

EXORCISM AND UFO LANDING AT LOCH NESS

F. W. Holiday

WHOSE idea it was to exorcise Loch Ness I am not sure. Initially I read Dr. Omand's book¹ and noted that he rejected the Loch Ness monster as an animal. After some correspondence on the subject I went to stay a few days with him in Devon. It turned out that he had already consulted various ecclesiastical authorities such as the Bishop of Crediton, and was of the opinion that an exorcism was desirable. We arranged to rendezvous up at Loch Ness later in the year.

While this was occurring John A. Keel drew my attention to the claim of a Swedish UFO-researcher who reported a landed UFO and occupants at Loch Ness. I noticed at once that this alleged landing had occurred three days after my friend Graham Snape and other witnesses had watched a low-flying luminous object travelling down the loch. Correspondence with the Swedish witness followed. Correspondence also took place with a graduate student at Millport, Isle of Cumbrae, studying for a doctorate in marine biology, who had been diving in Loch Ness and had made a curious discovery. My book *The Dragon And The Disc* had just been published calling attention to the unexplained parallels between Bronze Age artefacts and UFO reports.

I will now try to explain how these apparently quite unrelated items came together in the field and

how we reacted.

Dr. Omand, a retired Anglican vicar, is an exorcist with an international reputation. This year (1973) he has carried out exorcisms in places as far afield as Syria, Scotland and Spitzbergen. He is held in particular esteem by circus people throughout Europe over his ability to spiritually 'delouse' potentially dangerous places such as big tops, and wild animals.

I met Dr. Omand at an agreed place at Loch Ness on June 2, 1973. Due to an unguarded comment made by me during a television interview some weeks earlier it was clear that a television team was in the area intent on filming the exorcism. However it was felt that they would be satisfied with a re-enactment and the genuine ceremony should be performed without publicity and as soon as possible. We conducted it that evening.

Five of us set off in two cars. I went as a passenger with Capt. A. Artus, a serving artillery officer, to pinpoint the four sites at the four extremities of Loch Ness previously selected for the performance of the exorcism rite. We stopped first at the beach at Lochend where a protective ceremony was enacted. This consisted of a brief service followed by the application of holy water in the form of a cross to the foreheads of the participants. In view of what took place later this fact seems rather significant.

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Here is a part of the actual exorcism as delivered by Dr. Omand:

"Grant that by the power entrusted to Thy unworthy servant, this highland loch, and the land adjoining it may be delivered from all evil spirits; all vain imaginations; projections and fantasies; and all deceits of the evil one. O Lord, subject them to Thy servant's commands that, at his bidding, they will harm neither man nor beast, but depart to the place appointed them, there to remain forever."

The party then proceeded via Inverness to a point on the south-east shore, then to Fort Augustus and finally to Urquhart Castle, at each of which places the exorcism was performed. The final rite had to take place in the middle of Loch Ness and I managed to borrow a suitable boat for this purpose.

During the 60 mile drive around Loch Ness and the various services I was aware of a tension building up. This reached its peak when we floated in 700 feet of water for the final exorcism which ran:

"I adjure thee, thou ancient serpent, by the judge of the quick and the dead, by Him who made thee and the world, that thou cloak thyself no more in manifestations of prehistoric demons, which henceforth shall bring no sorrow to the children of men."

Personally, I expected the appearance of the monster or - much worse - something coming up under the boat. However nothing occurred apart from the near-collapse of Dr. Omand - something he had come to expect, he told us, with every successful exorcism. On Sunday we rested; Monday was given over to a re-enactment of the rite for the television people. Later in the day I was involved in a peculiar incident that could easily have drowned two of us in the loch. On Tuesday evening a rather frightening manifestation occurred. Before describing this it is necessary to deal with the alleged UFO landing.

Aerial UFO

In the January - February, 1973, issue of FSR, in *Dragons And UFOs At Loch Ness*, I described the sighting by Graham Snape of a luminous object travelling down the loch at night. In view of the reported landing I asked him to give me a more detailed description. This is it:

"I observed the object travelling from left to right in the night sky, approximately level with the background hill peaks. It was travelling almost horizontally, very fast, but in perfect silence. It was irregular in shape although roughly circular. The most impressive feature was the colour which was a white core with a purple/violet annulus around it. Size is difficult since so much depends on the distance between observer and object. Assuming it to be directly over the loch I would estimate the minimum core diameter at 5 feet with a maximum of 10 feet."

This witness saw only one object. The date was 13 August, 1971.

Report of UFO landing, and occupants

Three days later Jan-Ove Sundberg was at Loch Ness in the woods above Foyers Bay trying to take a

short cut to the power station construction site. It was between 8.30 and 9.30 in the morning. Suddenly he saw an odd-looking machine about 70 metres away standing in an open space amongst some trees. It was shaped rather like a grey-black cigar about 10 metres long with a curved standing portion at one end which gave it the appearance, in profile, of a huge smoothing-iron complete with handle. Three creatures then appeared out of nearby bushes and stood together a moment or two as if communicating. These beings, including their heads, were dressed in what looked like diver's suits. They were grey in tone. At first Mr. Sundberg thought they were humans - divers from the Foyers project. They were about 1.75 - 1.80 metres [i.e. of 'normal' size, about 5 ft. 8½ inches to 5 ft. 10½ inches. — EDITOR] high, and he watched as they walked over and climbed into their UFO. They did this by stepping through a door or panel in the upper part of the curved portion. When all were aboard the object lifted silently and vertically to a height of about 15 - 20 metres when it moved rapidly in near-horizontal flight up and over the hill. When it was clear of the hill Mr. Sundberg had the impression that it started to descend again - probably in the region of Loch Mhor.

Mr. Sundberg says he had a camera around his neck during the whole of this encounter with 20 unexposed frames in it. He finds it impossible to



The genuine exorcism — carried out in working dress with a minimum of publicity. Capt. Artus (left) with Dr. Omand



Dr. Omand being interviewed by BBC television during the re-enactment of the exorcism.

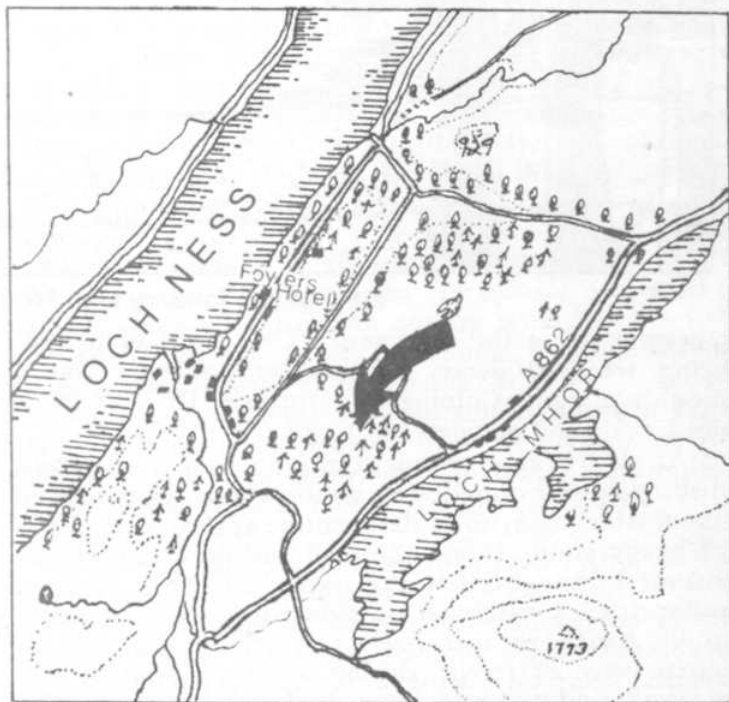
explain why he didn't shoot every frame and describes it as a sort of 'paralysis.' However, as the last entity was stepping into the hatch, he managed to lift the camera and take one picture. He says that this picture was sent to the Gothenburg UFO-group who returned it as 'unidentified.' In August, 1972, he sent it to the Lorenzens who passed it to Dr. James Harder who still has it.

When the exorcism was completed I was anxious to examine the site of the alleged landing and take some pictures. However, when I mentioned this plan to Dr. Omand, he counselled against it on the grounds that he had himself seen a UFO near Salisbury Plain and didn't like the look of it. Not entirely convinced I discussed the matter with Wing Commander and Mrs. Cary, to whom I showed all the Sundberg correspondence. This was at about 9.30 in the evening on June 5. What happened then needs to be described in detail.

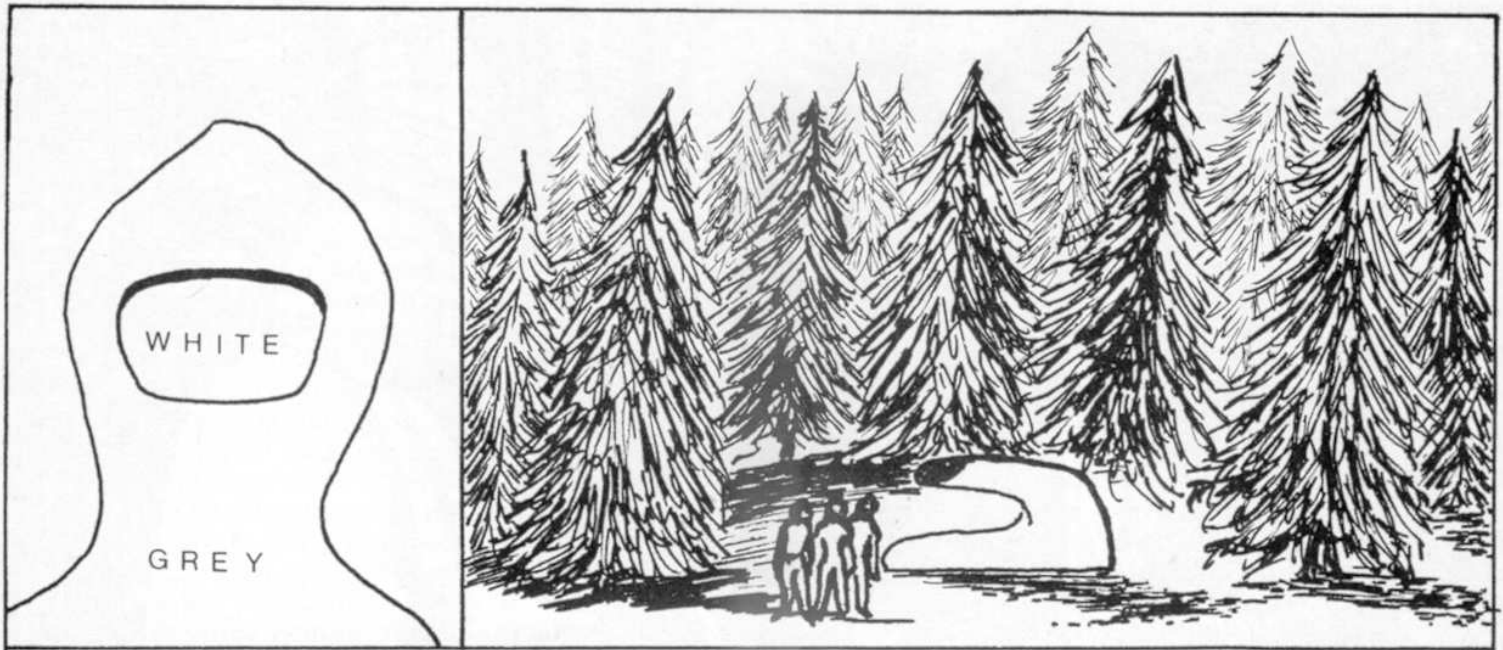
Alarming Sequel

Mrs. Cary was seated with her back to the window which overlooks the front garden. I was seated facing the window. The Wing Commander was standing somewhere on my right. The evening was overcast and the room rather gloomy.

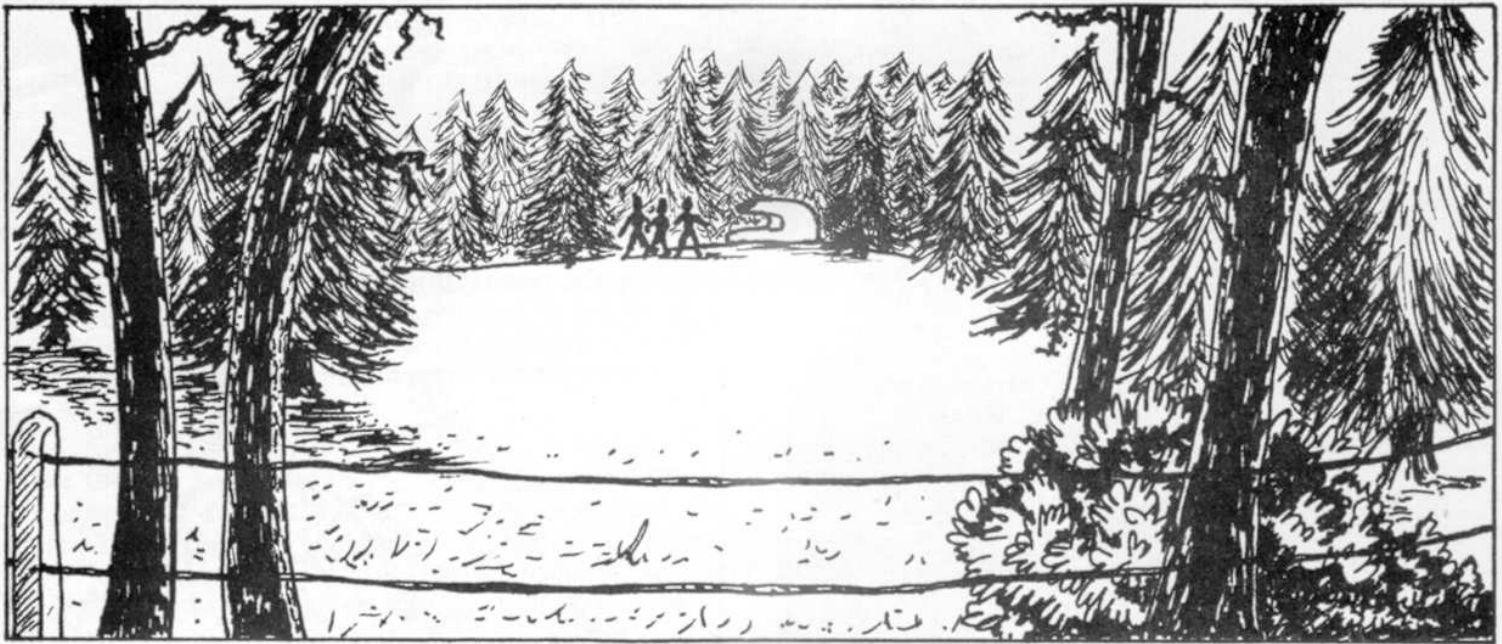
Mrs. Cary twice cautioned me not to visit the



Map of the Foyers area, Scale, $\frac{1}{2}$ " = 1 mile. Arrow indicates point where the craft and occupants were claimed to have been observed by Mr. Sundberg



Eileen Buckle's sketches based on Mr. Sundberg's crude drawings. 1. (Left) Headgear of occupant
2. (Right) The landing site



View of the landing area from where the witness was standing

UFO-site using the argument: "One reads of people being whisked away. It may be nonsense but I shouldn't go." Coming on top of Dr. Omand's similar advice I decided not to go.

At that precise moment there was a tremendous rushing sound outside the window and what looked like a whirling mass of dark smoke appeared. A series of heavy thuds shook the wall and door and for an instant I thought that the corner of the house was collapsing. A rosebush outside the window seemed to be trying to tear itself out of the ground. An initial wave of terror, during which I stared fixedly at the window, was soon replaced by calm. The episode lasted about 15 seconds. Mrs. Cary was greatly alarmed; yet the Wing Commander, standing only a few feet away, neither saw nor heard a thing.

Next morning I asked Mrs. Cary to relate exactly

what she saw and she stated as follows:

"We were sitting in the sitting-room. I had my back to the window...Ted Holiday was facing me sitting on the sofa. My husband was in the room standing on my left by the sideboard. We were discussing flying saucers or something of the sort. Ted had told me the story of one that was supposed to have landed on the far side of the glen up on top of the hills, and he was thinking of going up there to take photos, and I said 'I don't think I would if I were you. I wouldn't go near the place. One has heard stories about people being whisked into space. I don't think I would go near there' — and I repeated this.

"And then, suddenly, there was a most frightful noise...three terrific crashes just outside the window by the front door as if something was hurling itself

at the door, I think, or the window...I'm not sure. Looking over my shoulder I got an impression that there was something at the window although I didn't see exactly what it was. And then, looking at Ted, I saw a beam of white light that shot across the room from the window on my left. I saw a white circle of light on Ted Holiday's forehead. It was white light...not like electric light...and the circle was about three or four inches in diameter. I thought the house had been struck by lightning with this light shooting into the room but I couldn't understand why the light was white. I got a terrible fright. The light stayed on only for perhaps a second but I definitely saw it...there was no question about it. I said to Ted: 'What on earth's that? What happened?' and I said to my husband: 'What was it? - You'd better go and see.' He said: 'I don't know what you're talking about - I never heard a thing.' He went out to look but there was nothing there. It gave us an awful fright - it gave Ted a fright too. I couldn't imagine what it was - those frightful crashes and this light shooting in at the window. He said he'd seen a dark swirly shape outside the window. Well, I saw something there but I couldn't say what it was. What I really noticed was this beam of light shooting across the room onto Ted's fore-

head, this white circle on his forehead.'²

No light, white or otherwise, was visible to me from the window. The area where the light became visible to Mrs. Cary was where the holy water had been applied during the protective rite.

For several minutes after this incident I was reluctant to leave the room but finally went up to a caravan outside the garden where I found Dr. Omand in deep sleep. At length he roused and gave me certain instructions as a safeguard against such manifestations. Mrs. Cary stated: "The doctor told me later that he'd had a dream thinking that Ted needed him because he was in danger; then he woke up. He told me that the next morning." The following night distinct knockings occurred on doors for which no cause could be found.

Submerged site

On 9 June Steve Gorzula and a diver friend came up to see me from the University Marine Biological Station, Millport, to tell another odd story. While diving in Loch Ness near Aldourie pier on Easter Saturday they found, in 20-30 feet of water on a soft mud bottom, half a dozen or more dome-shaped hummocks of hard sand and stones about 3-4 feet high and 20 feet in diameter. Slightly inshore from the hummocks were two stone walls about 6 feet apart and some 40 feet long, running parallel to the shore. Impressed in the bottom nearby were the marks of two flippered feet. The sketch of the entities supplied by Mr. Sundberg suggests that their feet had in fact been flippered.³

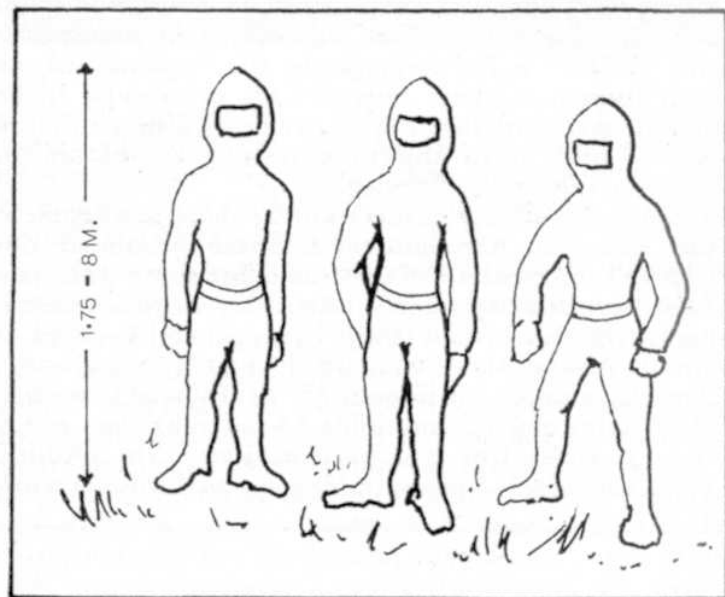
The situation now seemed to have every bizarre ingredient - a possible submerged Bronze Age burial site, demons, monsters and a landed UFO. The pedants of course wouldn't hear of such things. Brian Ford⁴ agreed that visual images are usually due to light reflecting off objects but "a very significant percentage of ostensibly rational people are given to believing they have seen things when demonstrably they have not." After an all-night discussion with Dr. B. Herbert, Director of the Downton Paraphysical Laboratory, I came away with the assurance that most UFOs were "space junk" and apparitions were creations of the human mind. As Arthur Koestler remarks: 'To out-Herod Herod is a phenomenon as common among scientists devoted to their theory as it is among politicians and theologians devoted to a doctrine.'⁵

That we are deluded in our observations at Loch Ness I tentatively accept; but the nature of the delusion was well-known to the folk of antiquity.

St. Nilus, a Sinai monk of 400 A.D., wrote to the novices:

"Be not afraid and have no dread either of the threatenings and bugbears of the evil spirits, or of voices, and tremors of your dwellings, or of the lightning and flashes of fire, or of the attacks of strange men, camels, and dragons, who burst suddenly into your cells at night with clamour and roaring, or of the crazy laughter, the dancing, and the other ways the foul fiends would affright you, which you have met since your profession."⁶

Of the apparent threatenings, tremors of dwellings,
continued on page 13



The appearance of the occupants

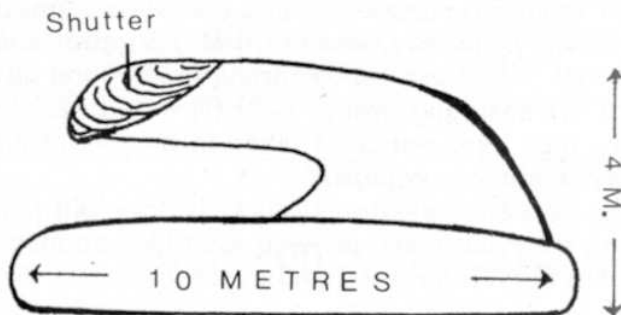


Diagram showing shape of UFO stated to have been seen by Mr. Sundberg