

Low-level UFO at Haydock

R. P. Knowles

Our contributor informs us that he is a member of **BUFORA** and **DIGAP**, the Lancastrian group.

THE events described below occurred on February 12, 1972, at 6.30 p.m. on a housing estate in Haydock, Lancashire. The evening was dry, overcast and with a moderate wind. Although numerous people on the estate heard the UFO, there appears to be only four visual witnesses.

The first sighting was made by 13-year-old Lorraine T.* and her two friends (both aged 14) who were standing talking at a distance of about 200 yards from her house. They first heard a noise sounding somewhat like a modern American police car siren slowly increasing in volume. On looking around to see where the sound was coming from, Lorraine noticed a bright, round object in the sky. It was approaching them, and appeared to be about 60ft. from the ground and approximately 6ft. in diameter. By now the noise was so loud that they were frightened and began to run to Lorraine's house, glancing back as they did so. The fact that the object followed them made them more frightened, but when they reached the house, the object changed direction and the noise ceased.

Lorraine told her mother about the light, but as it was now not to be seen and all was quiet, she did not believe them, although she could see that they had been frightened by something. The girls stayed by the house for the next few minutes and then looked to see if they could see where the object had gone. They spotted it again, hovering silently a few houses away, and although no one could recall its source, a red light was seen to pass over the object and to disappear over a nearby rooftop. The white object then started to pulse (i.e. expand and contract) and the noise returned.

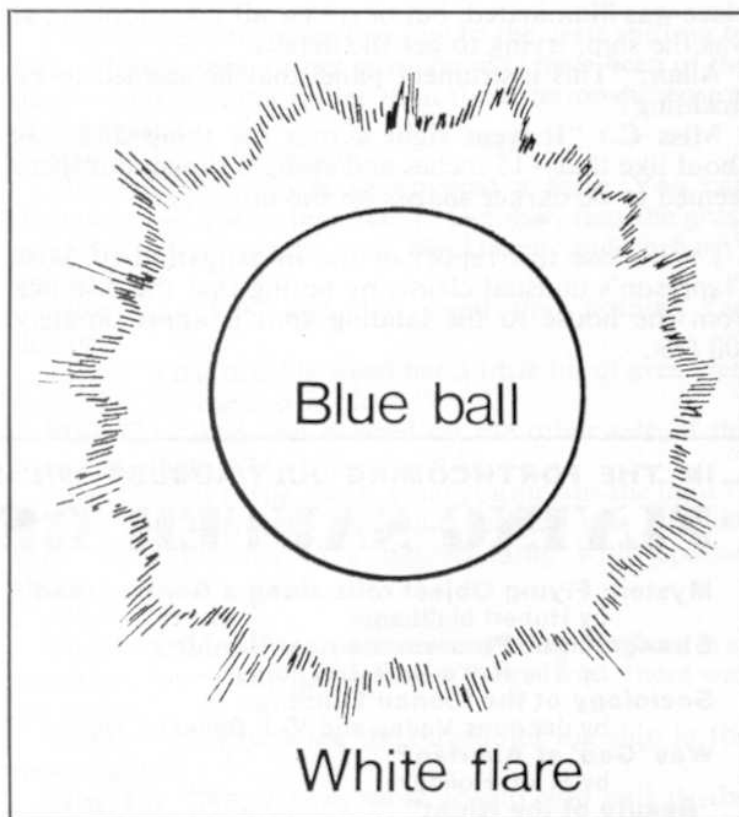
At this point the girls decided to phone the police and went to the nearest call box. The police, however, were not helpful, and assumed that they were being hoaxed, so the girls returned just in time to see the light suddenly move to a point further away and then fade out (television screen type exit), the noise going with it. By now quite a few people were out in the street looking for the source of the noise, but apparently nobody saw a thing. The time duration of the sighting was approximately 15 minutes.

The fourth witness, Mrs. S.† (aged 31), saw the object while it was hovering, and the girls were phoning for the police. According to Mrs. S. the sequence of events was as follows:

She was upstairs doing housework when she heard a noise, and her description was identical to the one given above. She was alone in the house at the time, except for her dog which was barking loudly (her husband is aged 34, and she has an 11-year-old daughter who had

just gone out to the corner shop). She looked out of a window but saw nothing unusual and assumed that it was caused by children in the neighbourhood. The noise stopped, so she carried on with her work. Suddenly it returned but this time it was much louder, and the dog was going wild downstairs. Feeling angry, she went downstairs to let the dog out to chase off the "noise makers".

She described the noise as having the same effect on her as when one scrapes a fork on a plate, but very much louder. The dog, however, on putting his head out of the door rushed back in and cowered in a corner (he also refused to go out the next day). Mrs. S. was most surprised at this and went outside to see for herself. About 20ft. above a nearby garage she saw a large blue ball surrounded by a white flare which expanded and contracted in rhythm with the noise.



Drawing based on sketch of the object made by Mrs. S.

*† Names and addresses of these two witnesses have been furnished but are withheld at their request.



Position of UFO, as seen by Mrs. S., superimposed on author's photograph of the location.

She rushed to her next-door neighbour and banged on the door to show him the object. Unfortunately for her, when he came to the door, the object and noise had ceased to exist. He had, however, heard the noise and although describing it as being very loud and unlike anything he had ever heard, he did not bother to investigate. When I asked him about the appearance of Mrs. S. immediately after the event he described her as being very distressed and as white as a sheet. On the night that I spoke to her (February 23 1972) she was not aware that anyone else had seen the object although she knew that many people had heard it, even in a few cases from distances of up to a mile away. Mrs. S. has suffered no other ill effects other than a persistent mild headache that started several days after the sighting.

Most surprising of all, the local newspaper which does publish occasional UFO reports did not carry one word of an event which has had an impression on the thinking of quite a few people.

It appears significant that one of her neighbours, on hearing the noise for the second time, went out of his house, got into his car, and drove round the estate to look for the source (there were no E.M. effects). Although he must have been as close to the object as was Mrs. S., he did not see it. He puts this down to the fact that apparently he did not look upwards, even though he thought at the time that "only a flying saucer could make a noise like that." It would seem that the visual stimulus in this case was somewhat directed while the audible was not.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

We regret that an increase in printing costs has made it necessary to raise the price of *FSR Case Histories* with effect from July 1, 1972.

As from that date (i.e. from and including Supplement No. 11) the cost of an annual subscription will be £1.44 for both home and overseas subscribers (US\$3.90).

South American Round-up, 1971—part 1

Gordon Creighton

AS readers will know, we passed long ago the point at which we could attempt either to translate or to print all the interesting UFO news reports that reach us from various parts of the world. Such is particularly the case with South America. The happenings given below are just a few that I have managed to isolate from the pile, but a full report on South America for 1971 is not feasible at present, and indeed the last year for which I have yet attempted to give any sort of more comprehensive survey was 1964.

1. The Governor (January 1971)

Writing from Brasília to the *Pôrto Alegre* paper *Correio do Povo* (January 23, 1971), the woman journalist Dinah Silveira de Queiroz comments that, whereas many of the people in the Rio-Guanabara area who recently saw a flying saucer "and also its skipper" are now unwilling to talk of the subject of UFOs—so greatly is this subject disliked—attitudes in the Federal Capital, Brasília, are curiously different. There the reports seem to be accepted far more naturally. For example, from time to time a journalist named Macedo and his wife go out to visit a fazenda (estate) that is actually called locally "the Martians' place." The fazenda is at a place called Alexânia, quite near to Brasília, though the approach road to it is pretty difficult. Last week [January 1971], says Dinah Silveira de Queiroz, a group of young diplomats made a little trip out there "to see the saucers," and they have reported to her on their experiences. One of their friends had already visited the estate, had observed no sign of UFOs there, and was on his way back to Brasília when he saw the hut of a poor peasant. He went over and asked the occupants whether they had ever seen any flying saucers.

"No," they replied.

"But," he asked, "Does *nothing* ever happen here?"

"Oh, yes, Sir!" they answered. "Every day the State Governor comes here and takes a stroll, *looking for little stones.*"

"How do you know he's the Governor?" he asked.

"Why, because he's always *dressed in black!* It can be nobody else but him! He gets down out of his aeroplane and goes around looking for things in the woods here."

"Well, now," said our friend, "And what does the Governor's aeroplane look like?"

"*Don't you know? Why, it's made of two dishes, like, one atop the other, and when it goes up in the air it changes colour and then disappears quicker than a flash.*"

This picturesque account, concludes Dinah Silveira de Queiroz, was the most interesting story that she heard in Brasília about the UFOs at Alexânia. (Our thanks to Sr. Jäder U. Pereira for this report.)

2. Another UFO seen and photographed over Antarctica (May 15, 1971)

Three Buenos Aires papers (*La Prensa* and *La Nación* of

May 19, 1971, and *Clarín* of May 20) carried a Chilean Air Force announcement from Santiago de Chile dated May 18 and stating that once again, this time at 10.30 p.m. on Saturday, May 15, personnel of their base in Antarctica had seen and had photographed a UFO.

According to the report, which emanated from the public relations department of the Chilean Air Force, the UFO was observed by military personnel working at the Presidente Frei Meteorological Centre, for a period of fifteen minutes. The UFO was stationary. It subsequently moved away and vanished towards the S.W.

The object was at approximately 35° above the horizon. It was thrice as bright as a star of the first magnitude, and was changing colour every few minutes—from red, through green, to bluish-grey.

According to the announcement, the UFO "produced no significant effect on communications" except that reception on the 3,200 kilo-cycle band was weak and the 20 metre band could not be heard at all. Meteorological conditions at the time were excellent. It was a clear, serene night, with a moon and no wind. The witnesses of the phenomenon were First Sergeant Domingo Saldías, Corporal José Bustamante and Corporal Eduardo Fritz.

There is one discrepancy in these three reports. According to *La Prensa's* version of the Chilean Air Force report, the UFO *did* "cause significant alterations in communications." (I think this is simply a printing error, due to omission of the Spanish word *no*—G.C.)

The report printed in *Clarín* added that the UFO had been *photographed*, and that the film was on its way to Chile. (Our thanks to Sr. Alberto Kravtsov for these reports.)

3. UFO hovers over a church (June 25, 1971)

According to a report in the *Notícias Populares* (São Paulo) for June 26, 1971, a UFO was seen on the previous evening by various people in the Brazilian town of Osasco (scene of several sightings and reports in past years).

The first witness was a woman employee of the Municipality, Luzia Onofre da Silva, who, as she was closing a window in the old Law Courts building, saw a strange luminous object flying roughly from the south towards the west.

At first she thought it was a shooting star. But she then observed that its colour was blue and that it had come to a halt above the Church of Santo Antônio. She could now see that its shape was conical, and she cried out in alarm.

Among other witnesses there were a number of people of the town, including Professor André Bogassian, who said he had observed a similar object previously in broad daylight. His description of its shape agreed