

SAUCERS OVER SOUTHAMPTON

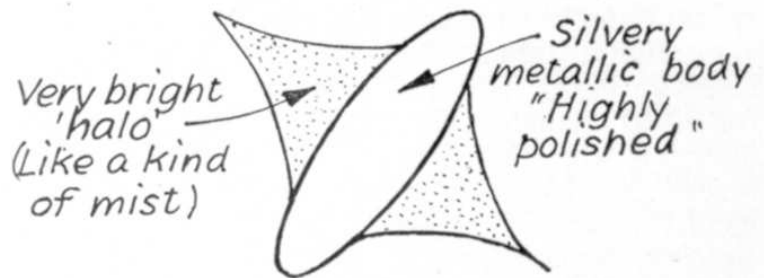
by **PETER J. KELLY**

Southampton and area have been particularly favoured with saucer sightings during recent months. The author of this article is a Science Teacher at the Testwood Secondary Modern School at Totton, near Southampton, and he describes a number of recent sightings reported to him by pupils at the school.

ON Friday, September 6, 1963, Michael Blake a fifth-former at Testwood Secondary Modern School, was at Hornsdown Avenue, Houndsdown (about half a mile south west of Totton) when he noticed an oval-shaped reddish object in the south east at an elevation of about 60°. He said that the object appeared to be "very high." It started to descend at an angle of about 45° to his left, i.e. the direction of descent would have been approximately north or north east. The angle of descent was not constant, but decreasing.

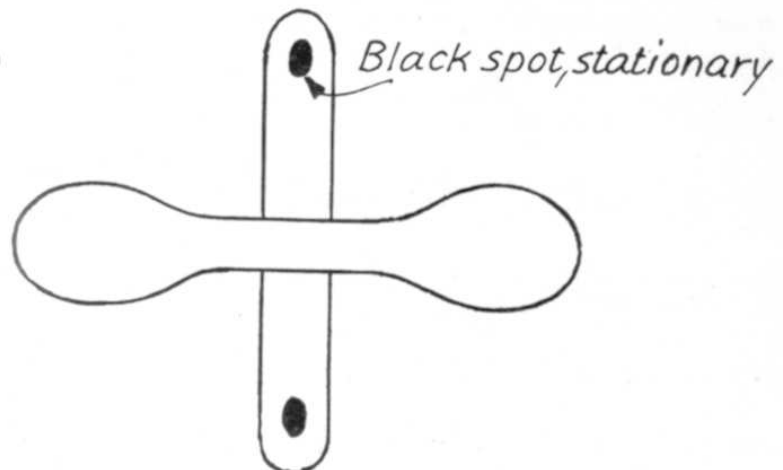
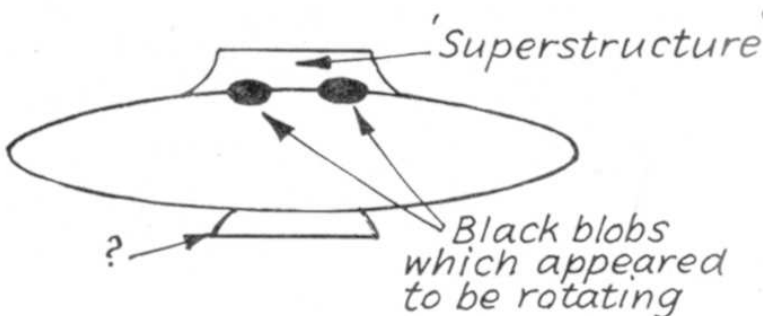
As it descended, it oscillated from side to side. With respect to the vertical plane the UFO did not follow a straight line, but took an "S" shaped course. During descent the colour alternated between dark red and light red and was "very bright." When the object was at an estimated altitude of about 200 feet, it appeared to be directly over the electric power station at Marchwood which would place it three miles north west of Hythe. Michael then went indoors to tell a friend about the object. He estimates that he was away for only 10-15 seconds, but when he returned with his friend the object had vanished. From start to finish no sound was heard. While it was hovering over the power station for between two or three minutes, a super-structure became clearly visible as will be seen from the following sketch :

UFO earlier in the month and gave me the details. I am quite convinced as to his sincerity : prior to his sightings he took no special interest in UFOs. At approximately 5 p.m. on the evening of Sunday, September 15, 1963, he saw an object in the sky which he sketched, as below :



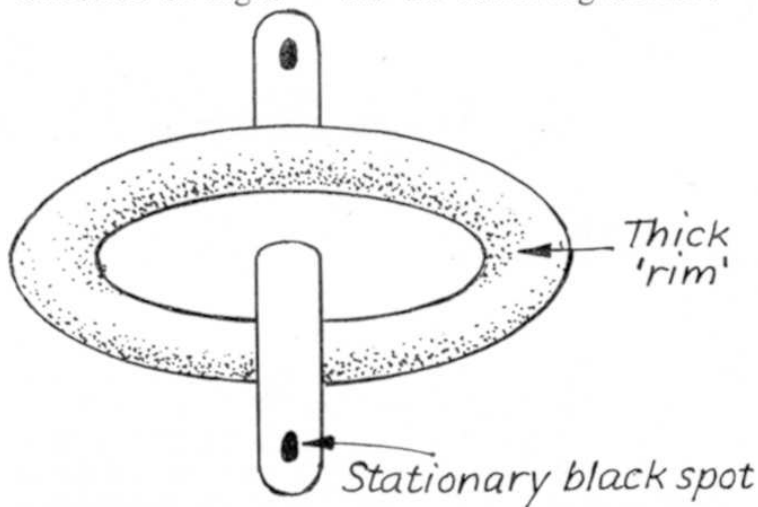
The object was travelling towards Southampton at "terrific" speed so fast, in fact, that Michael had it in view for only about two or three seconds. The object seemed to be tilted at about 45°, but the angle of tilt may well have been more or less.*

On Sunday, September 15, 1963, at 4.45 p.m., James Poulton another fifth-former at Testwood Secondary Modern School was with his parents, sister and brother-in-law, about five miles north east of Barton-on-Sea, Hampshire, when he noticed an object at 40° elevation in the south. It had the appearance of a gyroscope with a very thick spindle, thus :



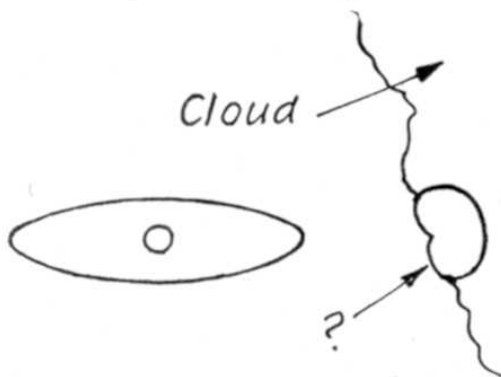
Michael Blake, who lives at 21, Calmore Road, Totton, by a remarkable coincidence saw another

The previous drawing is an estimate of what the object would have looked like from the side. The object actually was inclined at 40° towards the direction of flight — see the following sketch :



It was travelling at a moderate speed, was very bright and silvery all over, except for the black spot. It moved towards the south west and was very high. James Poulton, who lives at 293, Calmore Road, Totton, Hants., watched the UFO for 30-40 seconds. His brother-in-law, Mr. P. R. Shergold who also lives at Totton, also saw the object, but his other relatives were not near at hand. It should be noted that the date of this sighting, September 15, coincides with that of Michael Blake's recorded above.

Yet another pupil of Testwood County Secondary Modern School has come forward to testify to a UFO sighting. Vivienne Taylor is a second-former and lives at 14, Mountbatten Road, Totton. At about 9 p.m. on Saturday, September 14, 1963, she and her father saw a fairly bright oval-shaped object at an elevation of 40° in the south east or east south east. The object was of a reddish colour, "a bit darker than a red hot poker." It travelled from left to right (i.e. approximately south west) and it disappeared behind a cloud. It emerged from the cloud almost immediately at the point it had entered, travelling now in the opposite direction. Here is Vivienne's drawing of the object at this stage :



When it emerged, it seemed to have a heart-shaped or B-shaped dark marking in the centre. There seemed to be another of these markings at the edge of the cloud. Neither of these markings was noticed before the object went behind the cloud. There was no noise at any time. Vivienne is absolutely sure as to the perfectly elliptical shape. I got her to select from a number of ellipses of various eccentricities the one that most closely resembled her sighting. The one she chose made it probable that the object was, in fact, circular. As with the other people I have quoted, I am convinced of her good faith. Her father described the object as being: "Something irregular — something you wouldn't normally see."

Yet another report came to me from John Baker, a sixth-form prefect. He and three friends were fishing on the River Test near Totton on Saturday, October 12, 1963, at 11.30 p.m. when they noticed an extremely bright glow at an elevation of 60° in the east. The apparent diameter was established as being similar to that of a clock with a one foot diameter seen at a distance of 30 feet, or about three times the apparent diameter of the sun. The glow lasted no more than about three seconds and was so bright that one witness declared: "I had to look away from it — it was like burning magnesium." The light faded as mysteriously as it had come. No horizontal or vertical movement was noticed and there was no sound.

On Tuesday, November 12, at 3 a.m., Mr. D. Mackintosh, a science master at Testwood Secondary Modern School was driving his car through Chandlers Ford, Hampshire, when he noticed a Silvery object in the south east. This object appeared to be oval and descended like a falling leaf. It then remained motionless for a few moments and Mr. Mackintosh estimated that it was over the railway works at Eastleigh. The object then ascended and disappeared. Whether it accelerated swiftly or went out like a snuffed candle, Mr. Mackintosh was not sure—he was having to keep part of his attention on his driving. He now wishes he had stopped to get a good look.

*When Michael Blake was shown copies of the *FLYING SAUCER REVIEW* he said that the object he saw resembled that taken by Don Santiago Salvat Llaurado on August 27, 1959, on a beach near Barcelona. See Antonio Ribera's article in the July-August 1962 issue. Sr. Ribera refers to an article by Gordon W. Creighton in the March-April, 1961, issue, which, in turn, quotes from the Russian newspaper *Komsomolskaya Pravda* of January 8, 1961. This paper reproduced a photograph which closely resembled Llaurado's and therefore the object sketched by Michael Blake. The Russians were attempting to explain away the object as a trick of the camera, but in view of the evidence subsequently produced, this explanation must fail. Readers are also referred to the frontispiece photograph reproduced in *Flying Saucers on the Moon* by Harold T. Wilkins, published in 1954. (The American edition is entitled *Flying Saucers on the Attack*). This photograph shows three similar objects in the night sky over the Armco Steel Corporation's blast furnace plant at Hamilton, Ohio, U.S.A., in 1950.

THE AUSTRALIAN SPHERES

A number of readers have asked us for latest information concerning the mystery spherical objects which fell on Australian soil during 1963. Brief reference was made to these incidents in the World Round Up section of the **FLYING SAUCER REVIEW**, but no further evidence of a conclusive nature has been received. We print the following summary of the mystery with due acknowledgements to the **UFO Investigator** (June-September issue), the official bulletin of the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena of Washington, D.C., U.S.A.

The odd metal "space" spheres found in New South Wales and Australia, in April and mid-July 1963, still have not been identified, according to the Australian Minister of Supply, Mr. Allen Fairhall. Minister Fairhall stated that his inquiries to the U.S. and U.S.S.R. space agencies have drawn a blank.

The first mystery ball, 12lb. hollow sphere 14 inches in diameter, was discovered on April 8, 1963, in a desolate part of Bouilla Station, New South Wales. Mr. J. McLure, who found it, said no one else had been in the area for 50 years. Scientists failed in their efforts to open the sphere with files and hacksaws.

On April 30, Minister Fairhall told the House of Representatives that the sphere had been definitely identified as part of a space vehicle. He said it had not yet been opened as it might contain

"something of scientific interest." He added, "It's a million-to-one chance that a piece of orbiting hardware should survive the temperature of re-entry and be recovered in one piece." Australian scientists said later it might have been protected by a heat shield.

On June 28, the second "space ball" fell, in New South Wales, 60 miles from the first location. This one weighed 18 lb. and was 16 inches in diameter. It was made of the same puzzling metal.

The third sphere fell on July 12, near Muloorina, in South Australia. It was six inches in diameter and had an opening in it.

Earlier, Australian officials had said the first sphere would be cut in half for scientific examination. To date, so far as NICAP can learn, there have been no further announcements.

The highly technical work and cost required to build such spheres seems to rule out any hoax answer. Both the U.S. and U.S.S.R. have denied any connection. Even if the spheres were earth-made, all three would hardly fall by accident in this one area. To drop them there deliberately would require precise re-entry by remote-control, also retro-firing jets, which the spheres did not have.

If they were extraterrestrial, some more advanced control mechanism might be used. In this case, the Australian Government may have found the answer—and possibly a clue to their purpose—on opening the spheres. To the best of our knowledge, Australian officials have been silent as to what was discovered.

Awards for Essays on Gravity

In 1964 for our Fifteenth Year the Trustees are offering Five Awards for short Essays for the purpose of stimulating thought and encouraging work on Gravity. The stipulations follow:

(1) These Awards will be made by us on June 1, 1964 for the best 1500 word essays * on *what Gravity is, how it works and how it may be controlled.*

(2) **The First Award will be \$1000.00; the Second Award will be \$300.00; the Third Award will be \$200.00; the Fourth Award will be \$150.00; the Fifth Award will be \$100.00.**

(3) Essays must be received before April 15, 1964. One essay only will be accepted from anyone who is seriously interested in the application of Gravity to practical uses for the benefit of humanity.

(4) All essays must be typewritten, double spaced, in English, *with two carbon copies.*

(5) The decision of the Judges will be final. No essays or copies can be returned but writers are free to publish after June first. Preference will be given to essays written especially for these Awards.

(6) Please write a title covering the area of thought expressed in your essay; and a summary paragraph of 100 words or less on a separate sheet.

(7) Please attach a separate sheet giving a short biographical sketch of yourself for use by the press in case you earn an Award.

Address: Gravity Research Foundation, New Boston, N.H.
George M. Rideout, President.

* It may be less than 1,500 words; but if more the judges have the right not to accept same.