

Alleged Landing in Richmond Park

Gordon Creighton

ACCORDING to the London suburban newspaper *Barnes & Mortlake Herald* of June 15, 1972, a Miss Shirley Devereux and her parents, of 38 Allbrook House, Danebury Avenue, Roehampton, London SW15, allegedly observed no less than seven UFOs touch down in the famous Richmond Park on the evening of Tuesday, June 13, 1972. We read in the report:

"Said Miss Devereux: 'I was looking out over Richmond Park when I saw the first one. That was at about 10.00 p.m. on Tuesday. It was a conglomeration of lights. It hovered above the Park, 30ft. above the ground, and then moved across the Park until it stopped near the Priory. Then it just disappeared.'"

She went on to say that between then and around 12.15 a.m., she saw a number of other lights, six conglomerations in all, converging on the spot where the first one had come down. "By this time," she explained, "I was watching through binoculars. The lights were so bright that my mother could see clearly with the naked eye. The lights were a brilliant orange. They seemed to go duller just before they landed. I could see a distinct flying saucer shape."

Miss Devereux said she reported the matter to the Police, the Richmond Park officials, and the London Planetarium.

Commenting, a Park official said that, so far as they knew, "nothing out of the ordinary had been reported

on that night" and no other eyewitnesses had come forward.

This is of course not the first claim of landings in parks and other enclosures quite near to London. An attempt was made to contact the Devereux family, and some communication was received from them by us, but it soon became obvious that the clamps were on, with a vengeance, and that these people, who a few days previously, had been so forthcoming in talking to the press, had been induced to prefer silence. Private enquiries made on our behalf through local Police channels indicate however that the Police did receive this report and that it is likely to have some substance. Allbrook House, which was inspected by one of the FSR team, is one of a series of very high modern tower-blocks of flats. The Devereuxs live on one of the top floors, and from their quarters certainly have an unsurpassable view over the adjacent park.

It is interesting to note that the World Round-up columns of FSR for September/October 1962 contain the following report of something similar allegedly observed over precisely the same area, and almost exactly on the same night of the month, ten years before:

UFO OVER RICHMOND PARK

The *Surrey Comet* in its June 13 [1972] issue reported as follows:

"A mysterious flying object was reported by a Ham
(Continued on page 13)

HUMANOIDS AT LÄNGELMÄVESI—(Continued from page 3)

another look at the phenomenon, but by then the ball of fire had disappeared. The beautiful scenery was visible once again, but I was surprised to see that at about 300 metres distance a dark log-like object, about two metres in length, was slowly gliding through the water and approaching the shore.

By that time my fear had left me, but I was still very surprised. I then noticed, just below the level of the window and about two metres from the pier, a strange-looking grey animal which seemed to be in the grip of terror. It appeared to be standing up on its claws. Suddenly it turned its head to one side and I saw sharp teeth grinning in an open mouth. The animal looked just like a round ball with all the hair standing on end. I presumed it was the neighbour's big Lapp dog.

When the "log" had come closer to the pier, I saw that it was a narrow boat resembling a canoe. A tall man of slender build was standing in the prow. He was wearing a greenish-coloured coverall. When the boat was just in front of the pier it swung round to the left, so I could see that in its aft another man was "steering" an engine which was inside a big glass bulb. I took a look at the dog and saw that it no longer seemed

frightened, and was running away. I heard neither any whirring of a motor, nor splashing of billows, but I observed quite a deep wake in the water.

At that time the Finnish press did not publish news on UFOs,* and people did not talk about them, so I was quite perplexed at what I saw. Feeling extremely weak I returned to bed, and so failed to observe what happened to the boat. Perhaps I would have seen the fireball returning to the sky. Perhaps I wouldn't have been shocked if I had known something of these things.

Since that time I have seen these so-called fireballs (UFOs) in the sky, but in the evenings instead, and they appeared to be as big as footballs.

* In September 1945 there were still a few years to pass before the beginning of the UFO era: the Scandinavian "Ghost Bomb" or "Ghost Rocket" scare occurred in the summer of the following year, and yet another year was to pass before Kenneth Arnold's classic sighting was to lead to the coining of the name "Flying Saucer" and the presenting to the world of a new topic for conversation and, eventually, what was considered to be the more "respectable" name, *Unidentified Flying Object* (UFO)—
EDITOR.

Encounter between Pudasjärvi and Kipinä

This report of an incident, which is stated to have taken place in 1967, has been kept on our files since 1969 when it was translated and submitted to *Flying Saucer Review* by ELIS W. GRAHN.

BETWEEN 3.30 and 4.30 a.m. on November 13, 1967, Mrs. Arja Achren and her brother Hannu Pelkonen were on their way by car from Kuusamo to Oulu. They were driving along the main road.

Between Pudasjärvi and Kipinä they suddenly noticed a strange object hanging above the skyline. It was shaped like a helmet and, to start with, appeared to be motionless, but they soon realised that it was "flying" over the forest bordering the road, and approaching the car.

The object was shining with a bright white light. Travelling in the opposite direction it passed over the car, which meant that, coming out of the south, it was moving towards the North East. Mrs. Achren and her brother were quite astounded by what they saw, but they managed to stop the car to take a better look at the UFO. Their astonishment was increased still further when they saw that the object had stopped as well. The enormous white helmet shape had two dark marks of the same shape which, to the witnesses, seemed like openings. Whatever they were, they appeared quite clear in the middle of the bright light. By now quite alarmed, the witnesses drove off as quickly as they could, continuing in the same direction as before.

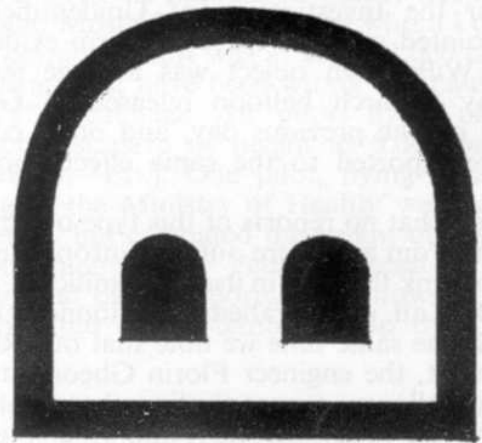
Mrs. Achren and Hannu Pelkonen had not travelled far before they realised that the object was following them. They saw the light grow brighter as the object started to rise, and then, with the brightening of the light, the dark openings suddenly disappeared. By now the object, moving over the trees, was keeping pace with the car. The witnesses thought they could hear a

strange noise from the car's engine, but whatever was the cause, it did not seem to affect the performance in any way. The speedometer was registering 110 km/H.

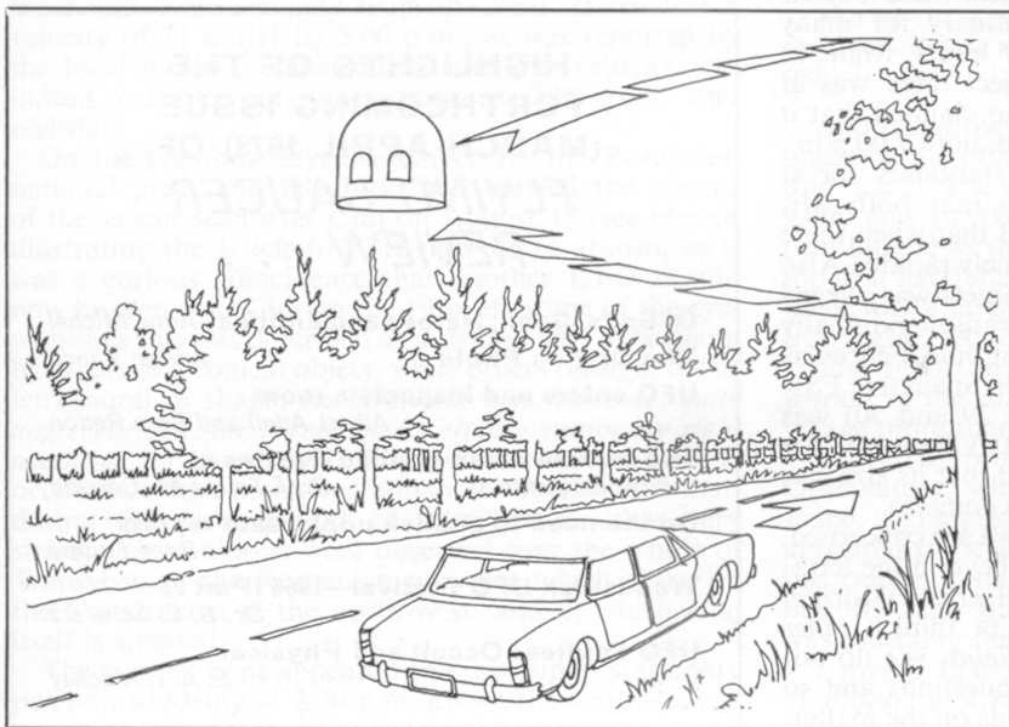
Before long the object either disappeared, or rose up quickly until it was out of sight.

* * * * *

Editor's comment: There is a paucity of real detail in this account, which is the main reason why we kept it on file for so long. However, the shape of the object, as described, is of interest, and it is felt that the report should go on record in case comparisons may be made. Again, it should be noted that a number of "flying" objects of unusual shape were reported in the same district during the 1970 flap (see *FSR Case Histories, Suppl. 2, December 1970*).



Above: Based on the witnesses' sketch—a bright helmet shape, with two dark marks which appeared like openings



Our cover drawing is our artist's impression of the strange scene in the small hours of a Finnish morning: reproduced here in outline to show the reported movements of the object