

HUMANOID ACTIVITY IN EPPING FOREST

First report of a 10-year-old-case

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THE occurrence took place some years ago, in 1967, but because of its bizarre nature the witnesses, who were then in their twenties, have requested anonymity.* I was first put in touch with them by Malcolm Jay early in 1976, and my interview with them was in February of that year.† I shall call them Mr. and Mrs. B. (then Miss S.).

At approximately 11.30 p.m. on a weekend day in August, 1967 (exact date not recalled), the witnesses (who were courting at the time) decided to stop the car in which they were travelling to have a chat and smoke cigarettes.

Mr. B. pulled off the minor road they were on and parked in a small area which faced a bridle path. Their location was some 12 feet (3.7 m.) from the edge of Bury Road, a minor road running north to south across Chingford Plain, Chingford, North London. The bridle path cuts its way through the lower reaches of Epping Forest. All the car's lights were switched off and the area was therefore pitch black. There was no background noise at all and the weather was dry.

They had been there only two or three minutes when they noticed a red light at the end of the bridle path. At first they thought it was the reflection of a cigarette in the windscreen (they were sitting in the front of the car all the time facing the end of the path). Upon moving their cigarettes around they soon saw that it wasn't anything to do with them — Mr. B. got out of the car at one stage to ascertain whether the windscreen was possibly distorting a reflection of the cigarettes. They realised then that there were two or three red lights at the end of the path (not literally the end, but about 150 yards (137 m.) away from them, where the path curves to the left). The lights appeared to be moving in and out from behind the trees.

Following this, something they could only describe as being like a firework went off, illuminating the trees around with a red-orange glow. Small red lights shot out of this "firework" to a height of some three feet (91 cm.) above the ground. On hitting the ground, these small red lights then bounced around for perhaps a quarter of a minute.

* The names of the witnesses are on file at FSR.

† [In December, 1975, Mr. B.'s brother, who is a friend of Malcolm Jay because of their metal-detecting interest, happened to mention to Malcolm that his brother had had an unusual sighting some years ago.]

Lit up by the red glare of the "firework" was a peculiar little man; Mr. B.'s estimate for his height was 18 inches (46 cm.).

The little man seemed to be just standing there, to the right of the "firework" and watching it. The best description Mr. B. could give was that of an extremely small figure with a little round head, two arms and dressed in a white mackintosh that came right down to the ground. No other details were visible (see sketch).

A short while after the first "firework" had died down, another, identical "firework" flared up a little distance to the left of the first, and another, identical dwarf was seen.

Up to now some seven minutes had elapsed since it all began. The "fireworks" had lasted some 30 seconds each and appeared most peculiar. They couldn't be sure if there were two dwarfs or just one who changed position. Weird though it all looked, they came to the conclusion that some *very* small children were letting off fireworks. Mr. B. then operated the headlamp flasher control of his car to see if he could illuminate them. The headlamps, however, were to no avail because the position of their car was such that the front dipped down lower than the rear due to a slight fall of the ground at the spot they had parked. This allowed the beams of light to go only about half way to their destined spot.

Suddenly, after three or four operations of this headlamp control, things took a new turn. A glowing bright white object caught their attention at the end of the bridle path. This object bobbed about and also moved from first the left side of the path to the right, and then back again but advancing towards the car at a brisk walking pace.

The object was some six to seven feet (1.83-2.13 m.) above the ground and it set the witnesses thinking that this was a man holding a lantern on a pole, approaching them with the intention of inquiring why they were there, etc. Mr. B. had the idea of letting the man (whom they couldn't see) come within 20 feet or so of the car and then to operate the flasher control and "catch him out"! They were in for a shock, however. On its final approach the light zeroed in on the car, a little to the nearside of the centre. The light, they both think, was larger in diameter than a car's headlight, very bright and white but not blinding as they could look directly at it. There was no definite edge to it, nor was there any detail to be seen.

At a distance of 10-15 feet (3.0-4.6 m.) Mr. B. flicked on the car's main beams. There was no one to be seen! The whole width of the path was lit up by the headlamps but the light was just hanging there unsupported.

They were quite shaken by this and Mr. B. quickly turned the ignition key in order to start the engine, back into Bury Road and drive away. The worst part was the fact that the engine would not start. The engine turned over with the starter motor but it wouldn't fire. This state of affairs lasted five, maybe ten, seconds with the starter motor turning over all the time. Five to ten seconds under those circumstances felt like an eternity, but the engine did finally fire. (This sluggishness of the car in starting was *not* usual, Mr. B. remarked.)

What happened to the light during this time was not known as all eyes were intently focused on the ignition key and switch on the dashboard. Upon selecting reverse gear and backing hastily out into the road, Mr. B. was just about to select first gear when a middle aged gentleman came running over to them from a house opposite.

"Have you seen that?" he asked.

Mr. B. replied, "Yes, we've just seen what looks like people letting off fireworks down there."

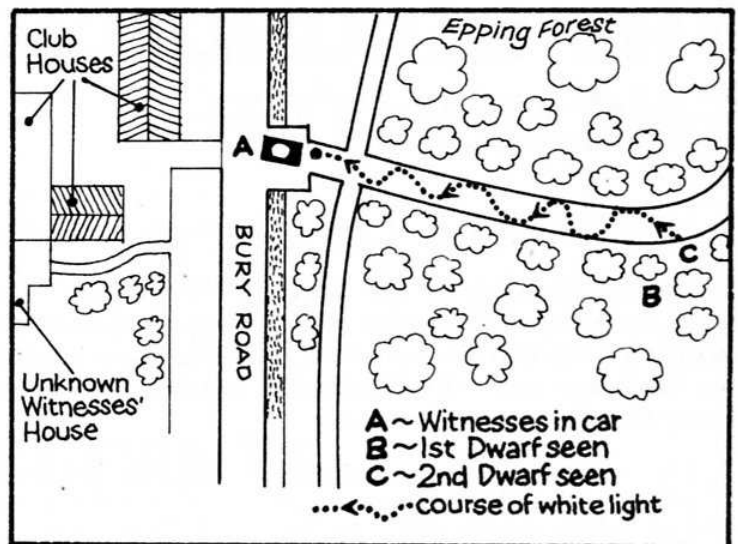
The gentleman said, "yes, it's been going on for a while and it's been frightening my wife and she's locked herself in her bedroom."

Mr. B. told him, "Well, I'd better call the police." The man agreed. So Mr. B. drove off down the road towards Chingford to do this. Mr. and Mrs. B. never did find out what happened to the light, although it is felt it must have returned to where it came from!

Upon turning right at the junction of Bury Road and Rangers Road, they shortly came across a stationary blue police patrol Rover car with two officers inside. Mr. B. stopped his car and told the officers that he had seen boys letting off fireworks in the forest which might set the forest on fire. (Naturally, he didn't tell them all he and Miss S. had seen.) So they all returned to the spot and Mr. B. drove up to and reversed into the driveway of the gentleman's house nearly opposite the bridle path, whilst the police car pulled over to the other side of the road. The police then searched the bridle path with hand torches but apparently found nothing (or so the witnesses think, as Miss S. did not want to hang around this peculiar area any longer than necessary. So without waiting for the police report they drove away).

Due to the fact that this story was only recently reported to me I found other witnesses impossible to trace. The middle aged gentleman and his wife had long since moved house — no one knows where to. The police officers are likewise untraceable. However, I think Mr. and Mrs. B. are the best witnesses and I found them to be good, honest people.

Mr. B. thought that the two little dwarfs sighted at the end of the bridle path were 18 inches (46 cm.) or so tall, and no more than 36 inches (91.). He estimated the distance to them from his car as being something like 75 yards (68.5 m.). As has been mentioned earlier, the real distance is double this so



we can say they *were* about 36" (91 cm.) tall (the height of a child less than four years old). Besides being early in the year for fireworks, it was noticed that this sighting took place at a time when a very great concentration of UFOs were present on earth (the September 1967 flap). It has been said that there is no reason to link the "light" with the dwarfs, the two events being unconnected. I think that there is a tie-up but the question as to what Mr. B. and Miss S. interrupted that night may never be known. What were those red "fireworks"? Some experiment? The "light" — a remote controlled camera? It's anyone's guess.

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THE SECOND CHILCOMB ENCOUNTER

Geoffrey G. Doel, MRCS, LRCP, DMRE

Dr. Doel is President of the British UFO Research Association and for many years filled the post of Chairman of the Association with distinction. It is a pleasure to receive a contribution from him, as he has now retired from his work in Medicine. His interview with the Winchester witness was taped, and we are indebted to Jenny Randles for the transcript.

AS a sequel to the events of November 1976 Mrs. Bowles has claimed to have experienced a further encounter on December 30, 1976. The following is a recording of an interview with that lady...

Mrs. Bowles: A few yards along the road Ted said to me, "Look Joyce, there's that big glow in the sky again." I couldn't see it. Going on a few more yards, I spotted it bouncing in and out of the clouds.

G. G. Doel: Now when he said, 'There's that glow again,' did you think that he meant it was the same sort of glow that you saw when you had your previous sighting in the area?
B: Yes, but it was me who spotted the first incident — not Ted. No, I did not cotton on to it at the time because there was a car coming towards me with its headlights full on, and they were not dipped so it was awkward driving. After Ted said this I went on a few more yards. I say yards, but I'm no good at judging yards and things like that. I said "Oh Lord, there it is Ted," and the next thing that I can remember there was this whistling — like I got a high-pitched whistling in my ear — but this was in my car. Then the car started rocking — backwards and forwards and sideways.

D: Was this the sort of rocking it did during your previous sighting?

B: No, because when I had my previous sighting I can remember everything that happened, but with this incident my mind on some of the things is blank.

D: I see. Well what did happen?

B: The next thing I can remember was being in, one could say, a spacecraft thing. You might say: "How do you know it was a spacecraft?" — well fair enough. Well this chappie we saw in the first incident, who walked over to my car, well he was there.

D: Do you think your car was there with you in the spacecraft?

B: There is no question about it.

D: He was standing inside — with other people?

B: With another two people — two

men. The other thing that I can remember is that I was stood next to one of these men — not the one who walked over to my car in the first incident. The other two were at an angle where there were some lights flashing on and off.

D: How many individuals were there in all?

B: Three. They were more or less dressed all the same — but there was only one of them that had a belt with what I would say was like a diamond in the middle. No doubt it was not a diamond, but that's the only way I can describe it.

D: A glistening, shiny jewel thing?

B: Yes — in the middle of his belt. He was touching it every so often. He put his hand on the stone (I will call it that). He looked across at one of the others and either said *Mi-lee-ga* or *Mil-ee-ga*. I am not sure, but it was something very similar. Then he said something in another language, which I did not understand, and then this man looked across at Ted and asked him to take seven strides — which he did. He was then asked what did he feel. I am not sure — it could be vice-versa. Ted either said it was hot at the end and cooler when he returned, or else it was the other way about. I am not sure. I was stood next to this man and he pointed over on what one could say was a wall, and there was like some transparent diagrams over on this wall and lines and different things. He said, "This is our field." Well Ted said "Fields", thinking it was like fields that we know here, and he said, "No, No, No, No, No. *OUR* fields". This man who was speaking was speaking in broken English, like a foreigner coming into this country trying to learn English. There were things that he did say that neither of us could understand.

D: Was it bright inside this room?

B: Oh yes, it was as big as this room we are in now.

D: That is about what size...12 feet by 12 feet?

B: It might have been a bit bigger. But I was a worried person when I

was there. You see he had told me that they were not enemies. They had not come to invade. They were friends. My remarks to him were — and I was not afraid — I turned and looked at him and said "That's what Hitler said." He turned and said to me "You have a very strong tongue." Well then I did get a bit nervous because I thought, "Oh gosh, I've gone and said the wrong thing."

D: Their clothing was like on the previous occasion?

B: Their clothing was more or less the same, as I said before. Like boiler suits only there were no reverses. There were polo neck collars, high up to the neck. Only one of them so far as I could see — I was more interested in the one stood next to me because he kept looking at me up and down and I thought "what's going on?" He was dressed in silver. I will say *bacofol* again. It was shiny and all in one piece. His hair was sandy and it looked more coarse than ours. But they were nice-looking people.

D: Were they clean shaven? Did they have beards?

B: No — the only one that had a beard was the one we had seen walking towards the car. The one that was stood near to me was clean shaven.

D: Do you think it could be the same man who walked towards your car on the previous occasion?

B: Well if it was not it was his twin. Ted said, "Why pick Joyce?" and he looked and Ted said, "Anything to do with the car?" The other one passed remarks, and we could not understand everything that he said. The only thing that we understood was that "The hand was put on the roof of the car."

D: Yes I remember that from previous testimony. (The entity had put his hand on the car roof as he peered in—JR). Did they talk amongst themselves much?

B: They did not talk much, and what they did say we could not understand — not all of it — because it was in a different language.