

# Railwayman's weird sighting

IN the fourth of his five-part series GRAHAM W. BIRDSALL, Chairman of the Yorkshire UFO Society, relates the weird tale of the frightened railwayman and the Headingley sighting.

## UFOs in Yorks

The full story

WHILE attention of late has been focused on North Yorkshire, where reports of Unidentified Flying Objects continue to stream in West Yorkshire has had its fair share of sightings in recent years.

Bradford in particular has had its own mini UFO "wave", but analysis has shown most sightings reported in the area can be put down to aircraft. Three reports were given to the police within minutes on March 13, 1978, and a police spokesman said: "It is unusual for so many people to report sightings in such a short time," such was their reaction to an everyday occurrence. A Beeston, Leeds, man, reported that during the summer of that same year, he observed a very long oblong object which was rectangular on each corner. He noticed a glass frontage, lit on the inside, and there were "people" leaning over something looking down at him.

The object was so low he made out their dress, which was uniformed. Detailed descriptions were given by the witness, although the sighting lasted a mere 15 seconds. Had the man been party to an extraordinary encounter, and glimpsed at a vision of the future? Some would say he had, particularly as reports like this have come in from around the globe. Whole communities have stopped and stared at stationary objects in the sky, and noticed figures looking down at them, often waving, yet on this occasion no other witnesses came forward to back up the man's testimony.

Had the whole population of Beeston witnessed this sighting, or merely several independent witnesses, the sighting would be hailed as a dramatic Close Encounter, as it is, the case simply adds to the mystery that is the UFO.

1978 ended with one last reported UFO sighting, this time from Otley, where several people observed three cigar shaped objects arch over the town



Illustration by MARK BIRDSALL

centre, the day was New Year's Eve, but I hasten to add that the time was 9 p.m.!

## Worried

Following a live phone-in programme I participated in for Radio Leeds, a letter arrived at my home from a worried man who had experienced UFO phenomenon at close quarters. Such was his concern, we only managed to speak with him at a secret rendezvous held at a Leeds hotel. The man in question is a senior employee of British Rail. He had left the station at Headingley on the evening of February 12, 1979 to walk about one mile down the track which was a short cut to his home.

Shortly after setting off, he noticed a bright green glow to his left beyond some bushes. Snow lay thickly on the ground. The man stood perfectly still, not eager to approach the glow. He then continued to walk towards his home, but was unnerved to see that the glow was pacing alongside him. Just then, the Harrogate to Leeds train appeared in the distance, and to avoid it meant crossing to the next railway line, which would take him within yards of the strange light.

As the train passed, the glow suddenly rose right above the man, and he could see a solid triangular shaped object. The man was now extremely frightened, and recalled walking on, in an effort to put as much distance between him and the object as possible.

However, when he looked back, the object was in the distance, but a remarkable sight greeted his eyes. He noticed that his footsteps in the snow ended a couple of feet away, and did not appear in the snow for some 15 feet, where he had been walking moments before. He had been raised above the snow by the object, and gently lowered back to the ground.

Incredible? The man

himself was adamant that his experience did take place, and added that he had not told a soul, not even his wife. He requested absolute confidentiality and then hastened away. To this day, the man has never set foot back on that stretch of line.

On December 18, 1979, an engineering manager at the I.C.I. works at Huddersfield saw a team of men looking skyward. It was about 11.5 a.m. He saw an elliptical shaped UFO that appeared at first like a large smoke ring, but closer observation revealed it had a definite solid grey middle. The size was incredible, some 100 feet diameter, and it moved in a constant speed toward the southeast. The man remarked: "We observed the object for about five minutes, before I reported the incident to the police. The object moved away from us to, say a mile, and began to disappear. There were no flashing lights or anything like that, but the object was definitely solid."

Astronomers are quick to point out that many UFO sightings, if not all, can be explained. People like myself are also quick to point out that many astronomers have witnessed UFO's, and are lost for an explanation. Indeed, the Yorkshire UFO Society has established strong links with local astronomical bodies to avoid needless time and effort being spent on reports that are obviously linked with meteorite showers, for example.

In Bradford, on January 14 and 16, 1983 two objects were seen. The first, appeared as a small ball, coloured green, travelling north to south. It then fell straight to earth changing colour to white. The second sighting was of an orange coloured ball of light which arched across the city. Both sightings were referred to as UFO's the following day in the Telegraph and Argus.

Tomorrow: How other countries react to the many world-wide sightings.