

UFO "SPIES" ON A TRAFFIC JAM

Tony Faulkner

Our contributor is a police officer in Hertfordshire who came into contact with UFOIN over an investigation two years ago. He now investigates cases for the network in the local area. Classification: March 17 1979 Hertford, Hertfordshire CE1 EM, Physio Level A

ROSINA KIRK is a 42-year-old housewife who lives in the village of Puckeridge, about 7 miles north of the county town of Hertford. It was 7.00 p.m. on a cool, dry evening with scattered cloud, and she was being driven along the A10 by-pass towards the town by Miss Valerie Wilsher, the 22-year-old girlfriend of her son. Also in the car, in the rear passenger seat, was the 20-year-old married daughter of Mrs Kirk.

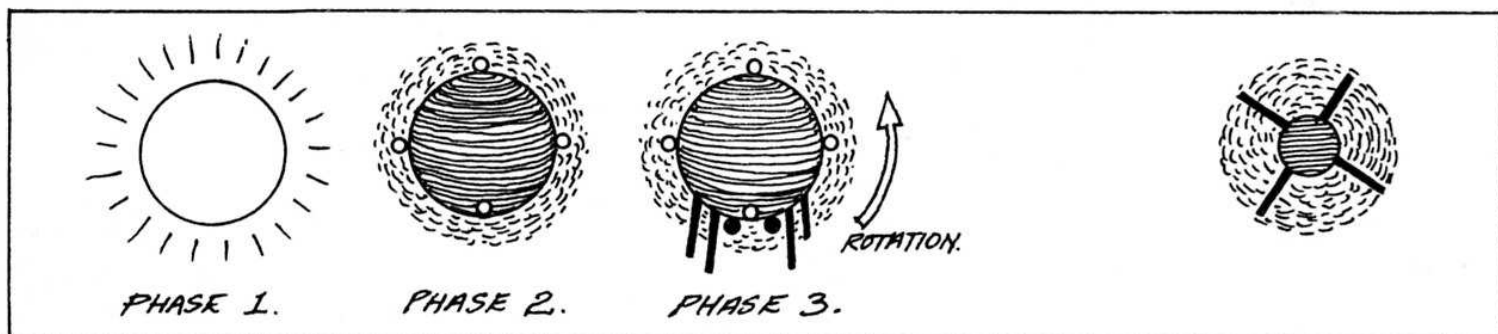
They had just passed the Foxholes roundabout, not far from the centre of the town, and had hit rather a lot of traffic. In fact a bit of a jam was building up with movement rather slow. Mrs Kirk happened to glance out of the left hand window (looking WSW) and saw, to her surprise, a very strange sight at about 60 degrees elevation.

At first it just looked like a very bright star, but she was well used to seeing stars, meteors, and both aircraft and helicopters (Luton airport is ten miles to the West and this has a great deal of holiday jet traffic, especially during the Summer months). Really puzzled by the extraordinary brilliance she watched

erly direction, thus passing from Mrs Kirk's left coming almost directly towards her. Seconds after this motion began she noticed that it had started to rotate. The whole object was turning in an anti-clockwise direction, as evidenced by the white lights, at a speed that she likened to a second hand sweeping around a watch.

By this time her daughter had seen the object too and was impressed. Valerie, the driver, only saw it through her mirror since she had to concentrate on the traffic, but she still saw it for some time after it had passed over and behind the car, moving off northwards. By that time it was apparently low and at an elevation where it could be seen in the mirror.

The object was coming closer and seemingly moving faster as it descended. Mrs Kirk was leaning out of the side window to watch. Her daughter in the back seat had a less clear view, but she cried out in fear "Oh, my God, it's going to come down on the car." Mrs Kirk estimated that it was not, although it



The object as seen by Rosina Kirk

it as the car crawled forward. It was definitely hovering for some time.

The outline of the light was sharply defined, and the brilliance estimated as that of a sports stadium floodlight. Apparent size was that of a ten pence piece at arms length (when asked to compare it to an artificial satellite she said "Nothing like it...this was a gigantic ball"). However, the next phase was the sudden appearance of what Mrs Kirk calls "smoke," which encircled the ball. This occurred virtually instantaneously. Although the smoke was quite distinct from the central ball this now faded, and was replaced by the appearance of four ordinary white lights.

These new lights were on the four points of the by now dim ball, with the vapour surrounding them. At this point the object started to move in a north-

Artist's impression of object seen by other witnesses

was certainly descending appreciably. Whilst leaning out she could hear no sound of an engine. It is true that they were on a busy road with their own car engine running, but she feels that due to the proximity of the UFO (and the virtual absence of wind) she would have heard a noise from an aircraft or helicopter. In any event she was as convinced as she could be that this was like nothing she had ever seen before in her life.

As it approached, two red lights appeared together on the underside. These were appreciably dimmer than the other lights, and like all the others remained steady (unlike aircraft navigation lights). As it passed over and behind the car she noticed a further feature. On the underside were four protrusions that she calls "legs." These were short and thin and coloured black. They rotated around the object with the lights.

It was at this point that the physical effects became noticeable. Mrs Kirk says that as she looked at the object flying over, her eyes "went very funny." She finds the symptom hard to describe precisely. I asked her if it was like the effect one experiences from looking at a strobe light in a disco (she was a frequenter of clubs), but she added that it was not the same. As she looked at the light all manner of different colours flashed in front of her eyes. Since this was only transitory it does not seem that it could have been an induced migraine attack. Her daughter also complained that she felt unwell, although she did not experience the lights. Valerie, the driver, could not watch for any length of time, even through the mirror, because she felt sick and dizzy. Mrs Kirk states that Valerie turned white in the face. None of these witnesses experienced any lasting effects.

The last sight that they had of the object was as it faded away — perhaps into cloud, or just the distance. All the lights had disappeared and the dim central ball faded into a small light before vanishing. Total duration of the sighting was estimated as five minutes.

A further interesting point to note is possible interference with the car. Apparently, when they were two or three miles back down the road (a few minutes before seeing the object) Valerie remarked that her headlights had dimmed appreciably. There was no actual defect, and there were no

more noticeable effects when the object came into close proximity, but the dimming may well be relevant.

Since there was a deal of traffic about Mrs Kirk felt sure that other people must have seen the object. There was some interesting support for this with a report which appeared in the *Hertfordshire Mercury* of April 6. This refers to an unnamed family who were travelling by car, and who saw an object that appears to have been very similar to that seen by Mrs Kirk. It was described as a yellowy ball that hovered at first and then moved across the road. As it passed over, a partly obscuring vapour was seen, and four red lights and two legs on top, and two on the lower part. Apparently the two women passengers in the car felt sick and experienced "misty" vision, although no effects were noticed by the two males in the car. Just before the object was sighted they apparently noted that the car lights went dim while the music faded from the cassette player that was being used at the time.

The newspaper report refers to a BUFORA investigator, Anthony Steel, who was said to be investigating this case and he likened the physiological effects to "electro-magnetic energy" and said that the women felt "heavy" as when a thunderstorm approaches.

Certainly something odd was seen by those people caught up in the traffic jam that March evening.

SUNDERLAND FAMILY (From page 22)

bear close relationship in several respects, with those allegedly seen by Joyce Bowles and Ted Pratt at Winchester, Hants, in November 1976 (FSR Vol. 22, No. 5). The main features of comparison are the pink pupils, sandy wisps of hair, and the one-piece silver suit — there are major differences too. We should add further that there is no doubt that Gaynor's experience was in July 1976, and indeed via hypnosis we have narrowed it down to either July 17 or 24 (probably the former).

Other events:-

One must accept that there was some involvement of psychology. Mrs Sunderland unconsciously transferred a feeling — that Gaynor says she had anyway — that more was to come, and Gaynor was under a lot of pressure during this period. Some of the subsequent events may well have been responses to this, and possibly exaggerating conventional

events. Some of the "funny stars" may well be attributed to air movements from Hawarden (Chester Airport), 9 miles East, where no service routes operate, but where the HS 125 jet is built and test flown.

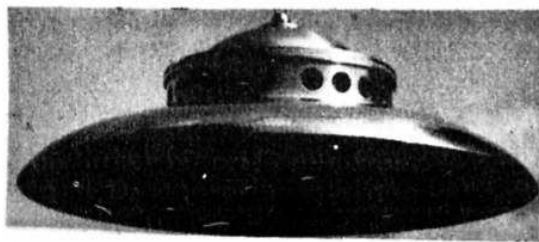
Nonetheless there are encounters that are by no means easy to explain, and there is a prospect that this is only the start of a chain of events, a fact that the witnesses realise themselves. We intend to monitor progress, but to try to allow Gaynor freedom from investigators so that she may pass relatively unhindered through this important development stage of her life. The last thing she needs now is to be plagued by UFOs. It may be inevitable, but we must try not to be a catalyst at this time.

All in all the investigators found this case one of the most complex, most fascinating and probably most significant they have ever handled. It appears to offer a lot of information about the nature and operation of the UFO phenomenon.



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THE UFOIN CONCEPT

Jenny Randles

FLYING SAUCER REVIEW announced the formation of the new team of British Investigators, *UFO Investigators' Network* (UFOIN), in its editorial leader in the issue Volume 23, No. 2, and several times since then the magazine has carried notes about developments and progress. Each issue has also featured a number of UFOIN investigation reports (or, more correctly, summaries thereof). I welcome this opportunity from the Editor for putting into perspective the concept of UFOIN, and explaining what we are setting out to do, and why. I feel that it has merits on a wider scale, and hope that perhaps like-minded individuals elsewhere might be tempted to consider its applications in their countries.

The problem with UFO investigation, and with UFO investigation groups, is a universal one (no pun intended!). Ufology is of great interest to a wide cross-section of the populace, and beliefs, levels of involvement, and commitment vary enormously. UFO groups, and UFO publications to some extent, have to cater for this variation, and problems ensue. Through no fault of its own an organisation ends up establishing a bureaucracy to proliferate the needs of its mass membership, and valuable time and money has to be channelled into catering for these people. The result not only leads to reduction of concentration on the aims of the organisation, but also to considerable waste of effort and potential.

Another problem is that UFO investigation is a skilled job, which basically is learned by experience. Most UFO groups have to rely on a member or members investigating a case, and thus standards swing about from one extreme to the other. Many brave attempts have been made to overcome this problem, but it is one inherent in UFO group systems.

It has been suggested by several ufologists — John Rimmer, the editor of *MUFOB* magazine is one — that the only solution is to “disown” groups altogether and work as individuals. However, in the United Kingdom we had seen the success of a couple of local groups who had selected their membership and concentrated purely on UFOs.” So late in 1976 a number of us got together to ponder whether or not we could make a similar thing work on a national scale. It was also known at the time that discussions were under way that have led recently to the formation of the Institute for UFO Studies, and that a much-needed prerequisite of this would be *consistent* and good quality data, and not a hodge-podge of material.

Consequently, UFOIN came into being. It must be pointed out that at first there was no desire to give the body a name, since it was our wish to avoid group connotations altogether. However, a majority felt that a name was necessary and this has led to

false conceptions about the team. I will try to correct these now by explaining how the idea has functioned in its first two-and-a-half years of operation since Spring 1977 — the fruits of which have been seen in *FSR*.

Firstly UFOIN decided to discard *all* group attributes. In other words nobody was elected to form a committee, and every member was given equal status. It is true I was asked to be secretary, but this is purely an honorary position that involves administrative “Interim Reports” which update members on developments and new cases) and I have no authority whatsoever by virtue of this position. Not only this, but we also dispensed with cumbersome rules and regulations. In fact there is really only one rule and that is that every investigator must act objectively and in the best interests of ufology. If a majority of the membership feels that someone has brought ufology into disrepute then that person will be asked to leave after such a vote is taken at one of the twice-yearly meetings of all members. So far this has not happened, and it is to be hoped that it will not.

The second important proposal that UFOIN insisted on was that membership should only be open to capable investigators. Initially this meant inviting participation by any experienced investigator with a proven track record. Inevitably this involved many of the well-known names, like Peter Johnson, Omar Fowler, Randall Jones Pugh and so on. Several had involvements with the national groups *BUFORA* or *CONTACT UK*, being prime elements in the investigator systems. The aim was never to supersede these organisations. Principally it was to bring the “best” people together in an informal system which overcame any artificial boundaries imposed by group allegiances. This has worked well, and few found it necessary to leave their parent association or to diminish their involvement with their individual motivations. Not surprisingly, however, the groups themselves were suspicious, and viewed this concept as a “take over” of their better investigators. Co-operation was, therefore, virtually nil. However, now that suspicions are being placated by the reality of what has happened there is hope that the groups might see the advantages of the system and come formally to recognise it. There is undoubted scope for fruitful co-operation.

As for newcomers to the team, it was decided that we should base this on their ability to prove that

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