



When James Templeton took this picture of his daughter Elizabeth on a family outing near Carlisle, England, in May 1964, no one saw the figure in a "spacesuit" behind her. The figure remains unexplained.

caller and his associate to the marsh? Always willing to cooperate with investigators, Templeton consented. Soon the men showed up, dressed in dark business suits and driving a Jaguar. On the way the men, who showed identity cards with an official-looking seal on each, never gave their names, referring to each other only as "nine" and "11"—a practice Templeton understandably found disconcerting.

At the site they questioned him closely but not directly about the incident. They wanted to know what the weather was like and how the animals behaved. They asked if the birds had sung during the experience. When Templeton said he had not paid any attention, his interrogators seemed to grow agitated, and their questioning took on an increasingly aggressive tone. Then they claimed that he knew the figure was just a passerby. Templeton denied it, but the strangers were insistent. An argument ensued, and the strang-

ers stormed off and drove away, leaving Templeton stranded. He was forced to walk the five miles home.

Interviewed by ufologist Jenny Randles in May 1990, Templeton was still puzzled by the photograph and still angered at the way the "investigators"—whom he still believed to be from the British government—had treated him. He had never profited from the picture, to which he never even claimed a copyright. Randles saw no evidence that he was a UFO buff or had done any reading on the subject.

Randles doubts that the strangers were representatives of the ministry. She writes:

I have come across perhaps a dozen British cases with **men in black** overtones. Almost invariably the witnesses consider these persons to be Ministry of Defense investigators—commonly alleging that some such identification was shown to them. The MoD position on this is firm. It *never* sends investigators to interview UFO witnesses. While MoD does record sightings, this is done via UFO report forms and occasional phone interviews. . . . Nearly every British MIB case in my files mentions [a Jaguar] as the vehicle of choice [Randles, 1995].

By coincidence or otherwise, in a 1961 American incident a witness complained of being stranded by three strangers who called on him in the wake of a UFO encounter. In this instance they visited him at his place of employment and drove him to his home some miles away, where they examined his boots and clothing, then departed without him. The witness had to call a cab to get back to work. Like Templeton's visitors, they grilled him about some aspects of the incident and not others (*see North Dakota CE3*).

Sources:

Creighton, Gordon. "The Mysterious Templeton Photograph." *Flying Saucer Review* 10,6 (November/December 1964): 11-12.

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TEMPLETON PHOTOGRAPH

On the morning of May 24, 1964, a Sunday, the Templeton family of Carlisle, England, set off on a picnic at the marshes of Burgh-by-Sands, some six miles west of the city. The father, James Templeton, was a fire officer, and he and his wife had two daughters. The younger, Elizabeth, was five years old.

In the early afternoon Templeton, using a Pentacon camera with Kodacolor X stock, took a picture of Elizabeth as she picked wildflowers from a creek running across the marsh. The only other people at the site, an elderly couple, sat in a car parked several hundred yards from the spot where the Templetons were situated. The outing was pleasant and uneventful. The only thing that seemed out of the ordinary was the odd behavior of some nearby sheep and cattle, which were huddling together as they had been on another occasion when Templeton had seen them. On that occasion a thunderstorm had been imminent. This time, though, no such storm threatened. The day was beautiful.

Subsequently Templeton sent the film to Kodak Ltd. for processing. When it was returned, an accompanying note remarked that it was too bad the best of them had been "spoiled by a man in the background."

Though the Templetons were positive that no man had been in the background when the picture was taken, there was undeniably a man in the photograph. He was a large man, perhaps seven feet tall, and he stood behind Elizabeth, her head covering his body up to his lower chest. His left arm was bent at the elbow, the not-quite-visible hand apparently resting on the (not visible) hip. Weirdly, the figure was encased in what looked like a white spacesuit. A helmet covered his head, with a visor through which shadowy features could be vaguely discerned.

Unable to think of any explanation, Templeton went to the local police and asked them to investigate. Superintendent Don Roy offered his own off-the-cuff theory: a "mirage." The Carlisle police, however, forwarded the photograph to the divisional offices at Penrith. The Criminal Investigation Division photo experts then contacted Kodak. While all of this was going on, the local press heard about it, and several newspaper articles resulted.

The police investigators rejected another theory, that the figure was there because of an accidental double exposure, on the grounds that the image was too solid. They suggested, apparently without great conviction, that the figure was a local eccentric known on occasion to roam naked through the marshes. Aside from the fact that none of the Templetons had seen this man while the photo was being taken, the figure in the picture is obviously clothed. On June 11, after an extensive probe, Chief Superintendent Tom Oldcorn of Penrith told Templeton that they really had no explanation; it must be, he said unhelpfully, "a freak picture."

Kodak was intrigued enough to conduct its own inquiries. That inquiry eliminated the double-exposure explanation; the figure and Elizabeth's head did not overlap, as they would have if one image had been placed on top of another.

The first newspaper to publicize the picture, the *Cumberland News*, contacted the Ministry of Defense, which expressed interest. Later, when Templeton had a meeting with two strange men, he assumed that they were from the ministry.

One day about two months after the incident, he received a call from a stranger who described himself as an investigator. Would Templeton go with the