

# UFOs and water —the strange link

## UFOs in Yorks The full story

A MOST important UFO sighting took place on Friday, July 11, 1980, although it received no publicity at the time and was only discovered by researcher Norman Collingson a Lancashire detective over a year later.

Police-constable Stephen Howarth, then 25, and colleague Chris Fernhead had left their station at Littleborough, four miles south of Todmorden. There had been some peculiar things going on in the building before they left.

The power had continually fluctuated with the lights dimming and brightening periodically. On a windy night in an elevated Pennine location this would not have been surprising, but it was a mild summer night with scattered cloud and a fairly gentle breeze.

The police had contacted the North West Electricity Board and been told that no faults existed.

With these events in mind the two policemen drove on to Soyland Moor between Littleborough and Todmorden for a routine patrol. It was 3.30 a.m. and the moon and stars were visible.

They had gone slightly over the border into Yorkshire when, in Stephen Howarth's words, "a large flattened oval-shaped object appeared between two electricity pylons."

was above a complex of reservoirs, while directly above a string of pylons stretched along the hillside. The object was about the size of a British half-penny at arm's length and seemed to be rotating, changing colour from yellow to bluish white and back again.

They watched the object climbing very slowly into the sky and tried to use their radio transmitter. But something was amiss. Ordinarily this set has a very limited range, even when located on a hilltop. It can overspill some 20 to 30 miles and receive police band communications from the South Manchester area.

But on this particular night they were hearing police broadcasts from South Wales, 200 miles away. They noticed this phenomenon only during the course of their sighting.

At 3.45 a.m., with the object still there, they drove back a mile or so on the road towards Littleborough where they obtained a different angle of view from a nearby quarry. They could still see the object above the pylons but also a second object further round to the north and identical to the first. The second object seemed to climb slowly upwards and was lost into cloud at about 4.30 a.m.

Researchers think this may have been the planet Venus but the officers seem not to agree. The first object remained stationary up to this time but then suddenly moved off to the south at a very fast speed and disappeared in seconds over the hill village of Denshaw.

THE strange connection of UFOs with reservoirs is discussed in the second part of our adaptation of Jenny Randles' book, "The Pennine UFO Mystery."



Apart from the power lines you will notice that reservoirs feature in this case again, as they have done in several others.

The Pennines are littered with small lakes of this kind so we should beware of making too much out of this pattern. Nevertheless it remains a fact that other researchers, in different countries, have detected a link between UFO's and water, especially reservoirs.

Numerous examples have also been noted by UFO's emerging from or going into bodies of water.

As writers Janet and Colin Bord put it: "Reservoirs seem to be of particular interest to UFO's, speculation among researchers runs the gamut from the suggestion that they are monitoring the pollution to which humanity subjects itself, to the belief that they are systematically doping our drinking water for reasons best known to ourselves."

So Thursday, August 14, 1980, Andrew Night-

ingale and a friend were fishing in the Ogden Reservoir near Rawtenstall. It was 8.50 p.m.

Suddenly a circular row of red lights — they think nine in all — appeared on the surface of the water just out from the bank. Thinking it was something above them casting its reflection they quickly glanced upwards. Nothing was there.

### Panic

When they looked back at the water the lights had disappeared but within moments reappeared, pulsing this time. It was quite clear now they were watching a large circular object underneath the surface of the reservoir.

Naturally, they began to panic and fled from the water's edge, dropping their expensive fishing tackle at the mercy of any passer-by. As one said afterwards: "There is no way I would go back there until it was daylight."

At 2 a.m. on the 15th, just five hours later, a

woman at nearby Haslingden was woken by red light flooding into her bedroom and looking out she saw a circle of about 12 red lights. In fright she backed away from the sight and then, oddly, got back into bed and forgot about the UFO until next day.

Cavorting red lights were seen by several witnesses in Todmorden two weeks later, almost to the minute. The published account of this case simply says, provocatively, that the streetlights dimmed while the UFOs were in view.

The description of a circle of red lights and even the connection with water is a further remarkable coincidence. On this occasion it seems to be suggesting something almost unheard of in ufology — a UFO that appears in more than one place.

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

Tomorrow — The Otley Experience.

### Pylons

Stephen stopped the car and glanced instinctively at his watch, although not yet realising that this was anything other than a very bright star.

They were looking to the north and the object