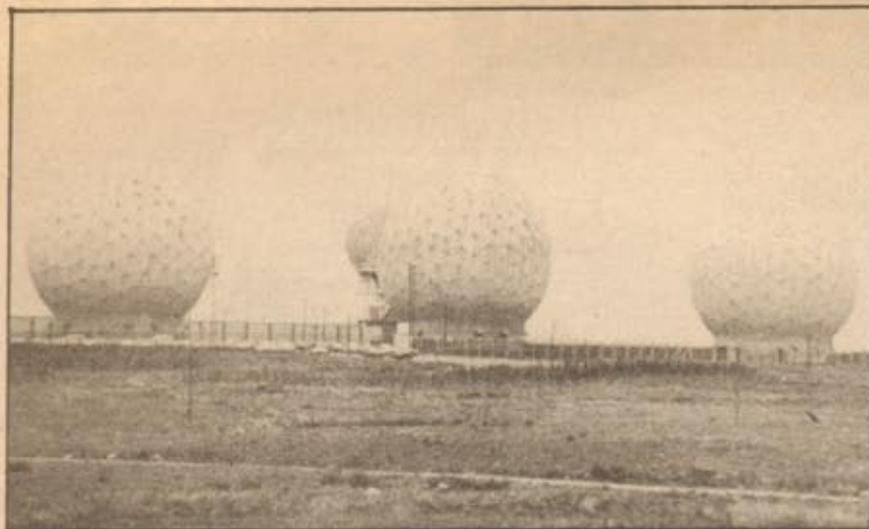


IN the third part of the adaptation from Jenny Randles' book "The Pennine UFO Mystery," the author examines how sightings seem to occur in 21-month cycles and highlights an Otley experience.



Menwith Hill... "a bright star hovered."

The pattern of UFO sightings



UFO reports are not made randomly but come in cycles. Although there is a constant background level of activity, this can flare up every so often into what ufologists call a flap or wave.

Flaps tend to be short lived and stimulated by media attention on an interesting local case. But a wave may be only geographically restricted in the sense of being limited to one whole country or major region of it. It seems to have no relation to media publicity.

Britain's biggest wave of the past decade came from February to June, 1977, a national event and from past wave recordings the question arises — is there a link between the dates?

A good deal of work has been done on this subject, and while it is dangerous to predict anything in ufology, there are one or two people who believe we can start to feel confident.

While researching this book I found I had been referring to increased UFO activity at certain times. If we bring these into sequence we have late October, 1973, August, 1975, May, 1977 and February, 1979. You hardly need a degree in maths to figure out that these are separated by periods of 21 months.

If we project the pat-

tern into the future we can see if it holds. If it does, we will know for sure we are on to something.

November, 1980, is the next date in sequence and after that August / September, 1982, May (June), 1984 and February / March, 1986.

Dismal

The 1980 projection is now history. At first glance UFO records would suggest not. It was a dismal year for sightings on the whole. But practically every single major event within Britain that year was concentrated into a very short time-span towards the end of November, what we came to think of as "the great wave."

The predicted August / September, 1982, wave does appear to have happened right on time. Sightings began to climb from an all-time low during mid-July and have, as the book goes to press, included all the old familiars from the Pennine area, including orange balls of light and even an alleged meeting with aliens.

One witness came forward in mid-August with a report that his car had been attacked by glowing balls of red light which had apparently burned out all his electrical wiring. He was parked at the time beside a small lake. May

June, 1984, should prove rather interesting.

To return to the 1980 wave, other incidents occurred during September and October.

For instance, on September 13 an object was seen in the early hours by police at Wetherby. It was diamond shaped, and police patrols in other parts of North and West Yorkshire chased it. Some chased it eastwards towards Hull.

There were rumours that the early warning establishment at Fylingdales, with radar searching for nuclear attack, detected the local UFO but we have not been able to validate police claims to this effect. P-cs Roy Allen and Richard Gordon were on the York by-pass when they claim the object approached them, hovered and then moved off.

While difficult to believe in this connection, I must point out that Venus was very bright in the eastern sky on early mornings in September. Some of the police sightings can be attributed to this, I suspect.

Meteor

About 1 a.m. on Sunday, November 23, at Otley, and four miles from our old friend Menwith Hill, Nigel Mortimer, 22, awoke for no apparent reason and felt an urge to look through his bedroom window. In the north-east he saw a very bright "star" moving towards Menwith Hill. His first response was that it was a meteor but he realised his error when it decelerated and hovered above a nearby field.

It looked like an oval, apparently metallic and bluish grey in colour and was surrounded by a reddish mist or vapour.

The object hovered in total silence for several minutes and Nigel tells me he felt very alert and also oddly "secure" inside his home. He said he experienced a sense of elation or achievement.

Nigel found himself overwhelmingly tired and fighting to dismiss what he had seen. Only minutes later, in spite of his conviction, he was half disbelieving it had taken place at all.

Realising the way his mind was working, almost as if it were trying to make him forget, he took pen and paper and wrote down what had happened. Still not convinced he would remember having written the notes he took an ornament from the window sill, put the notes beneath it and put it beside the bed.

It was fortunate he went to such lengths. When he awoke some hours later he had completely forgotten his sighting until he discovered his notes.

Had he not gone to such trouble to retain a memory of the events would he ever have known it had taken place?

Most of our dreams from the previous night escape totally from our conscious recall. The inference of this kind of experience is that the same thing might apply to UFO close encounters.

Were you abducted last night?

*Adapted from "The Pennine UFO Mystery," by Jenny Randles (Granada, £1.50).

Tomorrow: A P-c's Close Encounter.