

HUMANOIDS AT SOUTH MIDDLETON — Part 2

David F. Webb

A report from Massachusetts, U.S.A., based on investigations by the author, and Raymond E. Fowler, conducted in 1978. Some of the witnesses have requested to remain anonymous, a wish that has been respected.

DOUGLAS GOULD was the first to see a white-helmeted figure. One day in mid-November 1977, about dusk, he was playing outside near a small shed just north-east of his house. On the ground he was burning toy plastic cars, which released black smoke. He heard footfalls nearby, as if someone was walking on leaves, or in snow (snow may have been on the ground). Doug looked towards the direction of the sound and saw an all-white being walking "stiff as a board." The being went behind the shed, whereupon Doug ran into the house telling his father to go out and look. Tom did so and saw the being standing in back of a car in the yard. He approached the figure, reached out to put his hand on the being's shoulder and, when his hand was about three inches away, the being vanished in front of his eyes! Tom was so shaken by the incident that he did not admit seeing the being to his family until three days later. "I really thought I was seeing things," he said. The being was 4½ ft. tall; it wore a white suit with a "battleship grey" helmet and hands, bare or with gloves. The helmet was square-like with two eye holes and sat on broad shoulders. The hand had a mitten-like appearance. No feet were noticed. Tom believes he saw this same being several times later.

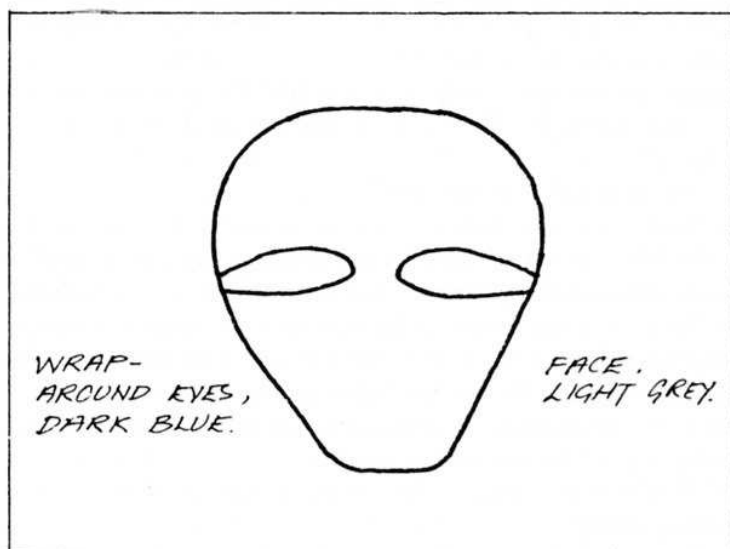
We can speculate that the humanoid may have been attracted by the acrid, black smoke and flames from the burning toys. An unexpected approach, and what may have been interpreted as a threatening gesture by Tom, could have coerced the being into vanishing, an act with ample precedent in CE III lore.

In the first part I reviewed Tom's sightings of the helmeted figure(s) in December and January, and the UFO sightings of January 9-12, 1978. Chronologically the next occurrences were on two separate dates in February 1978 at the Campbell home. Poltergeist-type activity had occurred in both homes during this period, and included locked doors being opened and locks broken. Knives had been placed in door jams in the Campbell home to prevent their opening. One night while all were present in one room, several of the doors were pushed, dislodging the knives. Nothing was seen. Another time a relative heard a sound like a swarm of bees; it grew very loud (although no one else heard it at this point) and he nearly collapsed in a chair before it went away.

A series of incidents the weekend of April 8/9

finally triggered Mrs. Gould's second phone call to investigator Ray Fowler. On Saturday night about 9 p.m. Nancy Gould was sitting on her bed listening to music. She looked up and saw a silhouetted form through the door, which was opened less than an inch. The form had a normal shape, was about 5 ft. 7 in. tall and appeared to be wearing an unzipped jacket. The door moved slightly as if a draught had developed. Thinking it was her father trying to frighten her, she resumed her sewing, then looked up again. The figure was still there. She bolted for the door, swung it open and saw a form moving away rapidly. She searched the nearby rooms then went into the living room where her mother and father were watching TV. No one else was in the house.

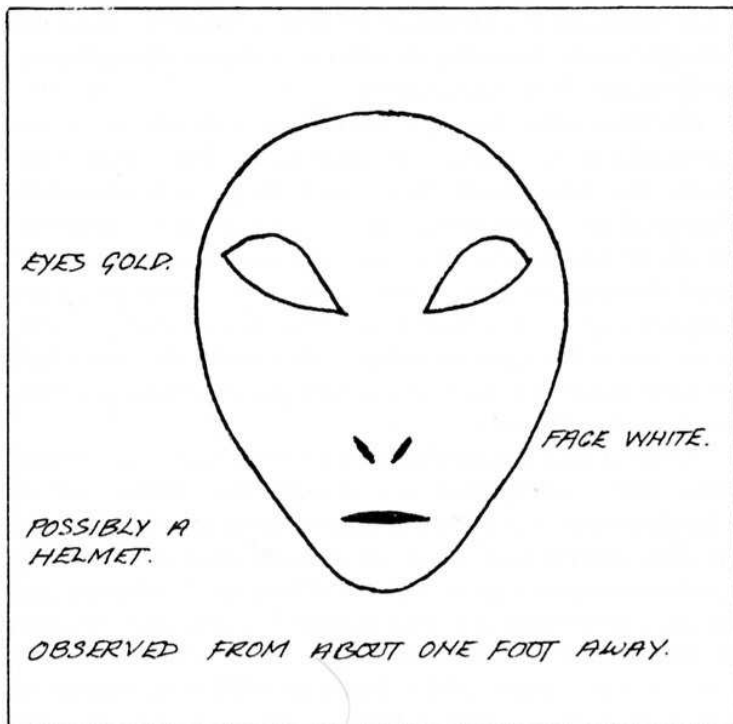
The next day, Sunday, April 9, Doug, Allan and their cousins, saw several white figures several times at close range. In the late morning Doug and a cousin were riding his minibike near the ruined pig house. They had a fleeting glimpse of two large white heads viewed through low brush about 30-35 ft away. Only the heads were visible in an attitude that suggested the beings were crouching behind brush. Their faces were light grey with large, wrap-around dark blue eyes. Their heads were of normal size with no hair. Little movement was noticed. The pair were frightened and quickly left the area.



Sighting of April 9, 1978. Based on sketch by the witness, Douglas Gould

About 2 p.m. all four returned to the same area but closer to where Tom and Nancy had observed the UFO in January. While sitting and talking, they had the feeling they were being watched. Doug and Allan reported only vague glimpses of several beings that faded from sight, or moved too fast to be easily viewed. A cousin, however, saw at least one being and gave the most complete description. She and her sister were sitting together when she saw out of the corner of her eye a figure standing about 10-15 ft. away. She turned and looked fully upon it; it was in profile to her and about her height, which is 5 ft. 3 in. The head had an abnormally large posterior projection and seemed to be encased in a clear, round helmet. The helmet could only be observed because of sunlight glinting off its surface. She also noticed a large, dark, oval eye, a nose slit, but no mouth or ears. No hands or feet could be seen at the extremities of flaring sleeves and pants. A belt with a dark central band, vertical stripes and a black buckle encircled the waist. Recovering from her initial surprise, the witness yelled, jumped up and ran after the being. It quickly retreated with its back to her and was lost to sight in the brush.

Allan reported only vague details of beings glimpsed "out of the corner of my eye." His composite sketch shows a broad-shouldered being with a light grey body and helmet, no belt and also no hands or feet. Long black, tapering arms were a unique feature. Allan could discern no facial details. An odour like sulphur pervaded the area. (Note that, except for the second of these sightings, only vague, fleeting glimpses of figures were reported despite four witnesses in bright sunlight. Researchers will remember

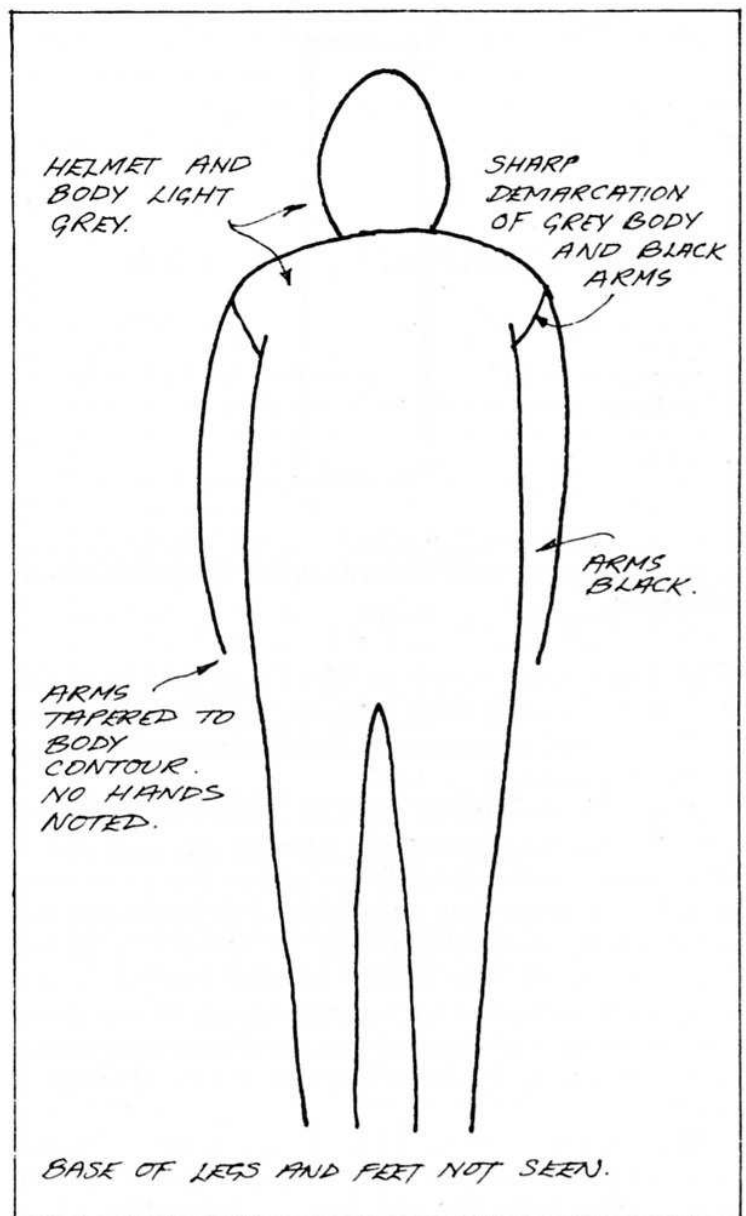


Sighting of April 19, 1978. Tracing of sketch made by cousin of Goulds.

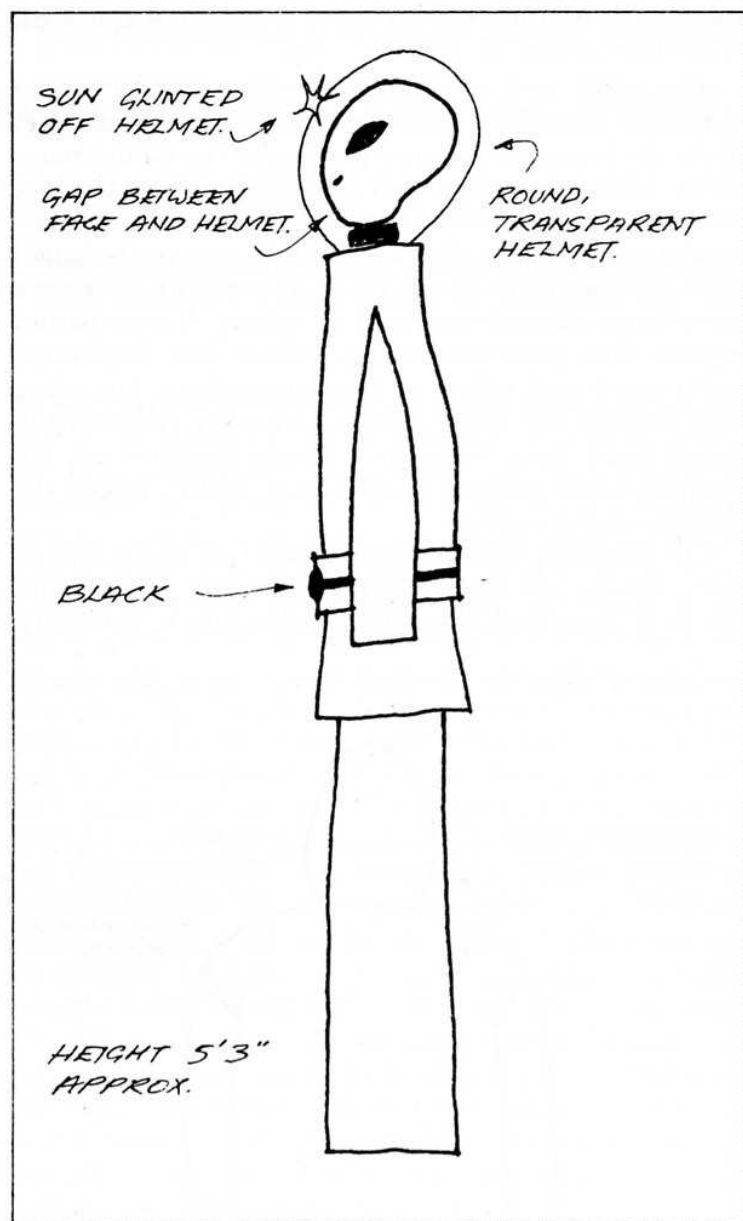
this aspect in other CE III cases, such as the Catskills, N.Y. case of Nov. 8, 1975 — DW).

The same girl saw the same or a similar entity about 10 days later on Wednesday, April 19. That night the four cousins were playing in the Gould basement when she happened to glance at a window, which was at eye level. From only a foot away she saw a white face staring back at her. It was oval-shaped with vertical nose slits and a narrow mouth. The eyes were large, slanted and gold in colour. A transparent helmet may have covered the head. The frightened girl turned and yelled at her companions, but when they looked out the face was gone. She believes the being must have been in a prone position on the ground, since ground level is only inches below the bottom of the window.

On Tuesday, May 2, Doug again saw two white or grey figures on the relatives' property. They were 25-30 ft away with their arms held close to the body.



Sighting of April 9, 1978. Based on sketch by the witness. Allan Gould



Sighting of April 19, 1978. Based on sketch by same cousin of the Goulds.

Few details were noted; in fact Doug said he could have been viewing them from the rear. He did notice a left to right movement. (I did not interview Doug about this sighting — DW.)

After dark one day in mid-July, Nancy was lying on her bed, reading, when she glanced up and saw a silver-white, rod-shaped device reflected in the mirror at the foot of her bed. It appeared to be suspended horizontally, motionless in the air about five inches from her head. She looked in that direction, saw nothing, then looked back at the mirror. It was gone. This incident is mentioned because Nancy had earlier reported seeing a similar rod-like device through a car window.

The final incident for which I have details occurred on a Saturday or Sunday night, September 17 or 18, at 1 or 2 a.m. Allan was the observer, the only one still up in the house. Looking out the front window, he noticed a group of six figures standing beside the road

(River Street) in front of the house. At first he thought there had been an auto accident because it was foggy and one of the beings was pointing down the road in an odd way. Five of the figures wore white suits and the other, who was the one pointing, had on a black suit. Their clothing appeared to reflect the light from a nearby street lamp. No other details were noted because of the fog and the distance (about 250 ft). The fog was peculiar to Allan; it formed a rather sharply defined bank 15 ft high in just the immediate area of the beings. On the other hand, the area is low with a river nearby; fog is not that unusual. After about 10 minutes the figures walked into the woods. Allan did not venture outside alone, but awoke his mother. By the time she got to the window, the figures were gone.

* * * * *

Investigator's evaluation: David F. Webb

This series of incidents, taken as a whole, is complicated and unique in my experience with UFO/humanoid reports. It is unique in its combination of bizarre events occurring over a time span of several years. These events included landed UFOs, at least two types of humanoids, cattle mutilation, poltergeist-type activity, strange odours, sounds and aerial devices. Yet all of these phenomena have been reported at one time or another in various combinations in other reports.

I have no reason to doubt the testimony of the Gould family. Each family member seemed very sincere, and concerned in reporting his or her particular experience. Successive interviews revealed no basic discrepancies in the description of individual events. Our character reference checks showed that the Goulds were considered honest people, though possibly prone to exaggeration.

On the other hand, I found the Goulds were not particularly articulate or observant. This was especially the case with Allan and Tom. Unfortunately Allan alone was involved in several key sightings. Theresa had a tendency to orchestrate the proceedings during my interviews. She was, however, very helpful and anxious for a solution. Because of my concern about the quality of their observations and a lack of time, I did not pursue psychological testing, or hypnosis with this case.

Several additional items of interest were developed after the main report was completed. These are: 1) Handwritten, annotated transcripts of the tapes of the first two interviews have been made, and are available to the interested researcher. 2) On page 25 Nancy and Allan's observation of the landed UFO is discussed. It is uncertain from the transcripts, or my notes, whether the youths went with Tom at different times or together to view the UFO. 3) The reports of some other experiences remains second-hand. I have yet to receive replies to two letters I sent. Unfortunately

their testimony, especially about the night of January 9, would have provided valuable support for the Goulds' stories. 4) According to a newspaper article in 1967 and recent confirmation, a linear accelerator named LINAC was built by MIT on the site of the former Essex County Hospital in Middleton. It is not known whether the device was in operation during the period of this case. The proximity of the UFO events to this atomic facility is considered intriguing.

In conclusion, it is my opinion that strange events did occur in Middleton and were observed by a number of people over several months if not years. The January, 1978 UFO incidents and the observations of the white-suited humanoid(s) are especially noteworthy because they were reported by several people, sometimes in groups and often at close range during daylight. It is highly unlikely that all of these observers were inventing things or hoaxing (a conspiracy), hallucinating or misinterpreting natural or man-made phenomena. Remember that the witnesses included three groups outside of the immediate Gould family. I consider the January UFO sightings and the sightings of the prowler figure to the low-weight unknowns; the reports of the white-suited humanoid(s) are considered a significant unknown CE III.

— D. F. Webb
October 9, 1979

Investigator's Evaluation: Raymond E. Fowler

Background: My initial involvement with the Gould family began in the late Summer or early Fall of 1977. At this time I received a telephone call from an anonymous lady (Mrs. Gould). She told me that a strange man had been seen many times, trespassing on their property, and that he would disappear into thin air when approached. She had called me because of my connection with UFO investigation. The family had seen UFOs at various times. I told her that unless she identified herself and the details, that there was nothing I could do. She stated that her family must remain anonymous at that time, but that she would talk the matter over with them regarding identifying themselves.

In April, 1978 Mrs. Gould called and identified herself. She told me that a UFO had been seen on the ground by members of the family, and that the "man" had appeared and dematerialised in the house. She agreed to an investigation. The police had been called on many occasions but could not find the "man". A priest had been called to bless the house, but the paranormal happenings had continued. As a result of this phone call, I set up an initial interview with the Gould family on 12 April 1978; David Webb accompanied me and later took over the case.

Personal Impressions: The Gould family proceeded to tell us one incredible event after another which con-

cerned either UFOs or the man-like apparition. Outwardly they seemed very sincere. There was much cross-talk between them as they described the events just as if they had actually happened. After our interview, I volunteered to help Dave by conducting a character reference check on the family. The results of the check indicated that the Goulds were believed to be honest people and not the type who would perpetrate a hoax.

Analysis: Regardless of the results of the character check, I find it difficult to come to any personal conclusions about this case. Apparently, seemingly credible people reported some very incredible events. However, I would have been more satisfied if a psychiatrist had been with us when we conducted the interviews. Without this I retain nagging doubts because of the high strangeness of the events and the unusually large number of events involved.

If we take their accounts at full face value, there is no strong possibility of their misinterpreting natural phenomena or misidentifying man-made objects in most of the reported events. The other viable alternatives are delusion, hoax, hallucination or a real experience. The delusion theory requires the results of a

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psychiatric examination for consideration. It would require a group family mental disorder. The possibility of a deliberate, conscious hoax seems negated by the family's good character. However, Mr. Gould, a self-employed carpenter, has found little work opportunity in the area lately. Times are bad enough for them to have put their house up for sale with intentions of moving to Maine in order to find better job prospects. Is it possible that this closely-knit family were desperate enough to concoct the strange events in order to sell a story? So far this does not seem to be the case.* The hallucination theory is weakened because all members of the immediate family and relatives have allegedly seen these incredible things. Mass hallucination would be highly improbable under the circumstances. This leaves the real possibil-

ity that all or some of the experiences were real, subjectively or objectively. Further examinations are necessary in order for me to properly evaluate this possibility. Hypnotic regression also might prove to be helpful. Therefore, for the moment, I am not able to come to any conclusion concerning the validity and importance of this potentially interesting case.

Raymond E. Fowler
July 20, 1978

*[I suspect that had this been the intention the story would have been more precise and spectacular, and concentrated at a certain time, instead of being concocted over a relatively long period, and in such a haphazard, rambling way — EDITOR]

GETTING TO GRIPS WITH THE PHENOMENON

Jenny Randles' new book reviewed

Janet & Colin Bord

TO date there have been very few books on practical ufology (as opposed to books of case histories) produced by British researchers, and it is good to see that Jenny Randles has followed up her and Peter Warrington's *UFOs: A British Viewpoint* with another worthwhile volume, **UFO Study: A Handbook for Enthusiasts** (published by Robert Hale Ltd, price £7.95). The book's serious nature is emphasised, perhaps over-emphasised, by the downbeat title and the uninteresting grey jacket, and it is to be hoped that these do not deter potential readers because, inside, the book is packed with sound common sense and essential information on the thorny subject of UFO research and investigation.

Ms Randles has divided her material into five parts. Part 1, "Basic Ufology," sets the scene with a very brief history of UFOs including the official research projects. Part 2, "Investigating UFOs," gives sensible information to the UFO investigator, be he/she old-hand or newcomer, based on the author's years of practical experience, and concentrates particularly on how to isolate the 90% of UFO accounts which turn out to be IFOs. Part 3, "Special Case Studies," has chapters on photographic cases, physical trace cases, and contact cases, with discussion on the special skills needed to cope successfully with such cases. Part 4, "Researching UFOs," tells us how to use the data we have collected, with ideas for research projects and how to tackle them, and examples of what other researchers have done. Part 5, "Towards Tomorrow in Ufology," begins with a checklist of 15 UFO discover-

ies (e.g. that true UFOs are partly non-physical (subjective), and are seen most frequently at night, and that UFO reports fall into clearly defined cycles) and four hypotheses based on these discoveries are outlined. The content of these hypotheses is most intriguing, and many readers may find the conclusions controversial, but, based as they are on facts and logical deduction, they merit most serious consideration. Also in Part 5, special attention is paid to three important aspects of ufology in the 1980s — cultists and cover-ups, the new ufology, and paranormal overlap phenomena; and finally a chapter of addresses for those who wish to begin a closer involvement in ufology. Appendix A details ten cases which Ms Randles considers significant as presenting good evidence for certain facets of the UFO enigma; Appendix B is a Glossary of terms; Appendixes C, D and E are checklists for investigators; and Appendix F is a short UFO quiz. Each of the book's nineteen chapters is followed by a list of references, and two or three "things to do" — useful if you can shake off the feeling that you are back in the schoolroom. There is also an index, and the 272-page book is illustrated with photographs and line drawings.

Despite the controversy that sometimes attends her words and actions, Jenny Randles has done more than most to try to dispel the lethargy that has overlain ufology in Britain for so long, and her enthusiasm for and dedication to her chosen field of study shine out from this comprehensive book whose production