

STRANGE LIGHT PHENOMENA NEAR BANBURY

The Rev. H. D. L. Thomas

In his article *Ufophenomena, Banbury 1971*, in our issue for January/February 1972, John D. Llewellyn gave an outline of some of the features of the minor "flap" which prevailed in the Midlands and Oxfordshire between August and October of 1971. Here is a further account, dealing with the odd happenings in one house during that period. The Reverend Donald Thomas, whose parish is at Long Hanborough in Oxfordshire, was able to visit the house on November 1, 1971, and May 8, 1972. At her special request we are not revealing the name of the lady who furnished the details for the Rev. Thomas' most interesting account, the first part of which is a transcript from his taped recording.

EDITOR.

THREE miles north of Banbury on the main Banbury-Southam-Coventry Road (A423) lies the small village of Great Bourton. The houses are mostly of the dark brown Hornton stone quarried locally. It is a peaceful spot. Yet on the two successive nights of September 1/2, and 2/3, 1971, and in the days that followed, there were strange and, so far, quite inexplicable events that brought not a little disturbance to the occupants of one of these older houses. Mrs. A., as I will call her, is a very practical person. For personal reasons she does not wish her name to be known. On the two successive nights of September 1 and 2 she awoke to find a cluster of 12 to 14 egg-shaped balls of light not more than 12ft. from her bed, poised above her bedroom door. They stayed there, motionless, for some ten to twelve minutes, and then quite suddenly disappeared. The following conversation took place in her house on November 1:

H.D.L.T: Mrs. A, I understand that you moved into this house on the 1st September.

Mrs. A: That's quite correct, Yes.

H.D.L.T: You were in this room, which at that time had no curtains . . .

Mrs. A: Correct, Yes.

H.D.L.T: On the night that you moved in, you saw something very strange indeed.

Mrs. A: I did, most certainly.

H.D.L.T: Could you tell me a little bit about what you saw?

Mrs. A: I woke up . . . I'm not sure of the time . . . but I had been asleep . . . I woke up, and to the left of me, over the door, starting in the left hand corner and working down across the door to my wardrobe, were these balls of light. It's very difficult to explain them, because they had (here she takes a sharp breath, as if a little tense) no shadow . . . they were . . . as though they were . . . coming from the wall in fact, they were so . . . without any reason . . . at all. I . . . I, I, just find it

absolutely impossible to explain them.

H.D.L.T: Could you see anything behind the actual balls of light?

Mrs. A: No. They had no . . . um . . . they were bright, very bright, a silvery brightness. In fact . . . *very*, very bright, . . . but they gave off no light at all. (Here she raises her voice a little, being apparently frightened at this abnormal characteristic she describes.)

H.D.L.T: They didn't give any light into the room?

Mrs. A: No! They gave no light into the room. This was the most unusual thing about them. Um . . . (she clears her throat a little). They were just very bright in their own being.

H.D.L.T: Was it clear to you that there was no light coming through the window?

Mrs. A: No, I got up and went to both windows . . . and checked both windows . . . I could find *nothing* that would have brought these into the room. My husband said immediately that it was traffic.

H.D.L.T: He had woken up?

Mrs. A: He had woken up . . . I had woken him up . . . and he got up and looked, and he said it was *traffic*. Immediately, being very tired, as we had only just moved in, he got into bed and fell back to sleep again.

H.D.L.T: But you stayed awake?

Mrs. A: I stayed awake . . . I, I, . . . they . . . I wasn't convinced it was traffic . . . and I, and I stayed awake . . . and I must have been awake for ten or fifteen minutes . . . and they just went! Just like a light being shut off . . . they went, and . . .

H.D.L.T: Did they move round the room?

Mrs. A: They did not move *at all*. They did not flicker, they did not move . . . they gave off . . . when they went they gave off no shadow of going . . . it was just . . . Gone! There one minute, and then they were gone.

H.D.L.T: These balls . . . were they moving independently? . . .

Mrs. A: No, they did not move, none of them moved, they stayed stationary, on my wall, and on my door, and on my wardrobe . . . and the most amazing part of them was their brightness within themselves without any shadow, without any circle of darkness or without throwing any light on to anything else. I only wish that somebody could give me a satisfactory explanation for them.

H.D.L.T: And then these reappeared again?

Mrs. A: After stating at breakfast to all the family that I had seen . . . lights, and that my husband had said they were headlights of cars . . . I announced to everyone that we wouldn't . . . we wouldn't be sleeping in that room. We would have to take another room because I couldn't . . . er . . . be kept awake night after night by headlights of cars. We had relatives staying with us, so

it meant that the following night we still had to sleep in the same bedroom. And I didn't go to bed with these lights on my mind at all . . . I went to bed, and went straight to sleep again.

H.D.L.T: This was on the 2nd?

Mrs. A: This was on the second night . . . the second of September . . . and again I was woken up by exactly the same thing. I again woke my husband, and he, . . . he . . . got up with me and had a look. He again said it was traffic. But he agreed with me he couldn't see where it was coming from. But it was traffic, he was sure. I wandered around the room, trying to move mirrors, and move this that and the other to see if this would make any difference to it, but no . . . nothing . . .

H.D.L.T: The lights still remained the same?

Mrs. A: They were in *exactly* the same place . . . I would say . . . you know I hadn't anything to measure them with, but I would most certainly say . . . I can see them now, in my mind's eye, that they were exactly the same . . .

H.D.L.T: Like a very large egg?

Mrs. A: Like a very large egg . . . and each one of them in exactly the same position as they had been the night before.

H.D.L.T: Were they touching each other?

Mrs. A: No. Quite distinct. Quite distinct, and . . . the light was the most . . . well I don't know whether it was frightening or whether it was perhaps me . . . perhaps I was frightened, because I couldn't find any explanation for them. But I felt . . . my husband didn't feel anything because he's a . . . he puts everything into boxes, and they have to fit, and this didn't fit so he dismissed it. I felt, quite honestly, that I was just looking at something which shouldn't have been there, or something which was . . . odd. I knew it. I could feel it. You know you wanted to stand and look at them and yet you didn't want to look at them. And I suppose again I must have seen them for ten or fifteen minutes. I wanted to go outside and check the time . . . we didn't have a clock in the room . . . and I wanted to go outside, but I had to pass through the door. (Here she raises her voice—and a little excitedly seems to be caught up in her own fear of going near the strange lights.)

And I wasn't quite sure about passing through the door! As they were over the door!! So I left it! And I suppose a quarter of an hour later they were gone again. And we haven't slept in the bedroom since. Not because I am frightened, but . . . er, . . . because my husband says he is not going to be constantly woken up by me telling him there are lights there . . . which he says is traffic.

Now I am waiting to have the room fitted with new curtains and the carpet, and then I shall sleep in there again, and see whether they appear!

* * * * *

It was not until the Spring of 1972 that the writer paid a second visit to Great Bourton to obtain full details of other events that had followed upon those described above.

On the morning following the first appearance of the egg-shaped balls of light, Mrs. A. came downstairs and opened her refrigerator for a bottle of milk. She found the fridge looking very much like a deep-freeze. The milk was absolutely solid. She was surprised that

the glass bottle was still intact. During the following 24 hours the refrigerator returned to normal without being touched by anybody. It has worked in a normal fashion, giving no trouble, in the eight months between September '71 and the writer's second visit.

On the same morning as the milk bottle was frozen (September 2, 1971) the timing mechanism of the cooker was found to be completely out of order. An electrician who came to look at it commented that he had never come across anything like it before. A completely new cooker was delivered to replace the one (a *Creda Auto-clean*) that refused to work.

Situated below Mr. and Mrs. A's bedroom and to one side of it is a small garage. This contains the central heating equipment including a *Randall* 30-20 24-hour clock and control switch. This clock and the switchgear was installed towards the end of August 1971, prior to Mr. and Mrs. A's arrival. Following their occupation on September 1, and up to the end of October, the clock's erratic behaviour has caused a great deal of domestic upheaval! On a dozen or more separate occasions it has brought on the central heating from one to two hours earlier than expected, or up to two hours later. Mr. A. has accused Mrs. A. of tampering with it. Mrs. A. has protested saying that she has had no reason to touch it, and that in any case she would not know exactly how to adjust it. No possible solution as to the cause of this erratic behaviour has been found. Yet since early November '71 no trouble of any kind has been experienced. The position of the clock on the wall would seem to be about 12ft. below the position of the strange balls of light—measuring diagonally, from the top of the bedroom door to the partition wall of the garage.

Then in addition to the erratic behaviour of these three items of electrical equipment, all the lights in the house went off together one night early in December. The fuses were all intact, and no explanation could be given as lights in a nearby house remained alight. Only Mr. and Mrs. A's house seemed to have been affected.

So far from receiving any sympathy from the Electricity Board, the A's continued reporting of faults (quite beyond their ken) seemed to place them in the category of being barely credible.

The electrical disturbances do not however conclude the tale. Towards the end of October when the central heating was on to provide a low background heat—the radiators being only just warm—the house suddenly became very hot. It was in fact so hot that all the doors were thrown open. An older relation staying in the house was taken ill—suffering from an increase in blood pressure. In addition to this both Mr. and Mrs. A. were woken up in the night due to a sudden rise in room temperature. Neither could explain why it was so hot. This experience of a sudden wave of heat is also related by Margaret and Robert Bones who live at Claydon, a few miles further north. Though not on the same day, the wave of heat was felt at Claydon late in the evening or at night.

In conclusion, Mr. A. who turned over and went to sleep again without any qualms on September 1/2 has since then been suffering from sleeplessness—as has also the elderly relative taken ill during the sudden rise of temperature.

MYSTERY FLYING OBJECT ROLLS ALONG A GERMAN ROAD

Hubert Malthaner

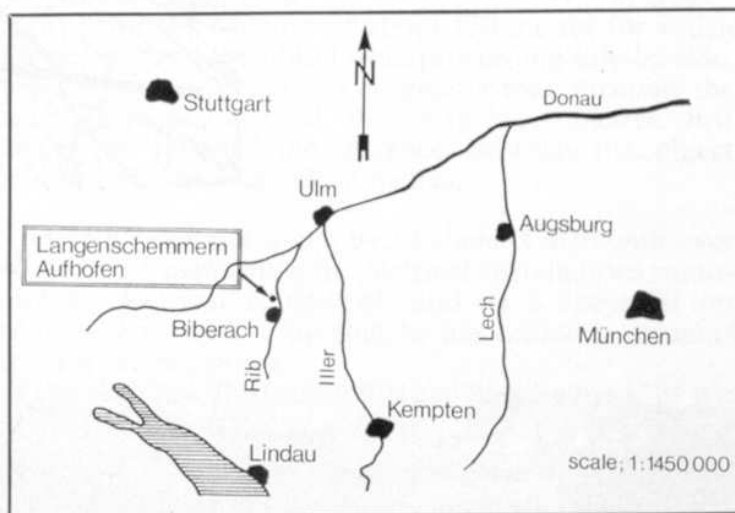
Herr Malthaner, who lives in Munich, has been an investigator of the UFO problem for twenty years. He served for twelve years in the technical branch of the Luftwaffe and is now a teacher in a vocational school. His German text, and the English version of it which he was good enough to supply, and which were dated March 1972, have been collated and edited by Gordon Creighton.

ON April 9, 1970, a retired electrician named Max Krauss, aged 65, was walking along a country road towards his home in Langenschemmern after a shopping trip to Aufhofen (Kreis Biberach/Riss, Württemberg, South Germany), when he had the strangest encounter of his whole life, which he is today still able to describe precisely, in all its details. His account is as follows:

"It was at about 4.00 p.m., a disagreeable sort of afternoon, with an almost completely overcast sky. Just as I was leaving Aufhofen, I heard what seemed like two sound-barrier bangs, though not as sharp and hard as they usually are, but quite dull, as though muffled in cotton-wool.

"I was walking along on the left side of the road, in order to face the oncoming traffic. The wind, quite boisterous, was in the direction of 255°, and was catching me in the rear at an angle of about 15° from the left. On the slightly sloping macadamized road, to the right, was water from the recent rain, which was flowing out from a field track.

"Suddenly, I can't say why, I turned round, and was astonished to see what looked like a torn-off portion



of the skeleton of a plant coming whirling along on the right-hand side of the road. I waited for the wind to drive it into the ditch. But, on the contrary, despite the boisterous cross-wind, the 'something' carried on its course, straight ahead, close to the ground. Slowly it overtook me, on the right-hand side of the road, and I

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