

# LANCASHIRE ROUND-UP

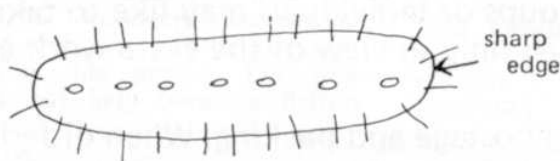
*Jenny Randles*

Our contributor is Secretary of the Northern UFO Network, an association of UFO investigation groups in Northern Britain. She is also Research Co-Ordinator of BUFORA (British UFO Research Association).

THE Rossendale Valley area of Lancashire was the scene of intense activity during the month of November, 1974, and work on the sightings was done by the Rossendale Astronomical Society, who have a strong UFO contingent. One of the best documented cases came from Haslingden, a small town between Bury and Burnley; the event took place on November 24.

At approximately 4.10 p.m. on a cold, grey day, at least three sets of independent witnesses claim to have observed the passage of between one and three cigar-shaped objects. Mr. Daniels and his wife were crossing the street towards their home when three such objects of a sharp golden-bronze colour swept across the sky in a long arc from SSE to NNW. They estimated that there was about a ½-mile separation between the first two and a little further between these and the last one. The overall length was given as 50–80 feet, but the latter object was at least one and a half times as big as this. They also noted a faint humming noise and got the impression that a fuzzy region across the middle of the objects represented lights.

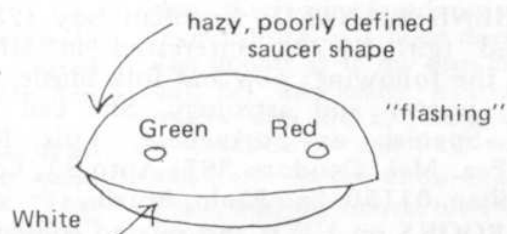
About a mile away, a housewife, Mrs. Tate, had just stepped outside for a moment when her attention was caught by two small objects like bullets with a flat and rounded end. She heard no sound but noted they were moving against a strong prevailing wind. After a few moments they joined together and the junction was marked by a fuzzy region. It continued on its previous path, moving in and out of cloud, and she insists it was glowing a golden colour and not reflecting light. She went indoors for a few seconds and telephoned one of the Astronomical Society members, Tim Evans, who rushed to the scene. He did not see anything, though Mrs. Tate could still see the object moving away in the distance over the hills. It was growing quite murky however and she said the object was frequently passing through cloud layers. Mr. Evans could attest to the fact that Mrs. Tate was obviously excited and was viewing something unusual to her. Also her dog was barking and generally disturbed during the incident and calmed down soon after Mr. Evans arrived and the object went out of sight.



The Rosendale object

Subsequently, two teenagers had a frightening experience on the night of January 14 at Moor Side. They were walking home along a dark lane after stabling their horses at a nearby farm when they saw a brightly lit object hovering over the cottages. It was like an inverted saucer with a steady green light and a flashing red one and seemed to swoop down on them. One of the girls shone a powerful light on to it and it appeared to react, rocking to and fro in a gentle motion. At this they ran from the scene as fast as they could. MUFORA was able to investigate this, and other cases, within hours of their occurrence. It was very apparent that these normally stable girls were in a state of fright. The next morning one of them refused to walk along the lane alone — even in broad daylight.

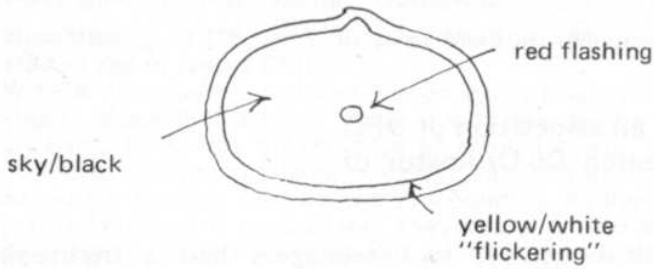
Not only children reported these things, as evidenced by a report from a well respected glider pilot and his fiancée who saw a low-level object at Lees with red, orange and blue lights on January 10. Reports died away from the third week in January, and from the latest information reaching NUFON from BYUIG the scene of activity seemed then to have transferred to Merseyside.



The Moorside object

Unknown to both sets of witnesses, Joyce Thorne, a young housewife, was also seeing the object from another part of the town. Her description of one object closely follows that of the others except that she saw a row of lights across the middle of the craft. It is quite possible that further witnesses will be found since those so far have all come independently. The region is not densely populated, consisting of much open land surrounded by hills, but it is a growing centre of overspill housing.

From the above reports we can perhaps piece together the procession. It would appear that the first two cigars passed over close together and were only seen by the Daniels. Mrs. Tate being further south on the supposed course saw two other small objects merge and proceed to the NNW where the other witnesses saw them only as one, larger object. The duration of observation was generally agreed as between five and ten minutes and the height, judging from cloud levels, must have been about



The Upermill object

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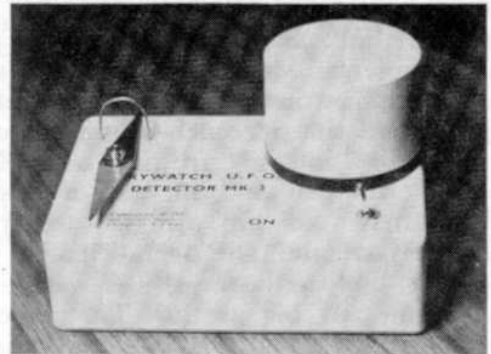
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3,000 feet. Checks were made with local radar, and it was learned that no aircraft were in the vicinity (aircraft normally pass on a NE course, or alternatively SW, at a height of about 10,000 feet).

During the early weeks of 1975, the Manchester UFO Research Association were involved with a number of reports from the moorland regions to the north and east of Oldham.

On Sunday, January 5th, two young children who had been playing at Upermill described to the police a disc-shaped object with a flickering yellow rim and a flashing red light which they saw shooting across the moors and making a humming sound. MUFORA were able to trace a group of eleven older boys who were playing nearby and who also saw it.

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