

The Langenburg Crop Circles

The farm of Edwin Fuhr lies northeast of the town of Langenburg, Saskatchewan, close to the Manitoba border. Fuhr lived on the farm with his parents. He was a respected member of the farming community and was thirty-six years of age in 1974 when, while harvesting a crop of rape, he made a remarkable UFO sighting and then came upon "physical traces" in the form of crop circles.

The Langenburg Crop Circles sighting occurred about 10:00 a.m. on 1 September 1974. The sighting was investigated by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Then, on 21–2 September, the incident was the subject of an investigation by Ted Phillips from the Centre for UFO Studies.

From a distance of about fifty feet, Fuhr reported seeing a metal dome spinning at a high rate of speed above the level of the grassy field near the slough. He approached to within fifteen feet of the spinning dome. Then, after retreating, he saw that there were four more metal

domes. The five domes, arranged in a rough semicircle, were silently spinning a foot or two above the ground. Then, all at once, the objects ascended, remaining stationary in the sky for a couple of minutes before disappearing into the low cloud cover. When he approached the landing site, Fuhr found five rings of depressed grass, swirled in a clockwise direction, some of it scorched or burned. On 3 September, the sixth ring was found, and on 15 September, the seventh.

The Langenburg Crop Circles are classic instances of formations that later came to be known as “agriglyphs.” The discovery of crop circles on Fuhr’s farm in rural Saskatchewan predates by close to a decade the intense interest in crop circles found on all social levels in Britain. It is now known that historical records yield innumerable descriptions of “devil’s circles,” “fairy circles,” etc. The Langenburg Crop Circles are a very early instance of such formations. They are interesting in yet another way. Fuhr’s description of the metal domes is one of the very few links between the crop circles and UFO activity.

Here is an interview with Fuhr conducted by Phillips. It appeared in *The Edge of Reality: A Progress Report on Unidentified Flying Objects* (1975) by J. Allen Hynek and Jacques Vallée.



Taped Account of the Event, Recorded 9/21/74

Fuhr: I had about an acre and a half left on this end. I was coming up very slowly at about ½ mph. I was about 75 feet from that slough and I had to slow down because the rape was laying flat. I was about 50 feet from that object, see, I knew I had to turn around and I looked up and I saw that, I call it a goose blind. I thought, “What the hell is that guy doing in that damn slough?” I got off and walked up to it, not thinking a thing about it. I had jumped off the swather, moved toward it. I walked to about 15 feet of the circle, to about here, and the rape was standing up here yet (4 or 5 feet high), I stopped, this wasn’t swathed yet. I was

just standing looking at it. I couldn't figure why the grass was wiggling around. The grass was standing up here and it was moving. I couldn't figure what the devil it could be. I stood there about two minutes and thought, "Look, the whole damn thing is turning." I must have stood there at least two minutes and I couldn't figure out what the devil it could be, so I backed up slowly to the swather. I never turned my back on it once, I just backed up slowly to the swather, got around behind it and got up on the left side of it. When I got on, I sat down in the swather and then I saw those four on the left-hand side of me. They were all revolving, all four of them. I sat there like I was froze, I couldn't move nothing. I didn't know what the devil to do. I sat there for, it could have been 15 or 20 minutes, I don't know, it could have been even less than 15 minutes. They all went up, straight up, to, I would say, about 200 feet and they stopped at that distance. If you had winked you would have missed the takeoff from the ground to the point where they stopped (200 feet). When they hit the 200-foot mark, they stopped spinning and a vapour floated out, an exhaust. The exhaust was only about 6 feet long, like a vapour, it was from two ports at the bottom of it.

Phillips: Now, you could see these ports, could you see holes or—

Fuhr: You could see they were about 12-inch diameter ports and they were all like that. They were in a formation like a step, the lower was the last to go up. And after that, I would say only a second, there was a downward wind, a pressure that flattened the rape that was standing, and I thought, "Oh, hell, here goes my crop," and there was just a downward wind, no twirling wind, I had to hold onto my hat. After about two minutes they were gone. It took just seconds to get to that height (20 feet) and then they were just standing and after that, into the clouds and they were gone. I sat two minutes in the swather to be sure they were gone. It was overcast and it was raining and I would say the temperature was about 38°. I got off and went to the swather to see if it was warm; it was cool. If the machine was hot, it should have been steaming with the cool rain falling, but it wasn't. The colour of the machine was like a brushed stainless steel. It was rough and you could see while

revolving that it was sort of grooved all around, you could see kind of grooves, they were darker grey. The dome shape and the bottom part had that lip on it and it was a dark grey in colour like it had been hot at one time, like steel that gets hot and cools off. To my knowledge, the whole thing was spinning.

Phillips: Did it appear that the objects were about the same size as the swirled areas here?

Fuhr: They seemed to be, I can't be sure, I was, I guess, kind of in shock. Now that the whole thing's over, sometimes I sit down and just wonder, "They couldn't have been larger?" I just don't know, after a while it makes you wonder, "Well, jeez, you must have seen them." People tell you all these stories and pump you so full of b—s— that you don't know if you are coming or going. So, I don't know. I'm damn sure they were all the same size; I couldn't tell any difference.

Phillips: The one nearest you took off first?

Fuhr: Yes, this one here took off first and then the one there and those two that were close together took off together and then the last one. That's the way they were in the air too, in a step formation. When they got to that height (200 feet) and they were straight back, they looked like they were standing, and I thought, "My God, are they coming back again?" That's when I didn't know what to do. After that vapour, the wind and then into the clouds. The vapour came out as they stopped, you could see it for just a second, then the wind, the downward pressure. The vapour was a dark grey and toward the end (lower end) it was lighter and lighter, just disappearing.

Phillips: How large did the objects appear to be?

Fuhr: The top was about 5 feet and from straight across it was maybe 11 feet with that lip on. When I was sitting on the swather I couldn't see the bottom part, I just noticed that all five of them were sitting there, and I was watching them at an angle, and I could see all of them at the same time. That one looked like there was something out of it, it looked like something was probing around in the grass. It was like, oh, I would say, the size of a fifty-cent piece, a probe it looked like, and the grass

was all twisted and you could see marks like something had jumped here and there, all over.

Phillips: While you were looking at the near object on the ground, what did you think it was?

Fuhr: I thought someone was playing a trick on me. I took it for granted. I have a neighbour who will play tricks and when I saw it I thought, "What the devil's he doing now?" I thought it was one of those new metal goose blinds and I thought, "What the devil could it be doing there in that slough? There's no geese or water in there." And I thought, "Well, I'll walk up there and scare him," and it scared me instead. It didn't look like a goose blind then; it was revolving. If it had been on the ground or stationary, I probably would have walked right up to it.

Phillips: Could you tell if it was on the ground?

Fuhr: I couldn't see the bottom, but it was probably 12 or 18 inches above the ground; it wasn't on the ground at all. The grass around it was always moving, it was moving steady.

Phillips: When you were within 15 feet of it, did it start to climb?

Fuhr: No, it was sitting in the same spot, 'cause I backed up to the swather and I seen those over there and they were all sitting at about the same height off the ground, about 12 or 18 inches or so. They all seemed to be revolving at the same speed too, according to the way the grass was turning. They were revolving clockwise. When I backed up, I went slow back, I didn't turn my back on it, no way. When I sat down on the swather, that's when I saw the other four and that's when I couldn't move. I know the swather throttle was wide open, I had never slowed it down. When I got close, my head wanted to go fast back but my feet didn't want to move. When I got to the swather, I didn't know what to do, but when I got to the house, that was worse yet, I didn't know what to do. I wasn't going to tell them, they asked me, "What's the matter with you?" I told them I had seen something out in the slough, they wanted to know, "What did you see?" So I told them. They said, "No, no, you couldn't, you gotta be nuts." And I said, "No, come out and look, the swathe is all down. When I told Dad he never said too much, he never said yes or no.

but Mom said, "No, that's impossible." I told Dad to come and look; he wouldn't go by himself so I went with him. He looked, jeez, he couldn't believe his eyes, he went to each one, looked at all of them. Then we found that one spot on the grass where something had been out, and you could see what looked like probes, where something had probed around. The grass was all tangled up. He was crawling around on his hands and knees all Sunday afternoon in that one spot there.

Phillips: From the very first observation until they disappeared into the clouds, how long did you see them?

Fuhr: The most it could have been was 15 to 20 minutes, it could have lasted more or less, I can't be sure.

Phillips: You have dogs. Did they bark during the observation?

Fuhr: Well, he barked, when was it?... *Saturday night*, they barked [the night before the reported event]. The neighbour's dogs barked too. They all barked at the same time, Saturday night, about midnight. Then they barked about *three in the morning*. Jack, our neighbour, had a babysitter who was frightened because the dogs were barking, and when Jack came home, he said the dogs were still barking. On Monday night about 10:30 the dogs were barking. My dog had been out in the field area, and he backed up to the house. The television was acting up about then too. *The dog wouldn't go into the field*. He usually follows me, but he wouldn't go out there. But the dogs were barking on Monday night, and on Tuesday morning I found that mark there. When I heard the dogs barking Monday night, I thought, "It couldn't be out there again. Even if it is, no way am I going out there!"

Phillips: I understand that your neighbour's cattle were disturbed...

Fuhr: Yes, the cattle were making a lot of noise that Sunday morning. The fence was broken in four places.

Phillips: When they reached the 200-foot level, did they line up right away?

Fuhr: Yes, they all seemed to be just like man-controlled; well, the way they took off they looked as if they were man-controlled, to take off in a formation like that... They were in a step formation, the lowest

one was at the far end, and when they were up there they looked like they were straight across when they were at that level. I don't think they were radio-controlled; they landed just so many feet from the rape crop, all the way around the field, each one. Now those two over there were real close together; they looked like they were only six inches apart.

Phillips: When did you find [the seventh] site?

Fuhr: The Saturday night after [September 14], the dogs were barking again, and we found that one.

Phillips: When you went to the sites after the objects had ascended, how did the grass appear?

Fuhr: Well, I checked for burns but I couldn't find any. *The grass wasn't broken off, it was flat, pressed down.* It didn't seem different from the other grass except it was flattened, it wasn't dead or burnt or anything. Some sprouts are coming up there now—it's not dead.

Phillips: After the objects left, you waited two minutes, then what did you do?

Fuhr: After I looked at the marks, I continued to swathe for quite a while because I didn't know how to go home and tell those guys at home, that was my problem. When I got home, they asked me, "What's the matter?" I was all pale in the face, I didn't say nothing. I washed and tried to eat and I was trying to think how I could tell them about this thing. I went in for lunch at about 12:30.

Phillips: When the objects ascended, did you feel any kind of sensation?

Fuhr: None. I had to put my head back to watch them, no sensation, just that gust of wind, that downward gust of wind. I couldn't hear any sound because of the swather motor.

Phillips: What do your friends think about your sighting?

Fuhr: Well, I've had lots of calls from the news people; most of them seem to be really interested. Most of the younger people in Langenburg believe it. Some of the older ones don't, but they don't believe the United States has landed on the moon. People say, Why don't you carry a camera? How the hell could you carry a camera on a swather?

Phillips: What did the RCMP people think of the event?

Fuhr: Constable Morier was really interested, but the Corporal said not to repeat the story, he said, "Keep it under your hat for a while and don't report nothing."

Phillips: Before you saw these things, did you believe in flying saucers?

Fuhr: No, I thought it was a bunch of bull, I had never seen one, so why should I believe in them? God knows I do now.

Taped Interview with Edwin Fuhr's Mother

Mrs. Fuhr: I was just here from the church when Edwin came in... he acted altogether different. He was sorta, you know, sorta worked up. He was so worked up that he couldn't hardly eat dinner. We only had lunch for dinner, so I said, "Why don't you eat the rest?" He said, "I don't want nothing. I'm not really hungry." I said, "Why?" And he said, "I saw something this morning." And his dad was sitting there and said, "What do you mean you saw something?" And Edwin said, "Oh, I can't even describe it to you." And I had a little bowl sitting on the table, a little stainless steel bowl, and he described it on that bowl. He said, "That's what it looked like, that stainless steel bowl."

Phillips: So you were gone to church?

Mrs. Fuhr: Yes, we were gone to church and when we come home, his dad was home listening to the news on the radio. So I and Edwin's wife went to church that morning. Edwin was just getting ready to go out when we went to church, that was a little after ten. I didn't want to believe it, but he said, "Are you silly? I'm not going to tell you any stories, it is true." His dad went out with him to look at the marks, and Edwin came back pale as a ghost and said, "What next is going to happen?" I wouldn't go out there for five days, it was on a Friday; oh, they were fresh. I even dreamed about them.

Phillips: How did you first learn of the Langenburg report?

Morier: Well, first of all, the fellow's [Fuhr's] brother-in-law lives next door here, and he is a good friend of the Corporal. I was on duty Sunday night and he phoned. He stalled a bit, and I could see that something was on his mind. He asked me, first of all, if we had had any reports of any mysterious sightings or anything like that. I said that we hadn't. He stalled then and wasn't going to tell me. Finally he did tell me that Mr. Fuhr had seen something; at that time he hadn't seen the rings as it was dark when he heard about it. He was at the farm visiting and he was told by his brother-in-law what had gone on—that he had seen the saucers—and he was sceptical as hell, but he thought that he would check with us. So I said, "No, but it sounds awful interesting. If he says there are circles out there, let's go out and have a look at them in the morning." I was off duty at the time. I figured it would be interesting.

I got up about 8 o'clock and went out there and met Edwin, and I could see that he was still, it appeared to me, quite shaken, you know, about this whole thing. He was jumpy, and you could see by just looking at the guy that he had been scared. But he took us out there and sure as hell there they were, five circles. I was sceptical too, but I was curious. There they were. I had never seen anything like them before, and listening to his story and everything... so I got on the phone and called the Corporal and told him what I had seen and told him that I thought that someone should get some pictures. So they did, they came out shortly and they took pictures. *These pictures were taken after only about four people had actually seen the rings*, Edwin, his father, myself and _____. So, that's how I came about the report.

Phillips: When you were there, they did appear to be quite fresh?

Morier: Yes, they were. The thing that really stood out was that the grass was all flattened out in a clockwise fashion. I got down on my knees and put my face near the grass, trying to smell some kind of exhaust or afterburn or something like that. There was no odour to it at

all. But it was really swished tight, you know, *I mean it was really flattened and matted together*. I noticed, going out again, as the days went by, that the sun had dried the grass and it wasn't as prominent as before.

Phillips: So the pictures were taken 22 hours after... that would have been September 2nd?

Morier: Yes, the second of September.

Phillips: You know, in talking with people around town, and the CBC did street interviews with local people, you get the impression that the local people feel that Fuhr is reliable and sincere. In your opinion, based on your discussions with him, do you believe him to be an honest man?

Morier: Yes, I do.

Phillips: Do you believe he is sincere about the event?

Morier: Yes, I believe that he saw something, and I don't see why he would exaggerate what he saw. There is no way that this is a hoax. Just talking to people who know him, of course, I wondered as to his credibility too, but I have spoken to different people too, including relatives of his, in-laws, etc., and they all believe that he did see something out there. They've all seen the circles. They are convinced that something was there, and I am too. *I think that there is no way that anything was wheeled in and out of that field*, because there had to be some trace, and you saw yourself in those slides that when the swather was wheeled in there and the pictures were taken that you could see the tracks clearly.

Phillips: And there was no evidence of that in any of the areas?

Morier: No, sir, it was in the slough grounds, the grass was green and it was long and it was undisturbed except for the circles, and whatever was in there, it came out of the air and departed the same way, as far as I could tell.

Phillips: So, to your knowledge, Fuhr did not report the sighting to the news media himself?

Morier: No sir, it got out through other people.

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