

trustworthy friends. The Headmistress of the Girls' College was informed about it at the time, and she advised Monsieur Droguet not to let the affair become known lest it cause a "scandal".

Prior to the experience Monsieur Droguet had not had any belief whatsoever in the existence of flying saucers and had been wont to laugh about them. He has certainly changed his opinion now.

It was only by a fortunate chance that, fifteen years after its occurrence, I got to hear of this sighting.

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Note by Editor of L.D.L.N.: It was not entirely *by chance*. Mons. Cresson was making enquiries and investigating, and as he moved around he learnt a lot of things of which we shall speak later. Even the most trivial enquiry, and even of events in the past, assists in the discovery of contacts, and these contacts can hold some staggering surprises for us . . . Our friend Tyrode once wrote to us that he had gone out to make two

investigations and brought back eight. People often write to tell us that nothing has been happening in their area. It just is not true; every time a keen investigator makes his rounds he comes back with a harvest of facts. The facts don't come looking for the investigator. *He* has to go and search for *them*.

Geology: An expert in this field, M. Cresson has sent us a detailed report, from which we give just a few passages.

The College is erected on a zone where different terrains converge. To the north-east, flaked granitic granulite. To the south-west, granulite.

All round about, there is a volcanic "chimney", or throat of basalt rocks. Some six kilometres to the south-east is silver-bearing quartz which has been exploited. This same region contains uranium-bearing deposits which have been investigated by Dr. Roptin of Dinan.

Dinan lies on an anticlinal undulation. There is no recognised fault shown on Geological Sheet No. 60. The soil is almost everywhere siliceous, and the landscape has little timber.

Mirror-Ball UFO seen at Stirchley

Alan K. Crewe and Malcolm H. Drew

Our contributors are members of the Birmingham UFO Investigation Group.*

AN item which appeared in the correspondence column of the Birmingham *Sunday Mercury* on February 15, 1970, led us to interview Mrs. J. Hayward, of Windsor Road, Stirchley, Birmingham, who told us how, at 6.25 a.m. on Tuesday, February 3, she saw a very unusual object from the front bedroom of her terraced house in a busy suburb of Birmingham. It was a cold, dry, moonless night, with intermittent cloud. Mrs. Hayward rises early to awaken her son and daughter-in-law who also live in the house.

Said Mrs. Hayward: "This started like a very tiny star, and it was very brilliant and then it gradually got bigger to the size of a golf-ball, then to a tennis ball, then it gradually grew and grew until it was the size of a football, then it grew massive (Mrs. Hayward described a large circle with her hands) and all the while it was buzzing."

While watching the object, she gave a running commentary to her husband who was in bed in the same room. Mr. Hayward, who is a semi-invalid, was unable to join his wife at the window, but was able to hear the continuous "buzzing" sound, clearly audible although the window was closed.

"You know the cuts on a diamond?" asked Mrs. Hayward. "Well, you could see those . . . you know those big lights they have in ballrooms which flash as they go round (mirror-ball?) . . .

just like one of those."

She went on to describe how the "buzzing" sound appeared to increase in volume with the approach of the object. At its largest Mrs. Hayward claimed that the object almost encompassed the width of her bedroom window. The window is approximately 4ft. wide. It then receded to its former star-like appearance, and vanished behind cloud which seemed to be illuminated by a "silvery light". By now, Mr. Hayward had raised himself up in bed and was able to witness this effect. The whole sighting had lasted approximately two minutes.

Mrs. Hayward was most emphatic that the object appeared to be solid and of a well-defined shape. She could suggest no logical explanation for what she had seen. Her son and daughter-in-law, who sleep at the rear of the house, saw and heard nothing, and Mrs. Hayward's dog did not, to her knowledge, react in any way during the sighting.

It was apparent to us that Mrs. Hayward was unfamiliar with the subject of UFOs, but it was established that some twenty years ago she had had a telepathic experience involving her husband, and a previous psychic experience when she was a young girl. These, together with her present UFO sighting appear to be her only experiences of unusual phenomena.

Mrs. Hayward also told us that on the evening prior to our visit she had

been interviewed by a man who claimed to be connected with the Ministry of Defence. After obtaining details of her sighting and her signature on an "official" form he said that this would be "chronicled".

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On February 22, 1970, the *Sunday Mercury* published another letter concerning a UFO sighting in which a Miss Ann Cottrell wrote as follows:

"I was interested to read Mrs. Hayward's letter about the UFO she saw on February 3. On the same day, but at 9.00 p.m., I too saw something unusual. I saw a 'star-like' object enlarge, then fall. When this happened, it left a red, glowing trail.

"It appeared to be travelling from Balsall Heath towards Five Ways. At first I thought it was a 'shooting star' but it was too large."

Miss Cottrell lives in the Balsall Heath area of Birmingham (approximately three miles N.N.E. from Mrs. Hayward's home) and from the details in her letter the object she sighted would appear to have been travelling in a north-westerly direction.

Unfortunately, at the time of writing, we have been unable to secure an interview with this witness but we are pursuing the matter.

* Address: 511 Warwick Road, Birmingham 11. Tel: 021-706 1917.

Readers' Reports

Dorset Multi-shape UFO

Dear Sir,—On November 5, 1969, while working in the Portland, Weymouth area, I saw a curious object. What it was I do not know, but I decided to write and tell you about it.

The time was about 2.55 p.m. and I first saw the object whilst travelling towards Wyke Regis, from Portland. The day was fine with a few clouds about, and there was little wind. At first I thought the object was a helicopter, as there are a few at Portland, but this was so bright that it couldn't have been one. This bright light appeared to be about 1,000-2,000ft. above the ground over Charlestown, or in that area. I say "above ground" because when I first saw it it appeared thus, but because of our movement, it later appeared to be over the coast.

The funny thing was that it kept changing shape and colour, but never seemed to move.

As we went through into Wyke Regis, both my driver and I were curious to see what it was, and so we stopped the van on the highest part of Wyke Road, and watched it for about 13 minutes.

From alignment with certain features on the ground, I saw that it moved neither up, nor down, nor sideways.

At first sighting it looked sausage-shaped and very bright, but from our new position on Wyke Road, it changed to a cross, still brilliant white, but with hazy edges, and dark spots at the ends of each arm of the cross.

It changed once again, and all that could be seen were the dark spots on the ends of each "arm".

Next, quite suddenly, it seemed to change to a dog-bone shape, except that the bottom was very black, and the top had two lumps at each end, which, glowing brightly and with hazy edges, still had the dark spots in the centre of them. This time there were two dark spots at the ends, instead of the three that were there before in the cross shape.

Once again the aspect changed. The bottom appeared in a "bowed" section, black as before, but the top seemed to be "squared off"—at first a greyish haze, and shortly afterwards with a distinct outline, still greyish. Then, out of the black bottom there seemed to come two "teeth", as when the undercarriage is let down from an aircraft. These were of the same blackness as the bottom of the thing.

As more work had to be done, we could not stay, and so left the position from which we had observed the object. It was still there and I was very disappointed at having to leave.

Although it was bonfire night, I can assure you that it was neither a firework of any kind, nor was it military—at least I don't think it was. I have never seen anything stay quite so still, and change its shape without appearing to move.

My hobby is aircraft, and during my Army service I was a radar operator. I have received your excellent *Flying Saucer Review* for some years, but in no way has it influenced my letter to you.

Alan Christopher, Parkstone, Dorset.
May 6, 1970.

Dividing UFO

Dear Sir,—On May 4, 1970, we interviewed a Mrs. Christine Powell of Hall Green, Birmingham, concerning the sighting of an object, which she had made the previous evening.

On Sunday, May 3, Mrs. Powell was in bed at her home, and, being unable to sleep, was looking at the sky through her bedroom window. After a while, at approximately 11.30 p.m., she noticed in the sky a bright round object which appeared to be growing larger. The object grew until it was about the size of a cricket ball held at arm's length, then it divided into two objects of a similar size as the original one. These objects then remained motionless for some time. The witness became frightened and did not leave her bed to investigate further. She eventually fell asleep with both objects still in view.

Mrs. Powell's dog, which was with her in the bedroom, was apparently aware of something unusual, as he appeared restless, barked and eventually left the room altogether.

The weather on that particular night was warm and dry with no wind. There was intermittent cloud but many stars were visible. There was no moon.

Mrs. Powell described the object/s as sharply outlined, self-luminous and "... glowing as if they were white hot." She heard no sounds during the time of observation.

Mrs. Powell is in her early twenties and has one young child. She is employed as a secretary in Birmingham. She had no prior knowledge of UFOs or flying saucers, and has never read any books or magazines concerning them. After talking to her we were satisfied that she had given an accurate account of something very unusual which she had seen on the evening of May 3. She herself could suggest no logical explanation for what she had seen, but was emphatic that she had not fallen asleep and dreamt the whole episode. Her bedroom is at the rear of the house and overlooks open playing fields. This seems to rule out the possibility of street-lamp or car headlight reflections.

This part of Hall Green is a busy area even at night time, but to date no further reports have been received and nothing has appeared in the local press.

Birmingham UFO Investigation Group,
511 Warwick Road, Birmingham 11.
May 8, 1970.

Space Ships?

Dear Sir,—The following may be of interest. Should I awake at night, my view is unrestricted over the water and across towards the Snowdon National Park of which many peaks are over 3,000ft.

