

Strange meeting in hospital grounds

GRAHAM W. BIRDSALL, Chairman of the Yorkshire UFO Society, continues his five-part series with the curious story of the Airedale nurse, the UFO and the scorched tree.

● Illustration by MARK BIRDSALL

UFOs in Yorks

The full story

THE Yorkshire UFO Society has an inbuilt team of dedicated researchers who strive to collate dozens upon dozens of reports that are received from throughout the region, and several intriguing ideas of thought have emerged.

We have been surprised at the number of elderly people who have suddenly awoken in the middle of the night, and seen from their bedroom windows, large, glowing objects, quite stationary in the sky. These reports have come in from around the county, and a connection could be there. On August 9, 1982, an 88-year-old Otley woman awoke at 2.05 a.m. to find her room illuminated by a brilliant light, emanating from a large object hovering near her home. The light was so bright she could see pictures that were hung on her wall at the rear of the room. After five minutes, the light "switched off".

Lately, we have been receiving similar reports, but these have involved not elderly people, but a single community living near Halifax. They have been experiencing these lights, coupled with strange high pitched noises for nearly 18 months. Matters came to a head recently when one young woman observed a light travelling directly towards her cottage window. Its speed was fantastic, yet just as it seemed inevitable that it would hit the house, it came to a dead stop, and hovered outside the window.

Strange

While this case is still being analysed, and several witnesses to be further questioned, it does appear that this area, which experienced UFO phenomenon in the late seventies, is once again receiving unusual attention. The woman who observed the object outside her window would agree with that assumption, particularly as she was paralysed on her bed and could not move a muscle until it had departed!

The head of our research team is Mark

Birdsall, and naturally enough, once the paper work has been brought up to date, he likes to scout known areas of activity first hand.

On October 15, 1982, Mark and three colleagues were scanning the skies around the Cracoe area in North Yorkshire. At 1.19 a.m. they all observed a strange oval light travelling towards Skipton. Its colour was cream, tinged with yellow, and there was no sound as it slowly arched away from vision. The next day, the Yorkshire Evening Post ran a story which interested us all. Some 100 minutes after the sighting at Cracoe, night-shift workers at the Rowntree Mackintosh factory in York observed a large UFO over the city.

On the morning of October 24, 1982, three witnesses, whose identities cannot be revealed, observed the most dramatic manoeuvres yet by UFOs in the region of Elslack Moor. It was in the early hours of the morning and thus dark, when the men observed a small object, zig-zagging a few feet above the ground across Elslack Moor. Red and white lights could be seen revolving around the body of the object. They then observed a beam of light being emitted from the underside directly onto the ground. At one point the object came within 50 feet of the witnesses.

Later that same morning, at 5.15 a.m., a strange series of lights passed directly overhead of the men's car. It was not seen approaching, nor was any sound heard, although it was very low. The men elected to try and follow the lights, and drove down a steep hill for a

few hundred yards before losing sight of it.

Some five minutes elapsed when the men looked back to what had been their position on the hillside moments before. They could clearly see a single "strip" of light, crescent shaped, travelling slowly toward them. The bright strip of light did not give off a beam, but it came directly over their car, some 75-100 feet in height.

Brilliant

One man commented: "It was so low you could have thrown a rock at it." The light now became much brighter as it passed over the bemused and somewhat frightened men. An array of red and white lights were clearly visible on the underside perimeter of the object.

In November that same year, a similar object was seen at Carleton Moor. Low in altitude, it travelled across the night sky. What makes us believe that these objects are in some ways controlled is best answered by what happened to this object once an aircraft came into view, travelling in the opposite direction. The object suddenly descended low to ground and was completely out of vision as the aircraft passed. Once the aircraft was out of sight, you guessed it, the object rose, and carried on as before.

Another fascinating encounter with UFOs took place in Earby, and the witness has many years' experience of observing satellites and aircraft in H.M. Forces. "At 5.40 p.m. on Wednesday, December 22, 1982, I was walking my dog along the street at my home address. It was a clear dark night,

and there were many stars visible in the sky. I suddenly saw a large ball of brilliant white light in the sky south of my position. The object was far brighter and larger than any star, and larger than a golf ball held at arms length.

It moved across the sky toward the north and then stopped and hovered for a few minutes. It then moved south again and suddenly disappeared without going behind anything. Then a beam of light, brilliant white, appeared where the object had vanished. It was a long beam, and directed at the ground. It was wide at the top and narrowed toward the ground. It did not go to a point, but appeared to be round at the bottom. The beam of light lit all the sky for some 5-6 minutes, then vanished. The whole thing took place over the Carleton / Colne moor."

Reports like this have continued to filter in, but when you consider that only 10 per cent of people who see UFOs report them officially, to either their local newspaper or police station, or local UFO group, it is not difficult to appreciate the problems in building up an accurate picture of the enigma as it affects the region.

Hospital

On February 16 this year, an Otley man observed a very large oval object near Farnley Hall. It gave off a fluorescent blue colour and was very bright. The witness is very familiar with aircraft, helicopters and the like, and discounts these as a possible explanation.

On consecutive nights in March this

year, strange flying objects were seen near Bolton Abbey, North Yorkshire. The month ended with similar sightings by staff at a well known hospital in the region. On one of these nights, a nursing sister was shocked to see a large circular object directly above her as she walked in the grounds at 6 a.m. It had been snowing heavily, and was quite dark.

She recalled noticing three brilliant white "bulbs" on the underside of the object which was moving with her at walking pace. When she stopped walking, the object hovered. When she resumed at a quicker pace, the object did the same. She finally made a dash for the safety of a nearby ward, and when she looked out from a window, the object had disappeared. Other members of staff witnessed similar strange happenings, and also heard unfamiliar noises.

A search party made a sweep of the area to determine where the noise was coming from. Suddenly a large red glow could be seen through some trees, then the glow vanished. The next day it was discovered that a single tree had been badly scorched, and a branch was torn off some 10 feet above the base.

Scientists have established that the cause was not lightning, but an intense - searing blast of heat, but who or what would do that to a single tree, some 10 feet above the ground? The glow was seen by members of staff the previous evening had come from the exact spot where the damaged tree had been found.

TOMORROW: The Headingley Affair.

