

SOLDIERS' CLOSE ENCOUNTER ON A YORKSHIRE MOOR

Barry M. King

This report has been specially investigated and prepared for UFO Investigators Network (UFOIN) and *Flying Saucer Review*.

ALTHOUGH this report is of an incident in the summer of 1973, the case only came to my notice during August 1977 when the witness contacted the secretary, Jenny Randles, in response to a magazine article about UFOIN. It was passed to me for investigation as the witness had left the army, and was now residing in Essex.

Location

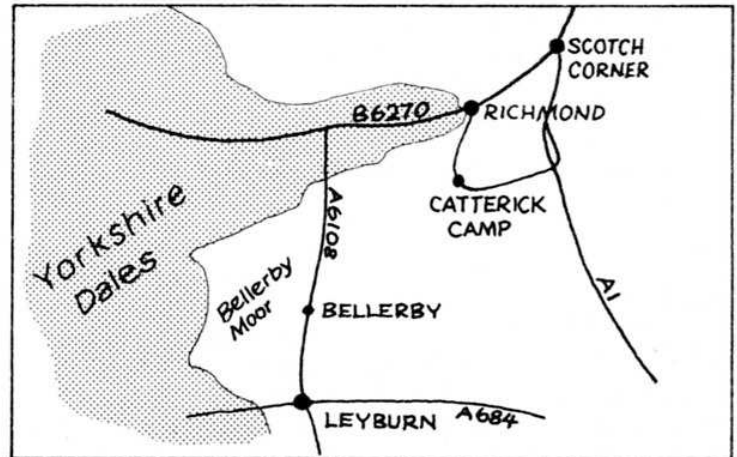
A place called Bellerby Moor was the setting for a very strange affair. It is a lonely and desolate spot on the edge of the Yorkshire Dales. Much of it is farmland, but certain areas are owned by the Ministry of Defence. This district has many large woods, and villages are scattered.

The incident occurred at a place near where a large woodland area is divided by a minor road. On either side of the road, before reaching the woods, are large rolling fields. In the field to the East of the road a herd of cows were temporarily disturbed by the close proximity of the UFO.

The event

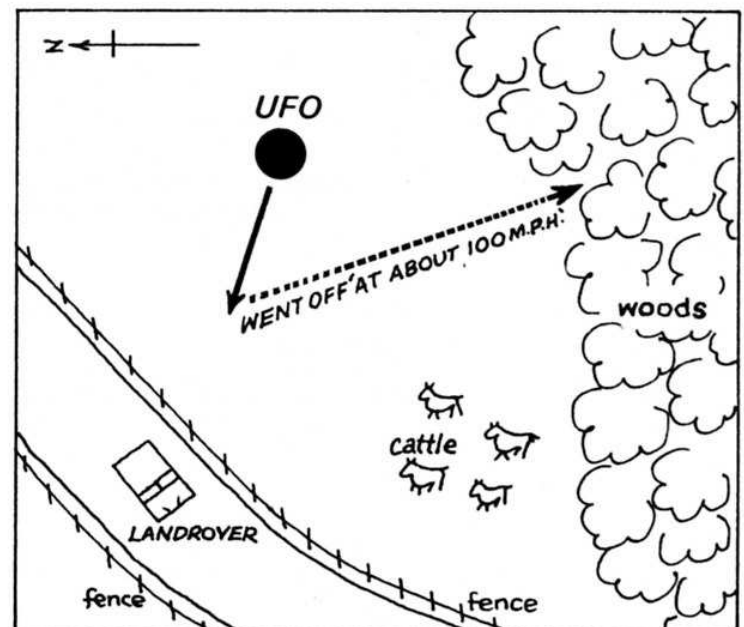
Stationed at Catterick, M. T. Driver L/cpl, Mike Perrin and his colleague Trooper Carvell were taking part in a regular radio exercise out on the moors, some miles to the West of their camp. On the evening in question some 20 vehicles were to drive out on to Bellerby Moor. Mike is now uncertain of the date but thinks it was in May or June of 1973. All went well when they separated on the moors; Mike Perrin found a suitable spot for his *Landrover* and pulled in to the side of the small road while listening to the two-way radio for instructions. It was about 11.00 p.m. when the radio began to crackle and the voices began to break up. After a few seconds the set went completely dead, and at the same time the headlamps faded and also went out. The engine of the *Landrover* was not running at that time, as it had been switched off seconds before the radio failure.

The two soldiers were a little concerned as they were due to report in to base, and were now unable to. Knowing for sure that they would be in trouble they desperately tried to fix the radio; they also tried switching channels, but to no avail. They could not summon help on foot as the nearest unit was between 10 and 15 miles away, and base was likewise 15 miles away, so they just sat there hoping the fault would correct itself. After a while Mike was about to start up the *Landrover* when he noticed something in the air above him and to the left. He nudged his companion and they both watched the strange aircraft that was approaching them.

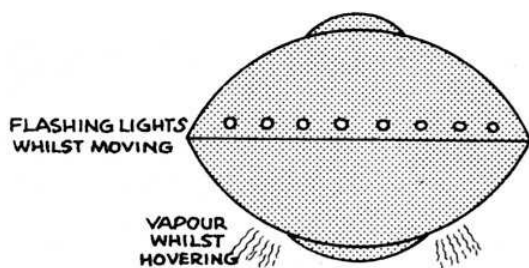


Whatever it was, it was about half a mile away when first seen. Silently it flew towards them and stopped at a distance of maybe 100 metres, hovering some 10ft above the ground. The *Landrover* side windows were already down for it was a crystal clear and warm evening.

The shape of the strange craft was easily discernible against the clear sky. It was shaped like a rugby ball, and had a row of small circular windows around its middle section. Through these windows shone white lights which seemed to flash; the two soldiers also observed what they thought to be some form of vapour issuing from the lowest part of the object. A very slight buzzing sound emanated from the



The sighting location



The object, based on sketches by witness

object the whole time it was in view. They sat dumbfounded and more than a little nervous, and while looking around for any other possible witnesses who may have arrived, they noticed that the herd of cows in the field to their left, but beyond the craft, were "frozen" to the spot. Not one of them stirred an inch, and their eyes were fixed on the aerial object.

After what seemed an eternity, but in reality was perhaps only five or ten minutes, the craft lifted silently and headed away from the two soldiers and disappeared over the woods. The *Land-rover* lights came back on as also did the radio.

The soldiers thought of reporting what they had just witnessed but decided it would be better if done officially upon their return to base. They radioed their position and continued their work on the exercise, arriving back at base by around 4.00 a.m.

Later that day at base

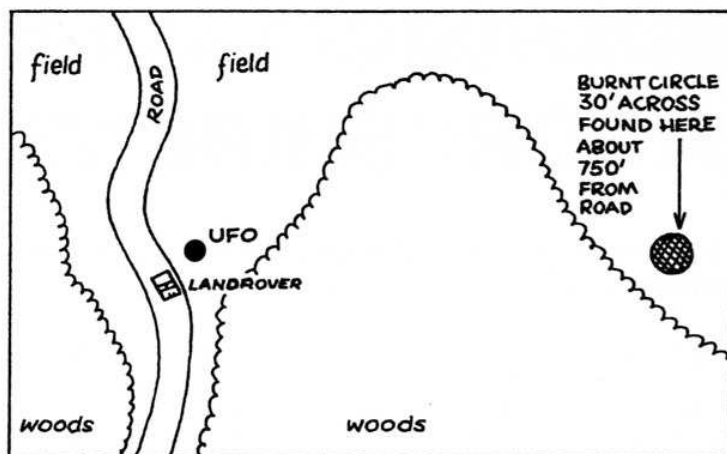
When the two men went to make an official report of their experience they met disbelief and ridicule, and were actually charged by their superior officer for being drunk on duty, and leaving War Department property unattended.*

Everyone in camp got to hear of their weird experience, but none had seen the object themselves or experienced radio or other malfunctions whilst out on the exercise. Yet, interesting enough, the *Landrover* was thoroughly checked that day.

Landing site located

L/cpl. Mike Perrin and Tpr. Carvell both decided to go to look at the site of the incident in daylight, and so set off from camp during the afternoon of the following day.

They spent a couple of hours looking around and Perrin says they finally found, on the other side of the woods, a burnt circle of grass measuring some 30ft. across. There were no ground indentations or



Sighting location in relation to trace marks

other inexplicable markings in the area. Being private War Department land it is unlikely that this was caused by civilian intruders. The soldiers had no camera, or any sort of checking equipment such as a geiger counter, so they could only make a verbal report of what they had found when they returned to base.

Just as their report of the strange "aircraft" was officially logged, so too was detail of this apparently-related landing site. Mike Perrin requested that the Ministry be notified about the reports, but he was informed that it was of no interest to them. He is quite certain now that a full scale investigation did take place behind closed doors.

These events were not reported to civilian agencies or newspapers for obvious reasons, but it is peculiar that some weeks after the incident a local newspaper carried a fair-sized article on local UFO activity. One part in particular mentions a local woman who complained a few weeks previously of a "funny-shaped" aircraft, almost totally silent in flight, passing low over houses in the district and apparently causing house lights to dim, or to go out completely. Mike had asked permission to check with nearby radar and military airfields for any unusual returns, but this was not granted and no reasons were given. He had read no books or magazines on UFOs prior to the sighting, but being curious he has read several since leaving the army in 1974.

IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF FSR . . .

An old contactee case from Spain	Miguel P. García
Humanoid in London EC2	Barry M. King
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A Ufonaut's plea for water	Juan J. Benítez
UFO Physics, Pt. 2 (Held over)	Jan Hearing
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. . . and many other interesting items.	

* [None of which surprises me – ED.]

LOW-LEVEL UFO AT MYTCHETT

Omar Fowler

Our contributor is Chairman of the Surrey Investigation Group on Aerial Phenomena (SIGAP) and is a member of UFOIN

ON the evening of Wednesday, January 11, 1978, two fifteen-year-old boys, Ron Hills and Ian Hoole, were returning home after visiting their local Youth Club at Mytchett, near Camberley, Surrey. The time was about 9.35 p.m. It was a cold, windy and blustery night. They decided to run home together, just for a bit of sport and hoping to achieve a better time than that of the previous week. As they explained, they also needed to keep fit.

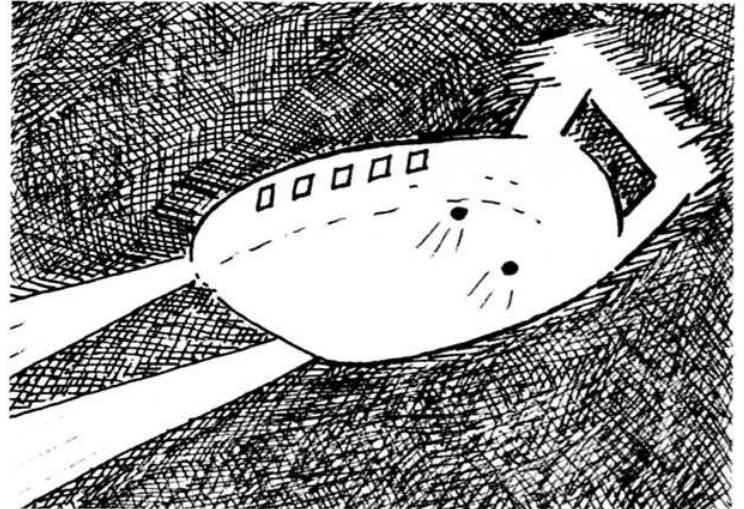
As they ran towards the top of a bridge over the railway along the Mytchett Road, close to the Miners' Arms public house, they became aware of what they described as a large object "flying over the top of them." At first they thought it was an aircraft as it passed overhead but it had what appeared to be two headlights shining in front of it which lit up the clouds. There were also two red lights underneath which were flashing on and off alternatively.

Ron had been leading, but Ian caught up with him and, at the top of the bridge, they stopped to take stock of the thing. This was now getting lower and was travelling over the fields of an old farm to their left. They could see a rather large oblong shape with rounded edges, but at no time, said Ian, could they see a definite shape. (A drawing which they did later depicted what seemed like a sort of super-structure, with a device like an elevator at the "rear" and there were also "shiny strips" running vertically on the side that they could see.)

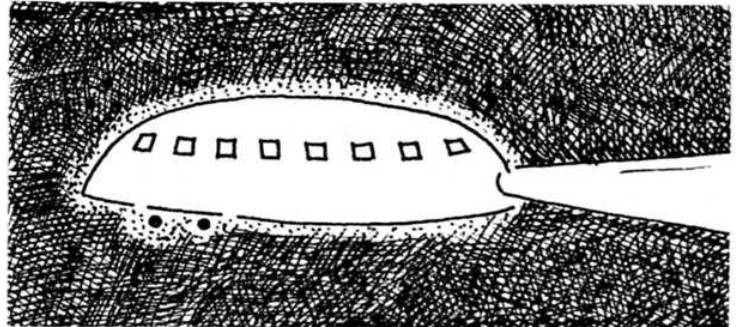
As the object got lower they could hear a faint noise, and they were quite sure by this time it was not an aeroplane because, as they commented later, it was by that time so low that if it had been a 'plane the noise would have been tremendous. As the object moved off into the distance they were momentarily speechless and more than a little scared. As Ian put it they both felt as though they wanted to cry.

Recovering their composure they continued on their way home discussing what they had seen and keeping a wary eye on the red lights, still flashing in the distance. They were now walking briskly with less than half a mile to go. When they reached Loman Road, Ian says he again drew Ron's attention to the lights which were now stationary, whereupon they started to run. Ian continued (in the report which he wrote for me): "... as we did so it began to move. I told Ron this but as he looked, a house roof blocked his view. I then told Ron to look at the space between the roofs and sure enough he saw it again."

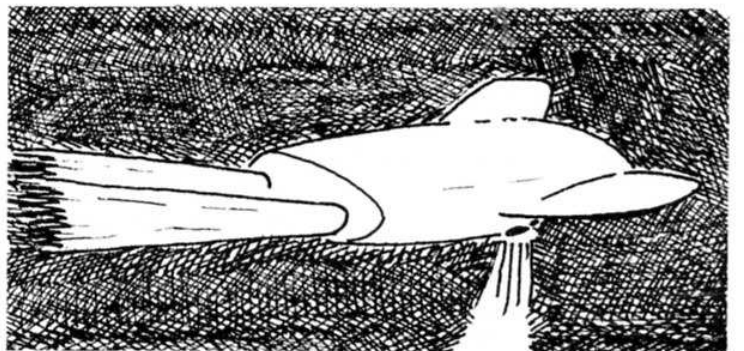
The boys started running again as they could hear the noise of the thing getting louder and getting nearer. It appeared to be following them... they continued running, and stopped by Lynwood Drive



The object as first seen: based on Ian Hoole's sketch



Appearance of object when seen over Salisbury Grove



For comparison; the object seen around the Surrey and Hampshire borders in January and February 1974

Estate where they confirmed that the object was following them. They ran for another hundred yards and stopped.

Then for the young witnesses came the most frightening part of the encounter for they realised that the object was now right above them. They