THE LLANERCHYMEDD UFO

WERE OCCUPANTS OBSERVED AS WELL?

Martin Keatman

This article has been prepared for exclusive publication in Flying Saucer Review. Our contributor is Regional Investigations co-ordinator for UFOIN and BUFORA.

DURING the evening of Friday, September 1, 1978, the small Anglesey village of Llanerchymedd was the location of a remarkable series of UFO sightings. These included observations of a red and white bullet-shaped object seen to descend to ground level, a rectangular purple and blue object with yellow lights, and two independent sightings of strange humanoids. This concentration of events took place between 8.00 p.m. and 11.00 p.m., creating great excitement among the villagers.

A thorough investigation into the affair has been conducted by the Federation of UFO Research, Derek James, and the author. Wherever possible full on-site investigations were carried out, but due to the limited time available it was difficult to interview every witness. We did, however, obtain the testimony

of several percipients of each incident.

The Location

The incidents occurred on Anglesey, off the coast of North Wales. Geologically the island contains some of the oldest rocks in Britain, overlain with uneven patches of till, in some places in the form of drumlins. The scenery is subdued and rather uninteresting, except on the north eastern coast between Amlwch and Beaumaris. Large areas are under cultivation, but many stretches are covered with gorse, and in the south-west are areas of sanddunes. Anglesey has a population of 58,000, and more of them are now engaged in industry than in agriculture.

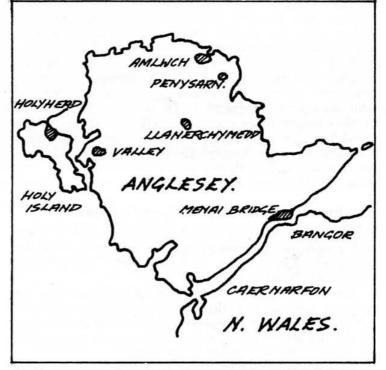
Llanerchymedd is situated in the northern section of the island, and is a typical small village community. It is centred on a main street, the B5112, and partly on the B5111. A market square lies at the intersection of these two roads, the village comprising a mixture of both old houses and new estates. The recently-built estate of Maes Athen is the precise location from which the objects and humanoids were seen. The O.S. Ref. for the village is SJ 418839,

sheet 114, 1:50 000, 2nd series.

The surrounding area is a somewhat irksome and thinly populated moorland. Sheep and cattle graze the fields, although several crop growing areas are worthy of note.

The events

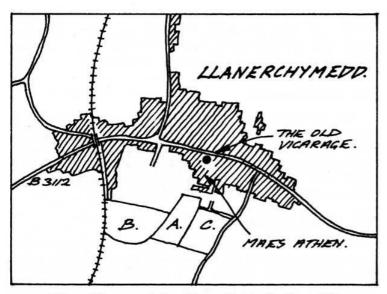
1. At about 5.30 p.m. on Friday, September 1, 1978,



It is suggested you pronounce it THLAN-ERCH-Y-METH -ED.

Mrs. Helen Roberts and Mrs. Glynwin Hughs were out walking their dogs on the outskirts of the village. They suddenly realised that the sky was a most unusual red colour, and that the atmosphere was heavier and quieter than normal. As they looked up they saw a lone "cloud" floating slowly across the sky. They described this as roughly circular in shape, with a white upper section while the lower part was black. It was the only cloud in this area of the sky, and consequently appeared to the ladies to be rather peculiar. They watched it for some thirty or so minutes as they walked, and during this period it gradually drifted out of sight.

2. At 8.00 p.m. someone knocked on Mrs. Betty Owen's door at 20, Maes Athen, and told her to "...come out quick, there's something shiny in the sky." She hurried out and saw a sharply-defined round silver light in the sky at low elevation. As she stood looking at it she was aware that the cows in Oldsmith field were running about as if disturbed. Thinking the light was possibly only a star, she went back inside her home after a few minutes.



The village and the three fields A, B and C

3. At about the same time William Jones, Eilian Williams, Alwyn Smith, and a couple of other lads from the village, were playing a game of football in Oldsmith field. William suddenly caught sight of an odd light in the darkening sky. He watched as it approached very rapidly from the south in a slight angled descent but on a straight path, and it suddenly came to an abrupt halt before beginning to drop to the ground. At this stage he pointed it out to his colleagues, and they all watched as it descended. There was some discrepancy as to how it actually did this; William said he thought it was about the apparent size of the full moon and that as it descended it gradually got smaller, whilst Eilian thought it was originally of apparent moon size, and that it pulsated regularly to the size of a star or planet. All the boys described a silver/white light that was spherical and gave off bright white light to the surrounding area.

After watching it for some five minutes, during which time it fell slowly in a vertical trajectory, the group of boys ran off as they were scared by its appearance. It seems very likely that this was the same light as seen by Mrs. Owen in 2.

4. The fourth sighting is the most detailed and interesting, in that the three boy witnesses (David Mark Hesketh aged 11, William Lewis Smith aged 11, and Paul Jukes) managed to observe more of the light's physical attributes. David also alleges to have seen two strange humanoids walking slowly across Oldsmith field.

At 20.15 they were out playing football in the Maes Athen streets. They were suddenly startled by a weird light that was descending slowly into the trees to the south of the village. At this stage David thought it was a helicopter, but closer observation soon proved this was not the case.

Both David and William described a white "bulletshaped light" that was of a uniform colour and surrounded by a distinct red band/glow. Across the centre of the object was a series of smaller red lights, and William claims also to have seen a red light on top. When first seen the object was at 17 degrees elevation and was slightly larger in size than the apparent half degree subtended by the full moon. After watching it for a short time David ran to the gate leading into Oldsmith field and was followed by his two friends. They continued to observe the light from the gate, and as it came lower they could distinguish two protrusions on either side. These are shown in figure 1.

By now the boys were becoming perturbed and quickly discussed what they should do. During the short ensuing conversation they temporarily lost their concentration, and on looking back they saw that the object had altered its appearance. It was now at 4 degrees elevation and appeared spherical. William claims that he saw it "explode" into this new shape (figure 2).

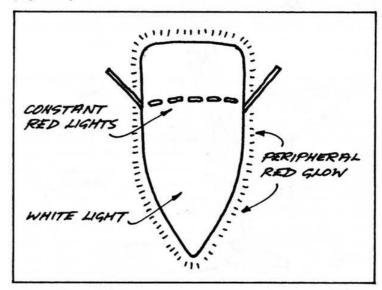


Figure 1: Object nearing ground, event 4

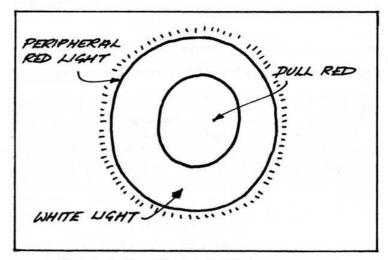


Figure 2: New "exploded" shape, event 4

David then went on to say that it now appeared as two circles, an inner red circle surrounded by white. From the circumference of this white circle a red glow was emitted. By now it was very nearly at ground level above the visible horizon of trees to the south of the village. It seemed to be descending behind these and made them — as far as David could tell — shake violently. In a few seconds it fell from sight behind the trees, leaving only a white glow apparently at ground level. At this juncture William and Paul ran off, leaving David alone in the field into which he had climbed (figure 3).

No sound had been heard throughout the sighting, and the boys had noticed that the local cows seemed very upset. They were rushing madly from

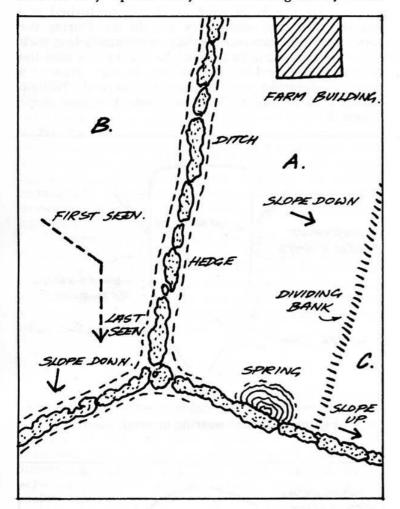


Figure 3: Path taken by entities (not to scale), event 4

one field to another, William claiming that this was subsequent to the virtual landing of the object.

By now David thought he had seen all there was to see, but this was far from the case. His attention was suddenly drawn to a movement in the field, and looking towards this he caught sight of two odd figures.

The Humanoids

The time was around 8.20 p.m. when he first saw the two figures. Both were estimated as being about six feet tall, and were seemingly dressed in one-piece suits. Although the light was fading by this time, he was able to make out certain details of the entities, mainly their dress. The two figures were estimated to have been a mere 115 metres from the witness. A quote from David would seem relevant here:—

"They walked one behind the other, the second

figure being 10-15 feet behind the first. They seemed to be very tall, although I could not make out the lower half of their legs, hands or head, this was due to the fact that the darkness was closing in."

The first humanoid

Because of encroaching darkness only the torso and arms of the first figure could be made out. The torso was grey in colour, with a black band running vertically down the back, and a bright red band just above the waist (figure 4). Both arms looked black, and no hands, head or legs were visible.

The second humanoid

This entity was viewed sideways on and from the knee area upwards. The head and hands could not be seen but certain details were noted. The figure was seemingly dressed in a one-piece suit, this being coloured grey all over with a fuzzy white band running horizontally just above the waistline. The material of the suit was crinkled in the waist area (figure 4).

The movements

The two entities walked slowly across the field, one behind the other, the foremost holding its arms above its head and shaking them from side to side. Seeing this odd motion, David shouted and waved his arms in reply trying to attract their attention. There was no response to this. A few seconds later both figures turned to their right and proceeded to

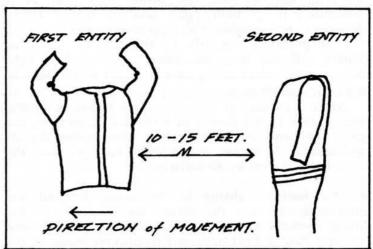


Figure 4: Based on sketch by witness; attitude of entities and movements

walk down a slight incline in the field. Ten seconds later they were lost to sight, in part due to the fading light, and also because they were walking into a depression. It was estimated that the entities covered about 50 metres in the 2½ minutes that David observed them. If this observation was accurate this would be consistent with his statement that they were walking very slowly.

David last saw the figures at about 8.23 p.m. By this time he could no longer see the glow from the object. Feeling quite worried by the sighting he climbed out of the field and ran with a friend to call the police. It seems very probable that this light was the same light as seen by the other set of boys and Mrs. Hughs, and this is very useful since it would mean there are several sets of independent witnesses as to its mode of descent.

5. As Mrs. Patricia Owen, a housewife aged 21, stood outside her home at 27, Maes Athen, casually chatting to a neighbour, she had no idea that in a few minutes she was to witness something that would

greatly disturb her for months to come.

She was still talking when the boy from next door ran up and shouted: "There was a flying saucer that landed in the field." Thinking he had seen a helicopter she went inside with her daughter, Adelle, aged 2, to obtain a better look from the upstairs window. The time was about 8.20 p.m. as she hurried to the back bedroom and gazed out over the fields.

Her attention was drawn to a movement behind a hedge, and the realisation of what she could now see caused her great fear. A mere 96 metres from her were three beings of humanoid shape, each six feet tall, walking up the field (see figure 5). They were side by side, dressed in matt-grey one-piece suits, and had the form of slim males. She could only see them from the rear and from the waist upwards, and no facial features were visible (figure 6). At no time did

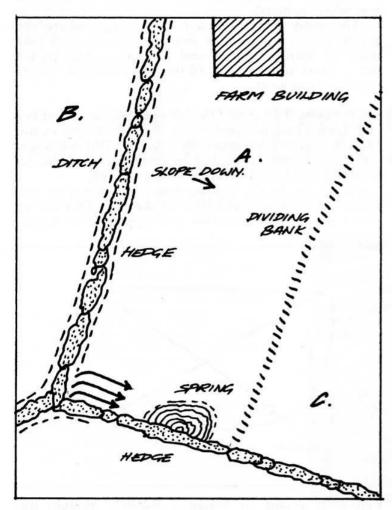


Figure 5: Mrs. Patricia Owen's sighting. The arrows indicate paths taken by entities

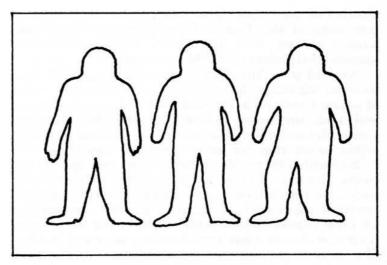


Figure 6: Based on sketch by Mrs. Owen. How the three entities appeared - from behind, event 5

they appear to make any gestures, and they simply walked slowly up the slight incline in the field towards a spring. Their arms and head were in proportion to their bodies but, unfortunately, no details of the suit could be seen at that distance. The head was covered by a continuation of the suit, in the same manner as an anorak. After watching for about half a minute (calculated from psychological and practical tests), in which time they took about 20-25 paces each, she became very scared and called to the boys in the field to go and fetch the police. It is uncertain whether these boys were those already discussed, but it is known that she did not tell them what she had been able to see.

She then hurried downstairs and went to Market Square where she was supposed to meet her husband at 9.00 p.m. During this time, Mrs. Patricia Parry (witness to be discussed shortly) arrived and spoke to her. Mrs. Parry said when I interviewed her that Pat was apparently very worried and upset, and that this was visible in her actions and speech. This would lend support to the fact that she had had a traumatic

experience.

When I spoke to Pat Owen she was still upset by the sighting, and indeed she could not sleep at night for seven days after the incident. I found her to be a very down-to-earth housewife who cared greatly for her daughter and the house she lived in. One fact that must be recorded is that she made the sighting without her glasses, these having been broken by her daughter when they first moved in. However, the reported details were consistent with this, and the fact that the light was fading rapidly.

Whether these entities were those seen by David we will never know, but their height and general appearance may suggest this. What is very important, however, is that these two witnesses reported having seen strange creatures entirely independently, a situation rarely ever come across. This aspect of the case makes it potentially very important for future

research work.

6. We now turn to yet another corroboration of the

sighting of the strange descending light, this being the testimony of Mrs. Patricia Parry (mentioned earlier as having spoken with Pat Owen shortly after her

humanoid sighting) of 39, Maes Athen.

At 8.15 p.m. Mrs. Parry, a housewife aged 27, was outside cleaning her neighbour's car. She was planning to watch a TV film that began at that time, and a minute or so before it started Mrs. Patricia Jones, the neighbour whose vehicle she was washing, called to say that the programme was about to start.

Suddenly three local boys (the percipients in event 4) came running down the road shouting that they could see a UFO. Since the local boys often play practical jokes on her, she thought this was another of their pranks, but on this occasion the urgency in their voices soon convinced her they were not jesting. She in turn ran after them as they tore off up the road.

As she reached the corner of the street she saw an oval light in the south-west at about 30 degrees elevation. It was silver/white, apparently solid, and seemed to be hovering over the fields a short distance away. After it had hovered in this position for about a minute, during which time it rotated in an anticlockwise manner, it began to recede, dropping in a slight curved arc as it did so. It eventually dropped to about 5 degrees and came to a halt, hovering just above the trees and illuminating them with bright white light for a period of about two minutes.

In appearance the light was slightly smaller than the full moon, and after watching it for some three minutes or so, she went back towards her home. Suddenly, she heard David Hesketh shout that it had landed, and she hurried back to see if she could see this. By the time she arrived at the scene the light was

no longer visible.

An interesting thing she did notice was that the dog across the street, a Golden Labrador that is normally very placid, was barking loudly and straining frantically at its leash. Going back into her house she told her husband what she had seen, and after she had described it to him he said it was probably a UFO.

The day after seeing the light Mrs. Parry had a bad attack of migraine. I asked her about this, and she informed me that although she does suffer from that complaint, on this occasion it was the worst attack she had ever experienced. Whether or not the attack was related to the sighting is difficult to say, but it remains a possibility. Mrs. Parry suffered no other ill effects.

Mrs. Parry is one of the most important witnesses to the evening's events, particularly because she could give an almost precise time for the sighting. I consider her claim was a genuine one.

7. Mr. John Roberts was the next witness we located, and it turned out that his testimony would be very valuable. Although he did not see a great deal of the descending light, the circumstances in which he saw it were most fortunate, for he was in a field opposite his farm, Plas Gynaf, which is to the south of the village. He was therefore independent of all the other witnesses, and in essence he described exactly the same white light.

He said he suddenly caught sight of "a huge white light" descending very slowly from the sky. From his location it was just a few degrees to the north of east, and as he concentrated on watching it he saw that it was falling slowly. Although he could say no more about what he had seen, his testimony was invaluable for it corroborated the sighting made by the other groups of witnesses.

Commotion in the village

By this time the village was in an uproar, with people flocking about trying to find out what was happening. The police from Amlwch had arrived

at about 9.10 p.m. after being called by David Hesketh and some of his friends. One of the constables was P. Pritchards, and Derek James and I interviewed him at some length. He took the three boys David, William and Paul Jukes up the road that leads almost due south out of the village. By torch light they searched the fields where the object had apparently landed, but they found nothing. On the return journey the boys shouted excitedly that they could see a white light actually on the ground. This was a short way back and in the fields. Pc. Pritchards stopped the van and they all got out, but by this time nothing was to be seen. At our interview Mr. Pritchards was very helpful and confirmed that this was what occurred.

The party arrived back in the village, where the police proceeded to take short statements and take note of witness names and addresses. The police left a short time before 10.00 p.m., but the events were far from over.

8. At about 9.55 p.m. Miss Vivienne Roberts and her boy friend had just arrived at the girl's home in the Market Square. Vivienne lives at the Old Vicarage, and it is customary for her to sit and chat in the car with her boy friend before saying goodbye.

As she sat in the passenger seat her attention was drawn to a small round light in the sky. This was at about 45 degrees elevation and appeared as a star-

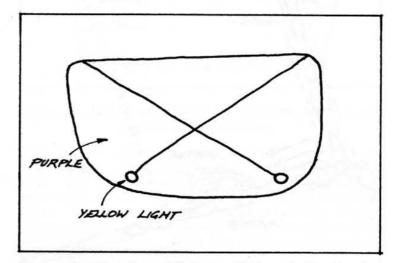


Figure 7: Based on Vivienne Roberts' sketch, the object seen in event 8

sized yellow light that was stationary. It suddenly disappeared like a light being switched off, only to be followed by the almost instantaneous appearance of a second identical light. This was slightly above the position of the first light and had a well-defined and apparently solid shape. A couple of seconds later this too disappeared.

To her amazement, a very short time after this one had gone, an object burst into view. It was triangular in shape and Prussian blue in colour. It had a lighter section around it (see witness's drawing in figure 7), and was 'purplish' in colour. In addition the object had two yellow lights, presumably those already described. These were at the outer lower extremity of the object, the whole of which gave the appear-

ance of being solid.

Miss Roberts got out of the car and sat on the wall outside her house. As she watched she realised that the object had begun to move, and she likened its movement to that of a "snail," but she could not recall if she had seen how it started to move. It moved slowly in a southerly direction, at no time altering its ponderous motion. It was slightly larger than the apparent size of the full moon and seemed about as bright as a star (admittedly ambiguous, but she could not elucidate without significant inaccuracy). Having watched it for some 20 seconds or so Miss Roberts glanced away; on looking back it had gone. The object had illuminated the churchyard with a purple glow, and about three seconds after it had disappeared she noticed that the local horses

were making a noise as though they were disturbed. She could not recall such a thing happened previous to that evening.

Later than night she went to see her own horses, and to her dismay found that they too were very upset. It took her a good five minutes to get them to come to her and she observed that this was most unusual. When they finally did come to her they were

sweating heavily, which was unusual.

Miss Roberts' boy friend also claims to have seen the object, but he only saw a white star-like light that performed a figure of eight movement before shooting off across the sky at immense speed. Unfortunately he was not available to be interviewed, but this brief second-hand account would seem to suffice.

Strange metallic noises

At about 01.00 a.m. on the morning following her sighting, Vivienne Roberts was trying to get to sleep. The sighting had greatly upset her; indeed she had rushed into the house crying as the object had disappeared. As she lay in led she suddenly became aware of weird voices, seemingly from the yard immediately behind the Vicarage.

She said there were about a dozen of these and that they "sounded foreign." The voices were quiet and seemed to be conversing slowly. Miss Roberts described their "talk" as a series of "ooooo" sounds repeated in sequence, but unfortunately she could not recall this "conversation." These sounds terr-

ADVERTISEMENT

Fortean Times

The World's Foremost Journal of Strange Phenomena.

Wolf-Children & Wild Men Poltergeist Phenomena The 'Surrey Puma' & Other Exotic Aliens Coloured Snows & Rains Weather & Quake Superlatives Spontaneous Combustion of Humans Stigmata & Levitation Discoveries of America before Columbus Falls of Fish, Blood & Ice from the Sky People who Vanish & Others who Appear Mysterious Aerial Sounds Occult Crimes Impossible Objects in Ancient Strata Electromagnetic Enigmas UFOs & Related Phenomena Teleportations of People & Things Evidences of 'Little People' & Giants-Ball Lightning & Odd Lights Ghosts & Apparitions Relics of Ancient Technology Cycles & Coincidences in Phenomena Bigfoot & Unidentified Animals

Visions & Miracles



Strange Deaths, Murders & Accidents Phantom Smells & 'Mass Hysteria' Curious Astronomical Phenomena Mystery Explosions & Flashes Psi Powers Swarms & Migrations Curiosities of Behaviour & Psychology Freaks of Lightning & Meteorology Paranormal Experiences & Alternate Realities Lake & Sea Monsters Hoaxes & Controversies in Science 'Hollow Earth' & Other Cosmologies Attacks On & By Animals Vampires, Werewolves & Possession Antiquities & Lost Continents Curiosities of Biology & Teratology Mysterious Images & Photos Challenges to Darwinism Sightings of Prehistoric Creatures Antiquarian Evidence of 'Spacemen' Unusual Darknesses Thought Forms & Psychotronics

Toads in Stones

ified her, and during the ten or so minutes that they were audible, she dared not look out of her window to see the source. The noises upset the two family dogs, since they barked vigorously during the time she could hear them. A final point she made was that the noises sounded like the metallic voices of the "Daleks", in the BBC TV science fiction programme Doctor Who.

Vivienne Roberts was a helpful witness, and her reserved manner, and method of recounting her experiences were very impressive. It is difficult to comment on these eerie noises, but neither Vivienne nor her family have heard them before. There have been references in other reports to strange voices of this type, primarily originating from the Americas. I feel that this apsect of the experience is one that should be carefully considered, and not rejected out of hand.

9. Whilst Jeremy Burford and a few of his friends were out driving along a country lane to the south of the village, they saw an unusual light that was white and surrounded by a purple haze. This made several strange manoeuvres for about three minutes before shooting off at great speed to the north-west. This could have been the light seen by Miss Roberts' boy friend, although there is some discrepancy over the time.

10. We may now consider the last sighting made on this Friday night, but before we do so an important point should be stressed. This is that there is some uncertainty about the date of this sighting: did it occur on the Friday evening or on the following Saturday? There are several good reasons to accept

that it did in fact occur on the Friday.

At 10.45 p.m. Mrs. Hilda Hughes and her daughter Wendy saw a strange landed light in a field behind Maes Athen. This is the filed marked A in figure 5. Wendy suddenly rushed into the house shouting "...come outside and look at this light in the field." Mrs. Hughes followed her daughter outside and, with two other witnesses, saw a spherical mass of white light on the ground. This pulsated slowly and had a hazy edge. It lit up the whole of the area very brightly, and the two witnesses were able to see it because it illuminated the spaces in the hedge behind which it was situated. After watching it for some three minutes they went to fetch Mr. Hughes but, on their return, the light had gone.

The apparent size of the object was estimated as being that of a pea held at arm's length, but, since the witness believed she had no drawing ability,

she would not attempt to make a drawing.

This concludes the reported sightings for the Friday evening, but we will never know how many people observed the various manifestations of the phenomenon on that eventful night. Nor will we know if any other witness had a decidedly closer encounter about which they have kept quiet. We may only guess.

The investigations

Several other reports were unearthed for the foll-

owing Sunday evening, but it was concluded that these were probably misidentifications generated by the excitement on the Friday night. The investigations into the case were conducted by the author, the Federation UFO Research based in Crewe, and Derek James formerly of UFOIN. Three full days of on-site interviews were conducted, and these included conversations with witnesses, officials from civilian and local government organisations and other local individuals to ascertain the extent of the events.

During the investigation on Saturday, September 9, Derek James and I located an area in a crop field that appeared to have been badly disturbed. It looked as though an object had gradually come down into the crop in a west to east direction, eventually coming to a halt and swirling the barley in a clockwise manner. The path was about 100 feet long, and the diameter of the swathed area was some fifteen feet. A thorough investigation of this was made and photographs were taken. Unfortunately the pictures of the area were not successful and premature comment by certain individuals involved with the case meant that this particular matter has become very confused. The investigators could find no apparent rational cause for the traces, namely the swathed barley and the path leading to it. The remainder of the investigations involved the normal door to door survey techniques, reconstruction exercises and so on.

Conclusions

A case of such complexity obviously presents difficulties in the matter of accurate evaluation. All relevant authorities — the M.O.D., North Wales Police and R.A.F. Valley — were contacted. Having interviewed virtually every witness I feel I can state that, within reason, they described true and objective experiences. All those I talked to were sensible and down-to-earth folk, and they all seemed genuinely puzzled by what they had seen.

The only possible misidentification the events could have represented was that of a military exercise from nearby RAF Valley. In this connection I would like to quote from a letter I received from Flight

Lieutenant R.W. Barrett:-

'We at RAF Valley do not have ground exercises outside the confines of the Station boundary, so the figures you describe would not have been from this Station. Obviously, we have a variety of working clothes for various tasks, but the clothing you have described does not match any worn by the RAF.'

This is self-explanatory and rules out any suggestion that the entities seen were personnel from the RAF Station.

Checks for aircraft in the vicinity of the village were made; all proved negative. As far as can be ascertained there were no exercises over Llanerchymedd that night, and a conventional explanation of this type may be eliminated. The description of the object and humanoids does not fit any known terrestrial activities, and it seems probable that there was at least one UFO which descended to ground level to the south of the village on the Friday evening. Independent witnesses observed humanoids seen on many previous occasions, and commonplace effects on the percipients and the animals were noted. Whatever it was that was ob-

served that night was certainly mysterious and, something the Llanerchymedd villagers will not forget in a hurry.

© Martin Keatman October 1979. Not to be reproduced without prior permission of the author and the Editor of Flying Saucer Review.

FSR BOOKSHELF-1

NEW UFO BOOKS REVIEWED BY ...

MOST readers will know of the South Wales 1977 UFO wave which included sightings of silversuited figures at Ripperston Farm. Last autumn saw the publication of three books about the wave.

The Welsh Triangle by Peter Paget (Panther paperback, £1.25) is aimed at the less critical, not to say sensation-seeking, section of the paperback-buying public. The back cover promises "Astonishing evidence" and "the facts they tried to silence." The author has visited the area and talked to witnesses, and the events at Ripperston Farm and elsewhere are dealt with fairly accurately though briefly. There is also plenty of padding consisting of other previously published cases not connected with Wales. Also, the "triangle" of the title is a wholly spurious device only existing in Mr. Paget's imagination but obviously designed to link his book with those best-selling paperbacks on the Bermuda Triangle. He believes the UFO entities are space explorers who have established a subterranean base on Stack Rocks and are watching the activities at a secret underground base the Americans have built at RAF Brawdy, on the north side of St. Bride's Bay. In the tradition of pop paperback writers the author is prone to make wild, unsubstantiated statements such as "...research shows that every standing stone in Britain is in a direct line with two or more other prehistoric sites" (p.93). As no one knows how many thousands of standing stones there are, nor where they all are, this is obviously ridiculous. Likewise the statement that UFOs follow leys (p. 96). This is a pleasing idea but regrettably no one has yet come within a mile of proving it. A book to read for amusement, but not to be taken too seriously.

A more professional effort is The Uninvited by Clive Harold (Star paperback, 95p). Here the author concentrates exclusively on Ripperston Farm, giving a chronological account of the events there. But he writes in an irritatingly fictional style with a great deal of reported speech, and descriptions of events that he could not have witnessed personally. If the over-dramatized presentation is not too disturbing, then you will probably find this gives a more intimate day-to-day picture of the lives of some of the principals concerned with this strange business than does Peter Paget's somewhat bare account.

Janet & Colin Bord

Undoubtedly the best of the three books is The Dyfed Enigma by Randall Jones Pugh and F.W. Holiday Faber and Faber hardback, £5.95). Everyone concerned with serious UFO research will want to read this, as both authors were local men (regrettably F. W. Holiday did not live to see publication) and had been seriuosly interested in the UFO problem for a number of years. The book covers the major cases of the St Bride's Bay area during 1976-7 and its great asset is the detailed accounts of the author's interviews. However, we are less happy with Chapter 6, "The Ley Correlation." A possible link between UFOs and leys (not 'ley-lines') has intrigued many authors, including ourselves, but so far no one has produced satisfactory evidence for this link. Pugh and Holiday have found that occasionally a UFO sighting seems to have taken place on or close to a ley, but a few seemingly valid instances of this are supported by a number of dubious leys which overall weaken their case. Although they state (p.106) that leys are alignments of 'a great number' of ancient sites, their ley plans show many 2-point alignments. Such an alignment is not a ley! And 3-point alignments are not necessarily leys, either. The UFO/ley case made out in Chapter 6 is much weaker than the authors would have us believe. The Dyfed Enigma will be reviewed fully in Vol. 25 No. 6.

Today the line between fact and fiction is becoming increasingly ill-defined and a book such as An Account of a Meeting with Denizens of Another World, 1871 edited and with commentary by David Langford (David & Charles hardback, £4.50) merely causes greater confusion. It purports to be a recently discovered account by one William Robert Loosley (1838-93) who wrote that in 1871 he had an encounter with a UFO and two robot entities on a Buckinghamshire hilltop. He told no one, but later wrote his account and concealed it in a secret compartment in his dark. Editor Langford makes out a fairly convincing case for the existence of Loosley, but presents nothing to convince us that his manuscript ever existed. We have reviewed this book at greater length, with a challenge to the author, in Fortean Times.