

GREEN MIST UFOs AT NEWMILL

A close encounter and physical effects case in Cornwall

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MY attention was drawn to the Newmill incident by a report in a weekly newspaper *The Cornishman* issued on September 22, 1977, which indicated possible UFO activity in this area.

Newmill is a hamlet situated approximately three kilometres north of Penzance. The surrounding area is very rich in stone circles, menhirs, tumuli etc, and of particular interest is the ancient and well-preserved settlement of Chysauster which lies about one and a half kilometres to the north east.

Caroline Bond, the prime witness in this case, and Peter Boulton, are a young couple who own, and are in the process of restoring, the old post office which stands at the edge of the road running from Penzance through Newmill to Treen on the north coast of Cornwall.

Both appear sincere in their account of the incident and are obviously well-educated and intelligent.

On Saturday September 17, 1977, which was a clear, still night, Caroline came downstairs into the yard or driveway from the road entrance to go out for the evening on her moped which was parked by the door.

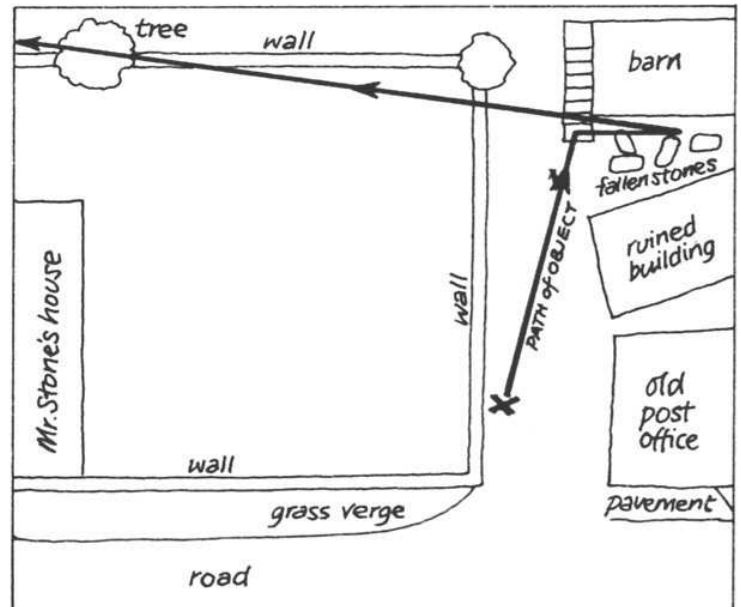
To use her own words:—



The Old Post Office: the gateway to the left opens to the yard and the steps to the barn

“It was about 9.30 p.m. when I went downstairs to get on my bike and go out for the evening. I had a feeling Pete had followed me down and was standing behind me, so I turned around and saw this kind of green-haze-thing no more than four metres away from me. I just could not believe it, so I walked up to the thing. It seemed about two metres away and coming closer. I was just staring at it in disbelief, then went to tell Pete.

“I said I'd seen a ghost, because I did not know



The scene of the incident

what it was. When he came down it was moving away and up the barn steps and crossing in front of the barn.

“We watched it for about two minutes, then Pete went and fetched his spectacles (he had left them off while decorating—T.C.) to have a really good look at it. Meanwhile I went around to the front of the house because there were some people using the telephone kiosk by our front door.

“I said: ‘Can you come and look at this? I have just seen this green-haze-thing, can you come and look?’

“They arrived just as Pete came downstairs with his spectacles. We could not spot the thing at first, but when we looked over towards the big tree on the edge of Mr. Stone's property, there it was — sort of red and green and silver, flashing at a thirty degree angle above the tree.

“I did not really feel frightened at the time, I just felt interested.”

T.C: "I understand you saw something like a pole or fin projected from it?"

Caroline: "I cannot really say, it seemed to have something below it, but I could not see clearly what it was. It seemed as if it was on top of another thing. Quite narrow I think."

T.C: "You say it was like a green haze. Do you think it was like a vapour?"

Caroline: "No, it was not vapour. It seemed quite solid. You could not see through it when it moved in front of the barn. In fact it blotted out the stones. I could not hear any noise at all."

T.C: "Were you upset in any way by the experience?"

Caroline: "No, I was quite interested in it, I wanted to go and look for it the next night. I was quite excited and told everyone else, it seemed like a kind of space-ship to me. When it was above the tree it appeared a bit elongated although it was oval when I first saw it in the yard. It did seem as if it was on a sort of pole. It did not look like a figure of any sort but I cannot be sure, it was not that clear. It glided in front of the barn about two metres above the ground and appeared about one metre wide and bright. But it was much brighter when it was up in the sky. I have never been interested in this sort of thing before, but I am now."

It is of interest that in the first interview with Peter, when Caroline was unfortunately away, it was said that Caroline had felt a strange attraction to the object. However, when questioned she seemed unsure of this, inclining rather towards a feeling of excitement rather than the involuntary attraction previously suggested.

Peter's narrative is indicative of his quiet unassuming manner and again stresses lack of fear on sighting the object, although this was not the case later in the evening when he feared it might return to the yard. He also sensed an intelligence behind its movements, as did Caroline. This is apparent in the second paragraph of Peter's statement which follows:—

Peter: "It lit up the corner stones of the barn when it moved across the front. I do not know why it moved that way. I would have expected it to move towards the field."

T.C: "Then it came back across the front of the barn and went into the field?"

Peter: "Yes. I went upstairs for my spectacles and by that time it had returned across the front of the barn, because I saw it from the upstairs window and then it was over the trees. That was when Caroline returned with the people from the kiosk."

The witnesses fetched from the telephone kiosk proved to be Bill and Sally Beard from Birmingham who happened to be staying with Sally's mother, Mrs. Gibbons.

Mrs. Gibbons' property lies just up the road from the old post office and practically opposite Mr. Stone, who enters the scene a little later.

Mrs. Gibbons, who is an officer-in-charge of a centre for unmarried mothers, also saw the object when it had moved to the sky above the tree, and confirmed the statements of the other witnesses



Looking down the yard to the barn steps

concerning a second and similar object visible in the night sky towards the north-west.

All witnesses, including George Stone, who first observed the original object when it was above the tree, confirm that the objects appeared to have red lights within the sharply defined green oval, and appeared to meander about the sky, tiny angular movements according to Mrs. Gibbons, and apparently at helicopter height.

According to George Stone the object of the close encounter was plainly visible in the northern sky until it vanished about half an hour from the start of his observation, whereas the one to the north west was still visible when he went indoors and he continued to observe it through his bedroom window in the company of his sister until they retired for the night at around 11.00 to 11.30 p.m.

The next day, Sunday September 18, Peter, Caroline and schoolteacher Mr. Chiswell and his wife, together with a Mr. Rose and a Mr. Berry, all of them residents of the village, saw what appeared to be the same objects, and possibly a third one, visible in the night sky.

The Chiswells observed one through an ex-military telescope without much appreciable gain of detail. Peter Boulton noted that one appeared in the same position in the sky as the one in the original sighting. Also, there was another to the north west. He also confirmed slight erratic movements as before.

Again, on the night of the 18th, in an apparently unrelated incident, Mr. Anthony Laity, a civil servant of nearby Crowlas, observed a saucer-shaped object while driving on the Redruth by-pass. The object appeared on his near-side at roof-top height, the dome glowing white while the underneath showed a yellowish tint. As he accelerated so did the saucer moving on a parallel course which it maintained as

its light diminished until it was no longer visible.

No electrical effects were evident.

Certainly the close encounter of September 17th seems to have left its mark on Peter and Caroline, as both fell victims to a mysterious illness a week after the incident. Peter was in fact removed to hospital where exhaustive tests failed to reveal a cause of the illness. Subsequently he stayed with his sister, who is a qualified doctor, and she too was baffled by his symptoms, which included vomiting, muscular pains and headaches. Neither displayed a rash or conclusive evidence of exposure to radiation, as far as I can judge.

However in the case of Caroline, who displayed these symptoms to a lesser degree than Peter, appendicitis was finally diagnosed. A perfectly healthy appendix was unfortunately removed, naturally causing Caroline and Peter some distress.

Whatever took place at Newmill on that September night is a matter for speculation and comparison with other cases and in particular one can recall that the Aveyron affair* had similarities.

It is certain that apart from the strange physical illness, which may owe its origin to the close encounter, fear seems to have set in after the event. This was almost immediate in the case of Peter and certainly Caroline Bond to this day refuses to cross the moor unaccompanied after the hours of darkness which is in direct contrast to her lack of fear at the time of the close encounter.

Note

* See Lagarde, F. *The Aveyron Enquiry* in 3 parts. FSR Vol. 16, Nos. 5 & 6, Vol. 17, No.1 (September-October and November-December 1970; January-February 1971).

MAIL BAG

Correspondence is invited from our readers, but they are asked to keep their letters short. Unless letters give the sender's full name and address (not necessarily for publication) they cannot be considered. The Editor would like to remind correspondents that it is not always possible to acknowledge every letter personally, so he takes this opportunity of thanking all who write to him.

From Air Marshal Sir Victor Goddard:

Governmental Reports on UFOs.

Dear Sir,—Because of my known interest in UFOs and my erstwhile connection with the Air Ministry I have frequently been approached by enquires in regard to official attitudes to UFO problems. From these enquires and from repeated assertions in the Press and other literature I have learned that there have been allegations of reports undertaken by the Air Ministry and the Ministry of Defence on UFO activities, that these reports have not been published and that enquires at the Department mentioned have met with negative responses or no reply at all.

I am aware of and applaud the decision of FSR to co-operate with a voluntary organisation of UFO investigators. One of another team of investigators has recently written to me seeking information about two alleged official studies. The letter states that the first of the two took place in 1934 and the second, apparently more extensive, between 1950 and 1955.

It is probable that UFO observers and investigators are not aware that the duties of all Government Ministries and Departments are controlled by the Prime Minister under his second title as First Lord of the Treasury. The Treasury scrutinises the duties of Ministries and staffing for those duties. It may not be known that staff in Ministries cannot continue to be

employed without Treasury sanction, and that the Ministry of Defence (and before that Ministry was created, the Air Ministry) are not permitted to study any subject which does not seem to the Treasury to fall within the requirements of Defence of the Realm or of the defence of existing dependencies and alliances.

For instance, despite the menacing attitudes of various foreign powers, the Air Ministry was prohibited by the Treasury from having an Intelligence Directorate of its own until 1935. It was held by the Treasury that the Air Ministry could rely upon the War Office and the Admiralty Intelligence Departments for knowledge of potential enemies. I know all this because, in 1935, I was appointed to be the first Deputy Director of Air Intelligence in the Air Ministry for the study of the air potential of European Powers. I continued in this employment, later including countries outside Europe, until the outbreak of war against Germany when I went to France with the B.E.F. It happened that my brother-in-law, F.F. Inglis, became my successor in the Air Ministry and was employed on those duties throughout World War II being promoted to Air Vice-Marshal when he became Assistant Chief of the Air Staff (Intelligence). Naturally he and his successors in the Air Ministry and in the Ministry of Defence had, at some time, been my subordinates; naturally, I remained in touch with them; naturally, and without any infringe-

ment of the Official Secrets Act, I have remained aware of their personal concern regarding UFOs.

For these reasons I remain in an unrivalled position to declare to you six statements:—

1. There has been no change in the right of control exercised by the Treasury over the Staffing and duties of the Air Ministry and, when that Ministry ceased, the same control by the Treasury was extended to the Ministry of Defence.

2. Were there to be any menace of attack apprehended or surmised by the Treasury (on advice from the M.O.D.) from UFOs the appropriate Directorate for the study of that menace would be the Directorate of Intelligence (Air) M.O.D. or the Home Office (D. of C.D.), or both.

3. There has never at any time been a Treasury approved appointment to study UFOs, and to the best of my knowledge there has never been any official study made. Records may have been kept by a civil section of the M.O.D. Secretariat and, perhaps, by the Home Office. But that is not to say that those records have been closely studied.

4. Various foreign governments have studied UFO reports and issued instructions to their own subordinates but, so far as I am aware, no British Government in this country or overseas has undertaken any study or investigation about UFO intentions.

5. It may be that British airway authorities have issued their own