

ON A NORTHUMBRIAN SHORE

Alan & Trisha Price

This husband and wife team are newcomers to the UFO Investigators' Network (UFOIN), but not to ufology. This is their account of one of the many interesting incidents which were initially reported in the national newspaper *The Sun* and handed on to network co-ordinator Jenny Randles.

THIS incident occurred one evening towards the end of July, 1977 at Lyne Sands on the north-east coast of England, about one mile to the north of the small coastal town of Newbiggin-by-the-sea, and about 16 miles from Newcastle upon Tyne.

It coincides in time with what turned out to be an unusually active period for UFO sightings in the north of England including the northernmost counties of Cumbria, Northumberland, Durham and Tyne and Wear. This report was handed to UFOIN in late February 1978 and the site investigation took place on March 19th.

The witness to this sighting, Mr. Ernest Longstaff aged 45, lives about half a mile from the sighting area. He is a builder by trade but like many others in this region is presently unemployed through no fault of his own.

On the evening in question Mr. Longstaff had taken his dog for a walk along the beach. This is a regular habit as he collects sea coal from the waters' edge, and large quantities are frequently washed ashore here.

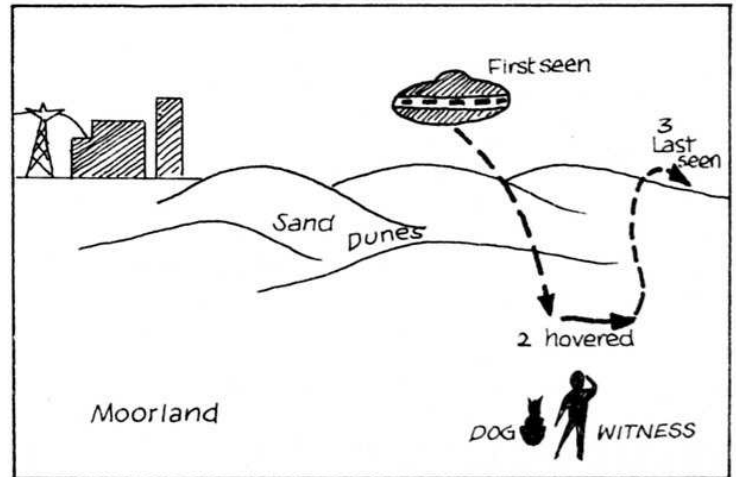
It was about 9.30 p.m. and the sun was just setting in a cloudless sky as Mr. Longstaff left the beach and walked inland over some sand dunes. He had not gone far when he looked back to call his dog which was lagging behind investigating some scent or other. What he then saw stopped him dead in his tracks.

He found himself looking at a classic flying saucer shaped like two plates stuck together with a slight dome on the top one. Around the middle was a band of square "portholes" which was revolving around the rim from left to right. They were emitting red-smokeless-flames. A curious feature was that the "portholes" did not rotate around the side of the craft and the witness is certain that they actually passed *into* the saucer at the right hand edge!

The object was a dull grey in colour – rather like lead. It was about 25 feet wide and 15 feet high. Mr. Longstaff feels reasonably certain of these dimensions as this – to him – weird object was hovering very close – say about a hundred yards away – and some 60 – 70 feet above the shore.

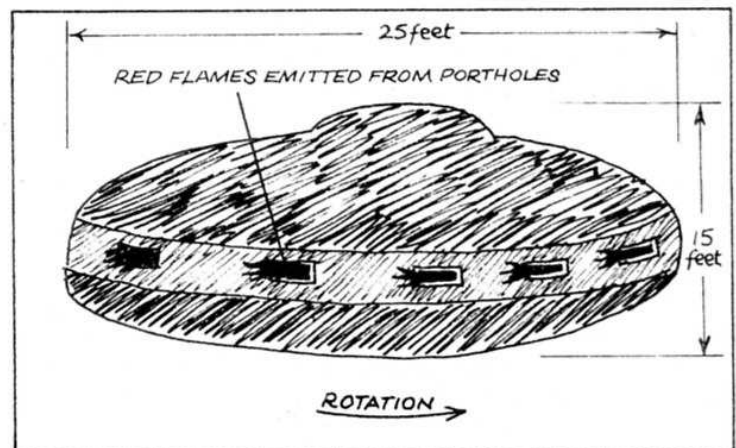
The witness suddenly discovered that he was very frightened. His heart was pounding and he was trembling. The dog had also seen the object and was sitting wide eyed and with ears pricked as though listening to something. If there was a sound, however, it must have been beyond the threshold of human hearing for to Mr. Longstaff the craft was eerily silent.

Both man and dog stood rooted to the spot as the



First sighting of the UFO

object began to move. It approached them slowly, at a speed estimated at no more than 10 miles per hour and slowly descended until it was very close to the ground and about 30 yards away. No disturbance of the sandy surface was seen. It remained stationary for a few moments and then still keeping the same face towards the witness it moved slowly to the right and then back towards the shore. At first it maintained the same low elevation but then it descended even further, skimming over the dunes and giving Mr. Longstaff the impression that it was about to land on the beach. He did not wait to find out! Hurrying away from the scene Mr. Longstaff found his fear intensified as he had to make a detour round a wire fence cutting off his most direct escape route. He kept glancing back over his shoulder – frantically almost – but the object did not reappear. So far as



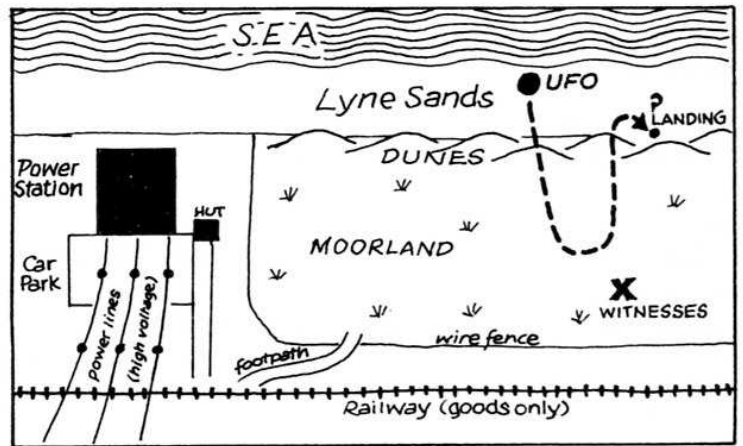
The object, based on Mr. Longstaff's sketch

he could see there was no-one else around who might have seen the object and could back up his story.

To the witness the experience seemed to have lasted for about five minutes all told — certainly it made a deep impression on him, and his wife attests to the fact that he was in a state of extreme agitation when he got home. He kept looking out of the window and had great difficulty in sleeping that night, but luckily does not seem to have suffered any other ill effects.

Two days passed before he ventured back to the beach and by then any traces of a landing which might have been left had been obliterated.

The investigators found Mr. Longstaff to be a trustworthy, friendly and honest person. They have no doubt about his truthfulness which is in their opinion reinforced by his lack of self-publicity. Perhaps the most interesting feature of this case and one which does not seem to have been noted until the UFOIN investigation is that the sighting area is only about a quarter of a mile along the beach from a coal-fired electricity power station delivering 24,000 volts to the nearby Alcan Lynemouth Aluminium plant. Once again therefore we have the



coincidence of a UFO sighting in close proximity to large electricity installations. The fact that the "portholes" were emitting flames is unusual for this type of domed disc-type UFO and one might be tempted to speculate that it could be in some way an imitation of the coal fired power station! Pure fantasy? Or is something or someone somewhere having yet another good laugh at our expense?

PUBLISHING OF UFO DATA

Jenny Randles

MMAGAZINES such as FSR carry much UFO data, all of which is of interest to ufologists in general. However, there is a growing tendency for researchers to specialise as the subject becomes more and more complex. Naturally, one needs to be able to select quite rapidly anything relevant to a particular field from the wealth of information that confronts one.

I would like to make a few suggestions as to how FSR, and hopefully other publications in the field, could overcome these problems.

UFOIN (the team of investigators who work on cases in Britain for FSR) have a basic premise that they should only be involved in high strangeness cases. This calls for the utilisation of a classification system by which one can readily isolate acceptable cases for in-depth study. The system we use has been developed by Peter Warrington and I for our forthcoming book, "UFOs: A British Viewpoint."* It is based on that of Dr. J. Allen Hynek, although we feel that it overcomes some of the difficulties of his system, and provides a more logical progression of importance throughout.

Principally the system involves

division into the following categories:—

Low definition (Low)

Cases involving basically a light with brightness, motion and colour but no clear shape.

Medium definition (Med)

Cases as above with a clear shape but no associated effects.

Instrumentally detected (ID: hyphen P for photograph; F for movie film; R for radar). Objects detected by some instrumental means.

Close Encounters of the First Kind (CE 1). Encounters where there are associated effects on either the witness or on the environment, or on both, detectable only to the witness to the UFO event — i.e. transient effects.

Close Encounters of the Second Kind (CE 2). Encounters with associated effects on witness, environment, or both, detectable by others not present at the UFO event — as with ground traces, — i.e. semi-permanent effects.

Close Encounters of the Third Kind (CE 3). Encounters which involve the sighting of entities with apparent association with the phenomenon; CE 3a Entity only (no contact) CE 3b Entity plus contact.

Close Encounters of the Fourth Kind (CE 4). Encounters which involve contact leading to time distortion and reality displacement, such as psychic contactees, abductions, and so on.

For the close encounter categories (which could include ID cases also) letters to designate associated effect

could be used — for example we use the following:

EM (electromagnetic effects), An (animal disturbance), Physio (physiological effects), T (ground traces).

The aim is to provide rapid indication of the data contained in a case. For example 'Encounter at Aveley' would tell little to a researcher as a title. If subtitled CE 4 (EM Physio) it immediately shows the researcher whether or not the story contains information that may be of value to his personal work.

This system has been utilised by members of a team from two British groups; CONTACT (UK) and NUFON, who are working on an extensive series of catalogues for the United Kingdom. These comprise fully referenced and indexed data from ancient times to the modern day, collated from all available sources, and split into regional catalogues of UFO cases. The first series, covering Northern England from AD 91 onwards, is almost complete.

An additional feature for this series, devised by Bernard Delair of CONTACT and myself may also be of great value if regularly published in UFO periodicals. It gives what we term an investigation level — an indication of the degree of investigation conducted into a case, providing some guidelines to the amount of value that

* *UFOs: A British Viewpoint*, an up-to-date appraisal of ufology in Britain by Jenny Randles and Peter Warrington is to be published in the Autumn of 1978 by Robert Hale Ltd., London.