and tribesmen in undeveloped countries.

occasions. Since 1978, he has seen as many as 60 other UFOs in the same general area.

"Once, when one flew by, I flashed my car lights and it stopped and returned to where I was parked. It was glowing amber to start with but, as it approached, it turned to dazzling white before disappearing," he added.

And Mr Dodd continued: "I believe we're on the verge of seeing and hearing something very big about this subject" but declined to reveal any more.

And Mr Mark Birdsall, one of the founders of the Yorkshire UFO Society, vouched for Mr Dodd's sincerity.

"I'd never seen anything of interest

## A sighting

One such reliable witness is retired policeman Tony Dodd of Grassington. He saw something he couldn't explain when on duty



cover-up on the subject of UFOs.

And it's just a little unfortunate the completely serious work hit the streets at a time when certain elements of the media decided to flog to death what was a good wheeze.

## Best seller

Financially, Mr Good won't be complaining as his book has made the best-seller list, the paperback selling 15,000 copies in just one week. But I can't help thinking it's for the wrong reasons.

Like ghost stories, we all love to hear tales of mysterious lights in the sky. After all, millions paid money to be frightened to death by the two Alien films and were fascinated by the marvellous Spielberg special effects in *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*.

But how many of us take the possibility of life on other planets seriously? How many of us scoff when some "crank" claims to have seen little green men in their back garden?

## Convinced

There is one thing Mr Good is absolutely sure about and

to secrecy on pain of pretty dire punishment and civilians who have had "close encounters" are frequently visited by "men from the Government" who warn them to keep their mouths shut, backing up their words with thinly-veiled threats — or so Mr Good reports.

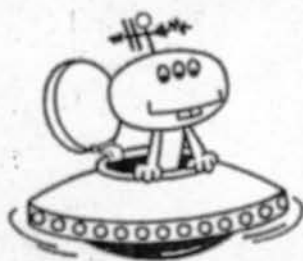
Such was the case when a UFO was reported to have landed in Meanwood, Leeds, in 1979 in full view of two teenage schoolgirls playing in the snow.

On seeing the object, the girls turned to run but the mysterious craft followed them a short distance before disappearing into the sky. Terrified, the girls ran home to tell their parents.

The sighting appeared in local papers and soon both families were visited by "a man from the Ministry" who flashed credentials and insisted on interviewing the two youngsters separately.

The man later reported to the parents the girls' story was not a fairy tale and the teenagers had indeed seen something but warned no one should ever talk about the incident.

And so the case histories go on for



in 1978 and his case is recorded in Mr Good's book.

A sergeant at the time, he was on patrol with PC Alap Dale at Cononley near Skipton when the area was lit up from the sky. The two men looked up to see a huge object about 100ft across travelling from east to west at approximately 40mph no more than 100ft away.

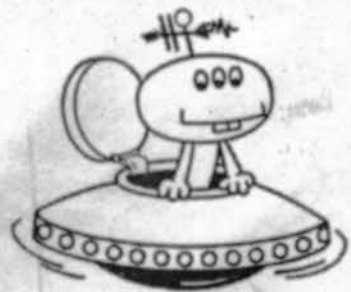
It was glowing white and flew right over the two men's heads. They saw it had flashing lights and three spheres underneath which resembled massive ballbearings. There was a hollow area

until I went out with him one night," he said.

## Hotline

Both men are now committed UFOlogists and are among the leading investigators and researchers in the country in an area termed as a "UFO hotspot". The Yorkshire UFO Society has even launched a hotline for people who want to report sightings in confidence (0156 752216).

"All we want is feedback from the public. It's the only way we're going to crack this mystery," said Mr Dodd. No doubt, sceptics



"I don't think the public should know all the facts. The governments of the world are right to keep some of them from us — if all were revealed, it may well prove too frightening. But I would like to see the authorities admit that UFOs are not 'pie in the sky' and they are involved in rigorous research," added Mr Good.

"It's sad some elements of the media choose to ridicule the UFO phenomena. It's a serious

matter which requires serious answers," he said.

● SILLY? — The popular media image of "little green men".

★★★

OR SERIOUS? — A photograph of a UFO (far left) taken by a gun camera over the East China sea during the Korean War by a military pilot.