

THIS week, the British UFO Research Association holds its 21st anniversary conference. The YEP begins today an intriguing series which details some of the many UFO sightings in Yorkshire. In this first article, GRAHAM W. BIRDSALL, Chairman of the Yorkshire UFO Society, tells the story of the "Meanwood Landing" in Leeds.

● Illustration by MARK BIRDSALL.



The 'Meanwood Landing' mystery

UFOs
in Yorks
The full story

YORKSHIRE is the largest county in England, and whilst most of its native inhabitants go about their everyday business, a dedicated team of individuals seek out an enigma that has baffled mankind for decades. They are members of the Yorkshire UFO Society, an organisation that investigates sightings whenever, and wherever they occur within the county, and beyond. During the last several years, they have unearthed some 300 sightings, and beginning tonight, we take a closer look at some of the most mysterious and unusual cases from our files, starting with THE MEANWOOD LANDING.

On February 22nd 1979, Leeds like much of the North of England, was under several inches of snow. That evening two 14-year-old girls were sledging happily atop the Meanwood Valley. Lynsey Tebbs and Susan Pearson had just finished another "run" down a steep slope when both were suddenly aware of a large cluster of lights directly above them. It was 6.45 p.m. An object, displaying three green lights, and in its centre a red light, was hovering some 200 feet above them.

Without warning, it gave off a high piercing whine, and began to descend. It spiralled down, but some 100 feet above the ground its speed dropped, and the object straightened up. The whining noise became a low hum as it slowly descended to the snowy footpath, some 30

feet from the bemused girls. The humming sound then ceased, and the lights from the object glowed against the soft snow.

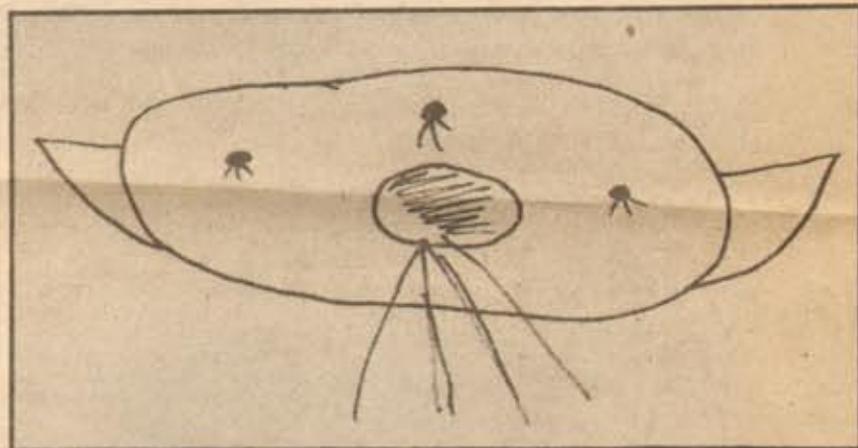
Fear of coming face to face with the unknown, then caused both girls to turn and run, but having put a distance of some 50 yards between them and the object, human curiosity prompted them to stop, turn around, and gaze long and hard at the object. They later described it as being grey in colour, approximately the length of a car, and about four feet in height.

Skyward

Some three to four minutes later, the object suddenly began to rise, and it hummed softly as it rose to a height of 100 feet. It hovered a short while then moved in a direction that was to take it right over the girls, but then it veered away to the girls' right and descended once more, further down the valley bottom. It was now resting awkwardly on a steep bank, some 80 feet from the girls. There it remained for some two minutes, and just as before, the lights could clearly be seen.

The girls watched with baited breath, and they did not have too long to wait for it suddenly began to wobble, then quickly rose skyward, straight up, to become no bigger than one of the thousands of tiny specks that filled the starlit sky. Both girls hurried home to tell their parents of the incident.

Quickly realising that they had both witnessed something strange, their parents separated them and got them to describe their encounter, and draw the object. The girls des-



Lynsey Tebbs's drawing of the mysterious object.

cribed the incident, and drew pictures of the object, and when the parents compared each other's notes, they were left in no doubt that a remarkable encounter had taken place.

Once we had learned of the incident, a detailed and exhaustive investigation then ensued. The characters of both girls was important to us, and both sets of parents convinced us that they were not prone to making up elaborate stories. Neither girl was interested in UFO's, or similar mysteries.

Trips

Importantly, neither girl showed any enthusiasm at suddenly finding themselves the centre of attention, but both later agreed to accompany us to the scene, and point out both landing areas. Once these had been located, we then began the task of combing both areas to determine if any unusual marks had been left by the object.

Having made several trips back and forth to each site, we discovered a curious depression in the snow which was now fairly hard ice. This took the form of an "E" shape, and in its centre was a circular hollow, six inches in diameter. This shape could be found at both landing sites. The landing area further down the steep slopes offered us more mysterious shapes, and these were measured.

Lying a few inches from another "E" shape was a circular piece of

ice which was again six inches in diameter. This was placed within the hollow that could be found inches away, and it fitted perfectly. We scoured the surrounding area to see if similar marks could be found, but they could not.

Analysis by Leeds University failed to explain the marks, nor was anything unusual found in the samples that were given them from both landing areas. It should be noted that the landing area further down the valley bank where the object came down is very steep, and no footprints could be found at all, not even the pawmarks of animals could be seen.

The encounter was featured in the Yorkshire Evening Post, and its morning sister paper, the Yorkshire Post, also included a drawing made by one of the girls. This was seen by two ambulance drivers at Pontefract, who later wrote to the Yorkshire Post stating that they had seen the very same object later that same evening fly directly overhead of their station. They too had drawn a picture of the object to show to colleagues, when compared with the girls' they were identical!

Circular

Lynsey Tebbs is now 19, and recalls the incident as though it were yesterday. "I still keep looking" she said, "but have seen nothing as dramatic." Does she think the object she and Susan saw that night

was a UFO? she simply replied "I believe."

One of the first recorded landings of a UFO in the post-war era came in the Spring of 1952, when at Meiningen, East Germany, a 60-foot long circular object was observed in the grounds of a large forest. This caused "concern in high places." There are no accurate figures for United Kingdom landing reports, but in 1974 the American based Mutual UFO Network reported that it had 570 landing reports on its files, all of which had physical traces found in the immediate areas. MUFON is one of 70 major UFO groups in the United States, and it is estimated that landings world wide run into many thousands.

Only recently at Melbourne, Australia, the airport authorities contacted the police over a suspected crash landing of an unknown aircraft which they had plotted on radar. The police were directed to the crash site, only to discover not an aircraft, but a UFO, down in some fields.

The police managed to approach the craft to within 100 feet when it suddenly shot straight up into the air. It proceeded to play "cat and mouse" with the radar networks for some five hours. One of the officers at the scene said later, "That has got to be the weirdest 'aircraft' I've ever seen."

TOMORROW: A close encounter on the A65.