

stayed like that for about a quarter of an hour more or less. Then bit by bit my sight came back again..."

I asked him how long it was from the happenings of the morning of November 12 until the recurrence. He said it was about fifteen days.

Transferred to Madrid

In view of this repetition of the loss of his vision, the soldier was moved to Madrid. To be precise, he was moved to the Air Force Hospital, the Hospital del Aire. He was booked in there on November 30, 1976. He remained there one month and was subjected to every manner of investigation and analysis.

I asked him what explanation the doctors there had been able to give him for his condition?

"None. They just said that I had 'a nervous maladjustment.' But I never really found out what was happening to me."

He had another "attack" of the trouble while he was in the Air Force Hospital. This time, he got a very severe headache and started thrashing up and down in the bed. And once more his sight began to fail.

I asked him what the headache was like.

"It nearly always began just before my sight began to go. First of all I would get a pain in the nape of the neck. Then in the forehead. And then finally I would go blind."

Since then it seems that the soldier José M. Trejo, who is 21 years old, has experienced no further abnormal symptoms. His state of health is perfect, and his life is totally normal.

When I interrogated the three soldiers and asked them what they thought it was that they had seen and fired at, their answer was unanimous:

"We don't know exactly what it was. But on one score we all have no doubt whatsoever — because all three of us saw it — and that is, that the 'thing' was something very much like a man, but very tall..."

So there we have it — one of the most spectacular "occupant" cases so far. And, as stated above, I have secured it exclusively as no other investigator has got it.

Many unknown factors of course still surround this fascinating case. What can have become of the bullets — almost half a hundred of them — that were fired at the "being"? How is it that not a single one of the bullets was found in the adobe wall lying immediately behind the enigmatic "being"? That the rifles were definitely fired, that is a fact. I know that for a certainty.

Weird as this case is, it must be added that certain of the features described in this report have already occurred in other cases. For example, there are those on record in which figures have appeared — generally of human form — presenting a totally non-material appearance, and with an intense luminous radiation around them. There have also been cases in which sounds were heard similar to those heard by the sentries, and where the same glow was seen in the sky. All of which leads me to the conclusion that this affair at the Military Air Base of Talavera la Real, near Badajoz, can definitely be catalogued as a case of the apparition of one of the members of a UFO 'crew.'

VEHICLE STOP NEAR BARNARD CASTLE

Brian Straight

This report is based on an investigation conducted for UFOIN. It is pointed out that the event occurred on the same evening as the Waltham Abbey affair — see FSR Vol.23, No.3.

ON June 6, 1977, it was a wet and decidedly inhospitable night in Northern Britain. The roads of County Durham were relatively quiet, but two vehicles were braving the weather to travel along the B6278 road close to the North Yorkshire border near Barnard Castle.

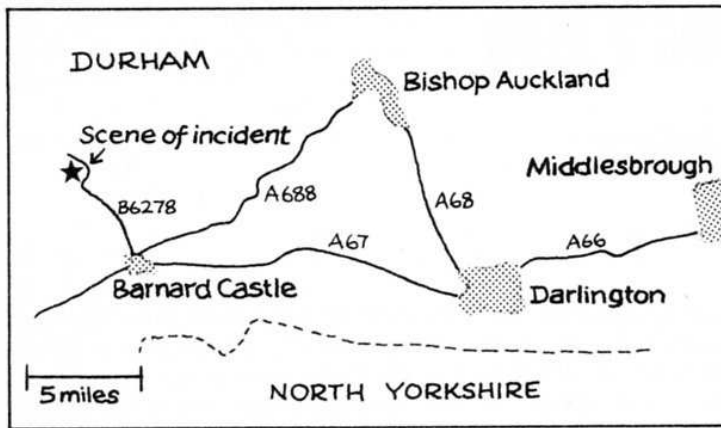
Investigators for the local group CHRYSIS [!-ED.] have been able to interview only one of these witnesses, 16-year-old farm worker Mark Henshall. They are trying to trace the other driver involved, although he has requested anonymity. He did contact the local newspaper, however, to confirm the details of Mark's account when it was featured there.

Mark was riding his motorcycle at between 30 and 35 miles per hour along a dark and rural stretch of the road when to the south he saw two distant purple objects. They looked rather like the full beam headlights on a motorcar. They appeared to keep pace with the rider for some distance and then dis-

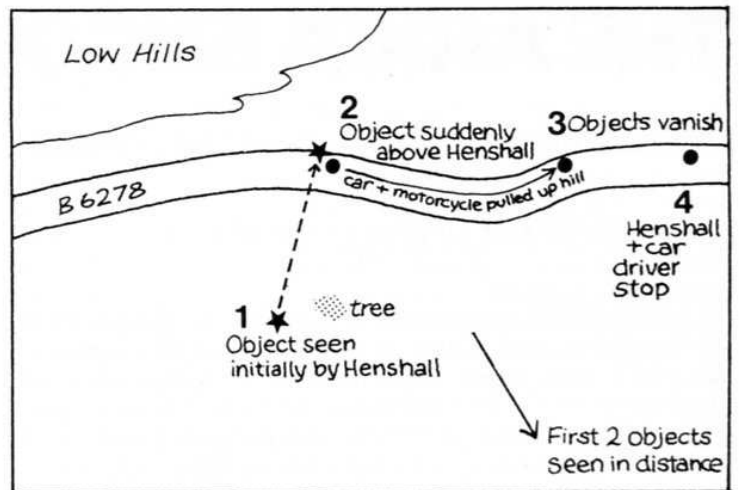
appeared. They had been in view approximately 30 seconds.

Looking into his rear view mirror Mark now noticed a car about to overtake him. As the car did so a brilliant light seemed to shine around both himself and the car. The light was travelling above and behind him, was pink/purple in colour, and had a solid outline which looked rather like an oval meat dish. There were no visible features on the object.

At this point Mark noticed the power beginning to drain from his machine. It continued to move forwards but in his own words: "I could not understand what was happening at first... then I moved my throttle and there was no response... I felt my back and legs becoming hot and as I looked at my jacket it was beginning to steam. I took off my glove and felt my arm and the petrol tank. They were both very hot. After both the car and myself had travelled about a hundred yards the object just disappeared."



Above: location of incident
Right: the incident by stages



Mark Henshall was interviewed by the author and two colleagues from the local group, Edwin Ollis and Malcolm Leech. He proved to be a slightly shy boy from a middle class home, with considerable interest in agriculture and little knowledge of the UFO phenomenon.

When the engine began to lose power Mark applied his brakes and the machine settled on to its forks. However, it continued to move forward as if it were being pulled along by some unseen force. On examination of the area it was found that the motorcycle was in fact pulled up over the brow of a hill about twenty five feet in height.

The next day Mark examined his brakes and discovered that they had become so worn that they needed resetting. Before the incident they had been in good order and functioned quite normally.

The investigators examined the riding clothes of the witness but found nothing unusual. A few seconds after the sighting, when Mark stopped his motorcycle, he discovered that despite the rain his clothes were in fact dry. He also said that the leather was stiffer than it had been before. Certainly the investigators found that the back of the jacket was rougher than the rest of the clothing.

The car which had overtaken Mark was affected in a similar fashion to his motor cycle. Power began to drain from it and it began to slow down, although it too continued over the brow of the hill. Mark lifted up his visor to get a better view of the object. As he did so he could clearly hear the engine slowing down in the car just ahead of him, but the object itself remained totally silent.

After the object had vanished both Mark and the car driver pulled into the side of the road to discuss the situation. The car driver was very shaken and could not explain why his car had suddenly begun to lose power. He had seen the glow which surrounded his car, but because it was high in the sky, it was blocked by his roof and he had by no means so clear a view of it as Mark.

When he returned home Mark's mother observed that his face and hands were very red and flushed. They were also hot to touch. This effect passed off within a few minutes and nothing more was thought of it. About two weeks later Mark experienced a bout of stomach trouble, which may well have had

no connection at all with the incident.

The area in question consists mostly of flat land, but there are some low hills in the distance. It is at an overall height of about 1300 feet above sea level.

The weather on the night was not conducive to the formation of ball lightning and the cloud ceiling was very low. Consequently whatever was seen was at a comparatively low altitude above the road surface.

Mark proved to be a very conscientious person, and in fact he had not reported the incident to anyone except his immediate family. However, some weeks later the story was featured in the local press and carried the name of Mark's employers. Following this Mark received his notice and he wonders whether this was in part due to the public reporting of the incident. He is completely mystified as to how the press got hold of the story. It was not the other driver who reported it for he rang the press afterwards to confirm the story when he saw it.

The investigators are satisfied that this is a report of an incident which relates to the UFO phenomenon, and adds some significant details as to its electromagnetic effects. It is to be hoped that the driver of the car, which was a *Jaguar*, can be traced in the hope of recovering further details.

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THE ARICA ENCOUNTER

CHILEAN SOLDIER'S "TRIP INTO THE FOURTH DIMENSION"?

Gordon Creighton

ACCORDING to reports published in the press of Argentina and Chile, it appears that the first half of 1977 has been notable for a remarkable re-crudescence of UFO sightings over the southern part of the West Coast of South America, and one newspaper (*La Crónica*, Buenos Aires, May 23, 1977) noted that in fact June 1977 would see the thirtieth anniversary of the first UFO sightings over that particular continent.

Our Buenos Aires correspondent, Miss Jane Thomas (to whom I am vastly indebted not only for many pages of press extracts but also for English translations of them, which render the job of reduction and compilation far lighter and save me a great deal of time and effort) seems to feel a certain degree of doubt as to whether things "got going" in South America quite so soon as June 1947.

At first sight it seems likely that one might feel surprise and scepticism on that score, probably because so many folk imagine that June 1947 saw the start of the whole "UFO business" in the world (in the shape of the two American cases of Maury Island on June 21 and the Arnold sighting on June 24.) However many people also realise that such a view is quite incorrect. The U.S. Air Force had already had plenty of UFO reports from their own territory and also from overseas during 1946 and the first half of 1947. Leaving aside previous centuries, throughout the whole of World War II there had been a trickle of reports (not to mention the many wartime sightings of the smaller *foo fighters* and there had already been the big UFO flap over Scandinavia in 1946 with the sightings of the *ghost rockets* as these were termed at the time in the Scandinavian and British press.

So it may very likely be true that the UFO phenomenon was also well under way in South America by the summer of 1947, and on checking my files I see indeed that José Higgins'¹ alleged encounter with some lumbering great creatures from a landed disc at Baurú, Brazil, dates from July 23 of that year — only twenty-nine days after Kenneth Arnold's sighting.

The extraordinary affair which is the subject of the present report took place in the early hours of April 25, 1977, near Putre (Arica region) in the northern tip of Chile, some 2,130 kilometres from the Capital, Santiago.

Corporal Armando Valdés of the local Rancagua Regiment of the Chilean Army (this unit comes under the Huamachuco Brigade based at Arica) was out on a routine night inspection patrol with seven soldiers in the Andes, at a spot near Pampa Lluscuma, 150 kilometres north-east of Arica. Anyone who has experienced or read about this harsh, arid part of

the globe can imagine for himself just how chilly it would be at such a place on the bleak *puno* lands, at 4.00 o'clock in the morning and at an altitude of not less than 4,000 metres. The seven conscript soldiers with Valdés were named in the press as Humberto Rojas, Iván Robles, Germán Riquelmo, Raúl Salinas, Pedro Rosales, Juan Reyes, and Julio Rato. Five of them were huddled against a *pirca* (dry-stone wall) beside the fire. The other two men were on watch, a few metres distant.

At about 4.00 a.m. Rosales, who was one of the sentries, came running over to report the appearance of two large violet-coloured lights which had descended from the sky and one of which was still in sight, about 500 metres from them, very low, and bathing the whole area around in its vivid glow.

This light seemingly began to make for the party, so the corporal ordered his men to screen off the fire with blankets, presumably with the thought of avoiding detection. The great light was totally silent, and they could now see that it had "two red dots" on each side. After moving nearer to them, it began to move away again.

At this point Corporal Valdés got up and decided to go forward and investigate the light. He looked at his watch. It showed 4.15 a.m. As he explained later to the press, he stepped over the dry-stone wall and, calling upon God for protection, started walking towards the light, shouting as loudly as he could, challenging it, asking who or what it was, and bidding it depart. He was still only a matter of a few metres from the camp fire and his men, all of whom were watching him. And then suddenly he simply vanished before their eyes.

Corporal Valdés recalls nothing of what happened to him after that. He only knows that at about 4.30 a.m. he became aware that he was lying beside the fire again, but feeling very, very strange. Then he blacked out once more.

The mystery of the corporal's beard and wrist-watch

When the corporal came to his senses again after his second black-out, he was still totally incapable of giving any account of what had happened. He seems to have spent about fifteen minutes away from the men. As the men have testified, and as his superior officers have corroborated, Corporal Valdés had shaved but a short while before going out on the night patrol. His appearance was as it should be, and everything about him was in order.

He now had a beard which was the equivalent of five days' growth. (As Valdés himself emphasised later when talking to the newspapermen, this was

A Grand account
Subsequently appeared in
Standard No 29 under the
title ECOMI de
Putre