

VALLEY OF THE UFO'S

**NEWS-WORLD
INVESTIGATES**

By KEITH BEABEY

IT WAS dusk when coalman Tom Schofield's day suddenly turned to terror . . . as two silver-suited aliens loomed up behind him.

He had just arrived home from work in the village of Crawshaw-booth — overlooking the eight-mile Rossendale Valley running between Burnley and Todmorden.

He told me: "I was closing the garage door when I saw something from the corner of my eye. I looked over my shoulder and they were there."

Tom, 48, leaned forward, his hands tightening their grip on a mug of tea.

"I can still see them clearly," he said. "There were two figures in silver suits like the chrome of a car bumper, brilliantly polished and without a crease."

"I just kept looking at them. Then suddenly I realised they didn't have any features. They didn't have faces."

"Their heads seemed to be covered with helmets."

"One of them turned towards me and I heard their clothing rustle."

"They were carrying what looked like a metal bar."

Tom looked away for just a second. When he turned back, the visitors had gone.

The case of the Silver Aliens is one of 32 hair-raising sightings from UFO Valley being probed by the Defence Ministry.

"Other people had seen things, too," said Tom, who joined friends in setting up a flying-saucer spotting group.

● **THE CASE of the Erste Egghead.**

Teenagers Mark Ashworth and Simon Heyorth, were shooting magpies and crows in Bolton Wood, Newchurch.

But what Mark, 19, saw was no bird.

He said: "There was a bright light in the sky between the branches."

"We ran. There was no doubt about it — we were frightened."

And as they dodged between the trees, Mark and Simon came face to face with a dark-cloaked figure.

ESCAPE

Said Mark: "It was like a tall man. A shining black gown covered him from head to foot but the thing I most remember was his large forehead."

"We stood for only a second. The figure didn't move. It was blocking our path through the wood. So we just turned and ran."

● **THE CASE of the UFO Hedgehopper.**

Sandra Philips, 16, and her 12-year-old friend Tracey Brown, were out in the meadows at Bacup leading their ponies back to their stable.

Suddenly, a bright light appeared in the sky.

Said Sandra: "It came lower and I could see other lights, blue, red and green. It was only about 30 feet above us."

"The horses were so frightened they bolted to the stables."

"We ran after them. But the faster we ran, the faster the lights came after us."

"I've never been so frightened. I shouted, 'Come on Tracey, run.'"

"But she was so scared she just threw herself to the ground."

Faceless men

and flying

saucers—32

reports so far



FLYING SAUCER: An engineer's impression of the invaders



SILVER ALIENS from 25 yards: Sketched by Tom Schofield



MARK: "Dark figure"



TRACEY AND SANDRA: "Lights came after us"

As mysteriously as it arrived, the UFO vanished

● **THE CASE of Terror on Eagle's Crag.**

Some villagers revealing their experiences refuse to be named through fear of the unknown.

One of them is an engineer in the mill town of Todmorden, who looked out of his window and got the fright of his life.

For there, lit up in the sky over Eagle's Crag, he says he saw a UFO.

He told me: "It was a piercing bright white light hovering."

HELMET

"I took a second look and there were bright blue lights. Then I saw the outline of the craft shaped like a helmet."

● **THE CASE of the Roadhog from Space.**

Fishmonger Arthur Shelton was driving over the moors above the valley from his shop in Union Street, Bacup.

He told me: "Suddenly a bright light appeared in the middle of the road. It was coming towards me."

"I pulled up. It was

such a strange light. "Suddenly, right in front of the van, it shot up into the sky."

"I jumped out but there was nothing. No light and not a sound."

● **THE CASE of the Shimmering Skydiver.**

Bacup tailor Mike Stacks was intrigued by talk of "things in the sky."

So Mike, of Miles Avenue, Stacksteads, went

up into the hills with his brother Raymond.

Said Mike: "There was a big light falling rapidly towards us."

"Above us was a circular craft. As it came lower and slower, the high-pitched hum dropped. It got to 300 feet and just hovered there. It had stopped dead and there wasn't a sound."

"Underneath it were triangular pads and orange shimmering lights."

NIGHT RIDE TO TERROR FOR CID MAN NORMAN

DOWN - TO - EARTH policemen like Chief Inspector Norman Collinson are used to sifting fact from fiction.

But there was nothing in the police manual to explain his experience as he drove home early one morning from the CID HQ in Salford, Manchester.

The detective says that as he headed for Heywood in the direction of the Rossendale Valley he saw a brilliant white circular object speed across the sky — also heading toward the valley. Suddenly it turned at 90 degrees.

In his report the officer says: "Never had I seen any aircraft make such a movement. "Suddenly, without

warning the craft stopped. And from a standing start it flashed across the sky to the horizon in less than two seconds.

"It was that final act — the speed of the disappearance — that convinced me it was never made by man. No aircraft made by humans could travel at such speed."

Bright

He added "A DC9 aircraft operated by Swissair regularly used the valley as a guide to landing. And it would shine a bright light

"But that has nothing to do with the sightings which honestly cannot be explained."